

Paul H. Dixon  
What the Bible Teaches About Baptism  
June 12, 1977

Unedited Transcript

00;00;01;08 - 00;00;20;24

Paul H. Dixon

I announced this morning I would speak on the subject what the Bible teaches about baptism. There's so much confusion on this subject today. I can think of no better place to turn. And to the portion of scripture that deals with the baptism of our Lord.

00;00;22;03 - 00;00;41;17

Paul H. Dixon

So in Matthew, three, I'd like to begin reading it, verse 13 do verse 17. Then come at Jesus, from Galilee to Jordan and to John to be baptized of him. But John forbade him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee and coming out of me.

00;00;42;26 - 00;01;00;23

Paul H. Dixon

Jesus answering said unto himself for it to be so now for us, it become with us to fulfill our righteousness, then he suffered harm. And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straight way out of the water. No, the heavens were opened under him and he saw the spirit of God descending like a dove and landing upon

00;01;00;23 - 00;01;26;14

Paul H. Dixon

him. Lower voice from heaven saying this is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased. Very simple outline to take home with you this morning, number one, the importance of baptism. Number two, the method of baptism. And number three, the meaning of baptism, I it's important, it's method and its meaning.

00;01;27;21 - 00;01;49;25

Paul H. Dixon

Did you know that the baptism of our lord is found in all four gospels? Now, preachers, pals, it's easy to remember Matthew three, Mark one. Luke, three, and John, one all deal with the baptism of Jesus. Did you go through the Gospels that simply 3131.

00;01;51;03 - 00;02;12;06

Paul H. Dixon

You see, I believe that when the spirit of God but inspire each gospel writer to record this, it has to be very important. It's something that the spirit of God is underlining for you and me. Very interesting that Matthew says here in verse 13, then come at Jesus from Galilee to be baptized.

00;02;13;22 - 00;02;28;03

Paul H. Dixon

Mark says then came Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee to be baptized. Is that a contradiction? No, that's like me saying, I came from Ohio to hold

this series of meetings. That's an accurate statement, but that doesn't tell you much.

00;02;28;27 - 00;02;44;21

Paul H. Dixon

Might be the southern part of the state, the northern part east or what? But when I tell you, I came from Centerville, Ohio, then you know, something that you know, some of you still have that blank expression doesn't tell you much, either.

00;02;45;12 - 00;02;57;03

Paul H. Dixon

You know, if you looked it up on a map. Sea devil is a small place. We did make the map. I was looking up a place in New York and I couldn't find it on the map, but we did make the map and see Bill.

00;02;57;12 - 00;03;12;16

Paul H. Dixon

People ask me, Do you live close to the college? If you live in Centerville, you live close to the college. I mean, it's really small. You would get out of map and you could trace exactly how many miles it would be from Centerville, Ohio, to Kokomo, Indiana.

00;03;14;08 - 00;03;26;24

Paul H. Dixon

When Matthew said that Jesus came from Galilee, that's like me saying I came from Ohio. Mark said he came from Nazareth in Galilee. That's like me saying, I came from Cephail, Ohio. Get out of Bible map and it's 60 mile.

00;03;28;13 - 00;03;46;13

Paul H. Dixon

Generally, Jesus walked every place he would go. I think we have the right to assume that Jesus walked 60 miles for one reason. To be baptized, it must have been important to the son of God. We also know it's important to the spirit of God.

00;03;47;13 - 00;04;00;04

Paul H. Dixon

The Bible says in verse 16, he saw the spirit of God descending like a dove and lightning upon him. So here's the Holy Spirit putting your stamp of approval upon the baptism of Jesus. It's also important to God the father.

00;04;01;15 - 00;04;20;01

Paul H. Dixon

three times in the Bible, it's recorded that God spoke audibly from heaven regarding the Sun in Matthew, 17, at the Transfiguration in June twelve as Jesus prepared to go to Calvary. But the first time that God the father spoke from heaven was as Jesus was being baptized.

00;04;20;01 - 00;04;42;02

Paul H. Dixon

Verse 17. This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased. I like to digress for a moment. I'd like to give you a bonus. Won't cost anything extra, but I love that 17th verse. In fact, it taught me something some years ago that I needed.

00;04;43;11 - 00;05;02;21

Paul H. Dixon

And I don't know whether you need it or not, but I'd like to share it with you. I think it teaches us something about how to treat our children. I believe very strongly in discipline. I've always had the philosophy that basically.

00;05;03;20 - 00;05;21;13

Paul H. Dixon

If you do things right, when your children are small, you solve a lot of the major problems when they get to be older. And I believe very, very strongly in discipline. In fact, around our house, when Scott, we just have the one now understand I do not claim to be an authority and raising children.

00;05;22;22 - 00;05;41;26

Paul H. Dixon

Number one, because I just have one. I don't see how anyone can be an authority when you just have one. Number two, Scott hasn't gone through his teen years yet. I know a lot of people who claim to be authorities until they get to be teenagers and then suddenly they aren't authorities anymore.

00;05;42;24 - 00;05;55;24

Paul H. Dixon

Number three, I contend that if any of our kids make it, considering the parents they have, it's only by the grace of God play that very strongly. However, there are some things that I believe and I just like to share them with you.

00;05;55;24 - 00;06;19;22

Paul H. Dixon

And Scott was quite small. We always had one rule in our house. You only say something one time. Only speak one. I believe that you need to teach your children early authority must come from the parent. I've been in a home where Johnny is, you know, three or four or five or six or eight or ten or

00;06;19;22 - 00;06;36;14

Paul H. Dixon

what have you and Johnny's handling something that could be dropped and broken. And the mother says, Johnny, you shouldn't do that, and I'll put it down. Johnny smiles and puts it down. Keeps his hand on it. two minutes now, Johnny, I told you to put that down.

00;06;36;15 - 00;06;55;26

Paul H. Dixon

Yes, Mama, and by now, his hand is off, but three minutes later, he's picked it up again and this goes on for the next 15 minutes and it

gradually builds. Before long, there is the screening process going on, Charlie put that down and he's still smiling because he knows that his mother's word means absolutely nothing.

00;06;56;17 - 00;07;17;22

Paul H. Dixon

She can whisper, she can scream. It doesn't make any difference because she doesn't mean it. That's what she's communicated to him. Our rule was you only speak once, never twice. Just one time. I was in a home one day when I suppose Scott was three or four and my friend had three daughters.

00;07;18;25 - 00;07;35;24

Paul H. Dixon

And Pat and I sat down on the couch. We're talking with the couple and the four kids are on the floor and are in our house. We always take our shoes off before you go in the house. We've always had light colored carpet and so forth and didn't see much purpose.

00;07;35;25 - 00;07;48;20

Paul H. Dixon

And, you know, just tracking dirt until we just have an automatic thing. The shoes go off and we run around the house and our stock and feet. So we just kind of did that when we hit that house and we took our shoes off and went in and I happened to look over and there was God and

00;07;48;20 - 00;08;02;17

Paul H. Dixon

he was enjoying. The TV program is sprawled out on the floor and he had his feet up on the television. And that's another thing I've always felt very strongly about. I never could understand what parents let their kids tear up furniture, and they tell me what the house is supposed to be lived in.

00;08;02;17 - 00;08;13;11

Paul H. Dixon

And maybe it's supposed to be lived in, but you're supposed to teach that I'll take care of things too. And we just don't do that in our house that Scott put your feet down. They hit the floor like that, and that lady looked at me and said, How you do that?

00;08;17;04 - 00;08;30;14

Paul H. Dixon

I said, what do you make? She said, I've never seen anything like that. She said, I can't do that. And I couldn't believe it. Because what she was communicating to me is that she did not know how to speak to her child and get her child to obey.

00;08;31;00 - 00;08;45;06

Paul H. Dixon

I've always believed that when you say something that your words should mean something you say, Well, what do you do? Well, the answer to that is my second rule. The first rule is you only speak once. The second rule is you give no little spanking.

00;08;47;15 - 00;09;11;23

Paul H. Dixon

You say you don't believe in spanking you misunderstood. You don't give a little spanking. Just big ones. Have you ever seen the parent who's constantly don't do that or a little Pat? You know, listen, Brant, you can spend the rest of your life doing that and accomplish absolutely nothing.

00;09;12;08 - 00;09;22;25

Paul H. Dixon

If they have violated your word and it's a major offense, it ought to be dealt with in a major way. And you know what will happen. You will not spend the rest of your life winning the daylights out of your kids.

00;09;23;08 - 00;09;46;04

Paul H. Dixon

When you give major punishment, they learn early that this is something that is serious. Now, having said that, I want you to see the other side of the coin. I think most of us as parents, especially in the average Bible believing church, we know what the scripture teaches about discipline.

00;09;47;08 - 00;10;05;09

Paul H. Dixon

And we have. I think perhaps even an unusually so a pressure upon us that we put upon ourselves to produce perfect children. What we're trying to do is to produce something that we are not. But we have as our ultimate goal, the perfect child.

00;10;06;09 - 00;10;24;04

Paul H. Dixon

And therefore, we want to constantly deal with every negative thing that appears and that child's life. What happens when Johnny goes to school, gets all A's and one B, he comes home? Hey, John, you blew it again and algebra dinner.

00;10;24;15 - 00;10;35;26

Paul H. Dixon

I mean, here you could have been had straight A's. Think of it, you had a chance to go all the way through school with straight A's and you get a B and after a. You better be praising God for the easy guy.

00;10;39;03 - 00;10;58;09

Paul H. Dixon

You, major on those bees or those seas. And you're going to blow up with that kid. Johnny gets a report, you know, at our school for a long time. They put a note on the report card. And when the kid comes home, it tells you how the kids doing it, and so here's the report Johnny is doing

00;10;58;09 - 00;11;11;03

Paul H. Dixon

very well. He's a real leader. He does quite well in school. Sometimes it gets too loud in class. And when you talk about a Johnny, you open your

big mouth in class again, aren't you? I mean, you look close, Johnny Orchard out of the shut up.

00;11;11;06 - 00;11;25;14

Paul H. Dixon

You don't. You know how to be quiet. What are we doing? We're constantly dealing with every negative thing that we can find out. My point is this. Here's a perfect father. I'm not, you're not. But here's a perfect parent.

00;11;25;25 - 00;11;48;02

Paul H. Dixon

God the father who does have a perfect son. Who has never made a mistake and never shall. And yet the perfect father saw the necessity of reinforcing the perfect son. This is my beloved son in whom I am well played.

00;11;48;28 - 00;12;04;06

Paul H. Dixon

Hey, you know what we need to do? We need to communicate to those kids. I love you for I love you. Not for just your accomplishments. I love you for who you are. I love you for those personal things in your life.

00;12;04;23 - 00;12;18;13

Paul H. Dixon

I love you. And we need not only to let them know, but not be ashamed. Let other people know and let them know those things in their lives that we are pleased with. Let's deal with the negative. But let's also reinforce the positive.

00;12;18;13 - 00;12;32;22

Paul H. Dixon

Well, like I said, that's just a little bonus. But I wanted to share with you. But that's how that verse one day spoke to my heart. This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased. But here's the trinity.

00;12;33;18 - 00;12;56;29

Paul H. Dixon

The Trinity says baptism is important. God, the father, God, the sun and God the Holy Spirit. But, you know. There are those who do not want to place enough importance upon baptism today. We have an ultra dispensation on movement called the O'Hair Movement, and they say that you're not even supposed to baptize part of that.

00;12;58;05 - 00;13;15;12

Paul H. Dixon

They take the book of acts and they dissect it and tear it all up, and they say you don't apply those passages to do that. They do not have communion. They don't have Baptist. We have some fine Bible churches and other churches that say you can have your choice, whether you want to be sprinkled or poured or

00;13;15;12 - 00;13;31;13

Paul H. Dixon

immersed. You can join the church without being immersed. It's just not important. I thoroughly disagree with that position. I believe it's much more important than that. And then we have another extreme. Do you ever notice that we're creatures of extremes?

00;13;32;06 - 00;13;51;02

Paul H. Dixon

You can always find an extreme here and extreme over here, and this extreme says baptism is so important you have to be baptized to be safe. And some baptized children now, again, in all fairness, all people who baptized children do not teach that that baptism is for salvation.

00;13;51;14 - 00;14;08;10

Paul H. Dixon

Some would tell you that that's just a means of dedication. There are groups that teach that the baptizing of babies is for original sin, and that does have to do with salvation. There are those who do not believe in the baptizing of babies, and yet they teach that baptism is necessary for salvation.

00;14;08;28 - 00;14;30;04

Paul H. Dixon

I had. Amanda, tell me that. He knew of a pastor who received a call from the hospital. The person calling said. A man is dying in the hospital. And we would like to have someone to come over. And talk to him, he's asking for spiritual help, would you come?

00;14;30;22 - 00;14;41;26

Paul H. Dixon

He said, I'd be glad to. And the man breathed a sigh of relief and said, We're so glad. Would you believe we just called another pastor? And his first response was, is the man well enough to be baptized?

00;14;42;25 - 00;14;57;26

Paul H. Dixon

And they said, of course not. We told you as a dying man, you said didn't call somebody else because if I can baptize him, I can't help it. I used to attend a church, and in that church they would list the things that you had to do to go to heaven.

00;14;58;01 - 00;15;09;11

Paul H. Dixon

I went with the girlfriend, the school friend would take me to this church and they would list the things you had to do to go to heaven. Number one, you had to repent. You had to have a change of heart and mind about your sin the way you've been treating God.

00;15;09;24 - 00;15;21;03

Paul H. Dixon

Number two, you had to have faith in Christ. What he did for you would Calvary. Nothing to stop right there, that it had God's plan of salvation. But if they do stop there, they wouldn't have needed a blackboard.

00;15;21;23 - 00;15;36;28

Paul H. Dixon

Number three, they had baptism. Then they had communion and you had to take communion every Sunday. And if you weren't there to take it, they'd bring it to your house. Number five, you had to hold out until the end and it was up to you to maintain your salvation.

00;15;37;17 - 00;15;50;19

Paul H. Dixon

You had to keep yourself safe. And you could lose it somewhere along the line. This was always a fascinating thing to me. They taught you had to be baptized to be saved. And they taught that you could lose your salvation.

00;15;50;27 - 00;16;08;27

Paul H. Dixon

And yet when people would sin and lose their salvation, they didn't baptize them over again. I'll tell you what, if you're going to be totally consistent. Of course, this whole thing of losing your salvation, the issue has to be how much sin or what sin causes you to lose it.

00;16;09;27 - 00;16;23;26

Paul H. Dixon

And the obvious thing would be if you can lose your salvation. Any sin could cause you to lose it. Therefore, my friend, every time you sin, you would have to be baptized their churches to talk about having 200 baptisms a year.

00;16;24;04 - 00;16;36;10

Paul H. Dixon

You could have about 2 million a year. If you went by that plane, you'd have to have a full time staff on the Baptist rate, just taking care of people 24 hours a day. You say, Paul, you mean you don't have to be baptized to go to heaven?

00;16;36;12 - 00;16;56;09

Paul H. Dixon

No. It's important, but it's not that important, you say, how do you know? Let me ask you a question if you have to be baptized to go to heaven, had anyone the Old Testament get say. The Jews baptized their proselytize, meaning if they would win someone from heathen them.

00;16;57;13 - 00;17;16;15

Paul H. Dixon

Then to Judaism, they would baptize them, but they did not baptize their own. They were circumcised. But even circumcision, of course, was not for salvation. Abraham, the Bible says in Romans four was saved by faith. You go through the scriptures and salvation in the Old Testament was by faith.

00;17;16;27 - 00;17;34;20

Paul H. Dixon

There was no baptism for salvation at all. If you have to be baptized to be saved, then no one in the Old Testament was genuinely say. Number two,

if you have to be baptized to be saved, why did Jesus say on so many occasions thy faith had saved the.

00;17;36;24 - 00;17;51;15

Paul H. Dixon

Do you ever notice that take a concordance and over and over again, Jesus would say to people that have faith that say, you didn't say your faith and baptism saves you, but faith had saved you? You have to be baptized to be saved out thief on the cross gets set.

00;17;52;14 - 00;18;07;02

Paul H. Dixon

He couldn't come down from that cross. The greatest demonstration of faith in the Bible, one dying man putting his faith in another dying man. We put our faith in a risen savior. He put his faith in a man dying the same kind of death that he was dying.

00;18;10;01 - 00;18;26;00

Paul H. Dixon

Jesus said, today you will be with me in paradise, see an opportunity for baptism. I'd like to, in all honesty, say that many of our friends who teach baptism and regeneration baptism for salvation. In response to all that, I have said would say, but.

00;18;27;05 - 00;18;44;00

Paul H. Dixon

That's all. Before the resurrection. We only accept that. That is after the death of Christ and after the resurrection of Christ, and they will use passages to support their position like Ax two, 38 and first Beta three, 21 and many others.

00;18;45;05 - 00;19;00;08

Paul H. Dixon

I would like. Did they have the time to deal with those passages? I do not believe that there's a single verse in the Bible that teaches baptism for salvation. Number two, I would like to give you a passage.

00;19;01;02 - 00;19;18;20

Paul H. Dixon

That is after the death and resurrection of Christ that beyond any shot of Adobe teaches baptism as a necessary for salvation. I want you to keep a finger in Matthew three and turn to act Chapter ten. A key passage.

00;19;20;18 - 00;19;40;11

Paul H. Dixon

In the New Testament. We're going to see the salvation of the first gentile Cornelius. He's been searching for God, and God is sending Peter to give him truth. And as Peter goes to Cornelius reluctantly in verse 40 for.

00;19;41;25 - 00;20;01;00

Paul H. Dixon

While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all of them, which heard the word. They of the circumcision, meaning the Jews which

believe the saved Jews were astonished. As many as came with Peter. Because on the gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.

00;20;01;28 - 00;20;16;07

Paul H. Dixon

They heard them speak with tongues that magnify God, then answered, Peter, can any man forbid water that they should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we await a minute? Look out from your Bibles and follow.

00;20;17;12 - 00;20;34;06

Paul H. Dixon

The Holy Spirit has obviously come upon these people. It is amazing, the Jewish believers. And Peter looks at the Jewish believers that says, can we for a bit baptism to these people who already have the Holy Spirit just like we do?

00;20;34;13 - 00;20;48;07

Paul H. Dixon

The answer came back No, we can't forbid baptism to them. Any commandment to be baptized in the name of the Lord? Wait a minute. Romans Chapter eight teaches as many as are led by the spirit of God. They are the sons of God.

00;20;49;17 - 00;21;04;13

Paul H. Dixon

Romans, eight teachers, if you have not the Holy Spirit of God, you are none of his. In other words, if you do have the Holy Spirit, you are his. Everyone who has the Holy Spirit of God belongs to God is a child of God.

00;21;04;28 - 00;21;28;00

Paul H. Dixon

Meaning there, say. But they haven't been baptized yet. Why? Because baptism always in the New Testament followed salvation. It never would bring salvation. It's important, but it's not that important. All right. The question then would be why be baptized?

00;21;29;13 - 00;21;50;01

Paul H. Dixon

If you don't need to be baptized to be say, why were baptized it all to understand that I want you to look at the method because the method will help you to understand the meaning. There are three common methods of baptism today sprinkling, pouring and emotion sprinkling where you take a few drops put on individual said pouring

00;21;50;01 - 00;22;06;19

Paul H. Dixon

quantity of water and immersion. What's this church practices? Behind me is a tank, a Baptist. They fill the tank with water, heat the water and the pastor walks down and stands in the water, and the water's about so deep.

00;22;07;27 - 00;22;20;22

Paul H. Dixon

The person who's been saved stands in the water in front of him. He takes his hand, puts it behind the individual's head, the other hand over the nose and the mouth puts them all the way into the water, brings them back up again.

00;22;20;24 - 00;22;46;14

Paul H. Dixon

That's emotion. You say, Preacher, isn't that kind of messy? Sure is. It's messy, it's inconvenient, it's expensive, it takes time, they're going to have a baptismal service tonight. They have rooms for people, change their clothes. They have to use that amount of space not only for the rooms, but for the Bath history, the expense of that tank

00;22;46;26 - 00;23;10;14

Paul H. Dixon

and the heater. We don't do this because of convenience. We do this because of conviction. You see the word baptism. The Greek word that we get our word baptized from means to plunge to immerse. It's the word that's used in classical Greek for the dying of a garment.

00;23;12;05 - 00;23;25;00

Paul H. Dixon

You don't sprinkle dye on a garment. You immersed the garment in the door. It's the word that's used in classical Greek for the washing of dishes. You take a dish and you put it all the way into the suds in the water.

00;23;25;00 - 00;23;44;09

Paul H. Dixon

You immersed it and you bring it out again unless your kids wash the dishes and then maybe they get sprinkle. But the word support, immersion archeology supports emerging church history, supports immersion. Show off the church historian, a Presbyterian.

00;23;45;14 - 00;24;06;25

Paul H. Dixon

Who would not believe in emotion has had to admit that there's no record of any other method of baptism until 100 years after the death of Christ. It came later. It came out of convenient. But certainly, archeology history, yet a biology of the word supports emotion.

00;24;07;05 - 00;24;22;17

Paul H. Dixon

But really, what does the Bible teach? Did you notice here in Matthew three? Verse 16 said that when Jesus was baptized, he went up straight way out of the water. He want. He went up out of the water.

00;24;23;14 - 00;24;32;26

Paul H. Dixon

You don't come up out of the water after you've been sprinkled or poured. You only come up out of the water after you've been immersed. The people tonight will go down into the water and then they will come up out of the water.

00;24;33;21 - 00;24;46;28

Paul H. Dixon

Jesus was in the water. Have you ever seen the picture on the front of the Bible story Book of Jesus standing in the middle of the Jordan River? John is sprinkling him. Have you ever seen that? I can't believe it.

00;24;50;29 - 00;25;10;04

Paul H. Dixon

If Jesus wanted to be sprinkled, he could stand on the riverbank and accomplish that. They had to admit that Jesus was in the water to support their position, they had him standing in the water when he was sprinkle our friends to sprinkle Newport, if they were going to be consistent, ought to have a Baptist streak and make

00;25;10;04 - 00;25;27;09

Paul H. Dixon

every candidate stand in the baptismal pool in the tank when they sprinkled them, when they pour them. Because it's quite obvious here in Matthew. three. Jesus went down into the Water Acts Chapter eight, the Ethiopian unique said to fill up, there's a pool of water.

00;25;27;10 - 00;25;41;12

Paul H. Dixon

What that hinder me to be baptized, Phillip said. Do you believe is that I believe and the scripture says they both went down into the water. The word of God supports one method of baptism only and that immersion.

00;25;42;04 - 00;26;02;04

Paul H. Dixon

I say this kindly friend, if you've been sprinkled or poured, you've not been scripturally baptized. It's immersion after salvation. Now the method will help you to understand the meaning. In fact, as far as I'm concerned, the meaning is totally lost in any other method.

00;26;02;24 - 00;26;19;09

Paul H. Dixon

I want to give you three words to help you appreciate the meaning. The first word I want you to write down is obligation. Obligation. Did you notice that when Jesus came to John, the John didn't want to baptize him in verse 14?

00;26;19;28 - 00;26;33;28

Paul H. Dixon

So in verse 15, Jesus said, suffer to be so now for us, it becomes with us to fulfill our righteousness. That is not an easy verse to understand, but in essence, this is what he said. He said, John, you have to baptize me.

00;26;35;08 - 00;26;53;14

Paul H. Dixon

This is part of the Plan of God. This is something that has to take place so that I can be obedient and you can be obedient. Jesus was under a sense of obedience. He said suffer to be so now that righteousness might be fulfilled.

00;26;54;01 - 00;27;15;21

Paul H. Dixon

And when the Bible teaches that God has commanded the new believer, the person who has been saved to be baptized, I have people say to me, Well, I'm going to pray about that. I really don't recommend that. Many times when I get home from meetings.

00;27;17;13 - 00;27;35;06

Paul H. Dixon

Scott will. Say to me, Hey, dad, I've been I've been working on new curveball. Aura, I've worked on different jumpshot. Would you go out and check it out with me? Maybe this is right after school, and I say sure not to be great.

00;27;35;06 - 00;27;45;09

Paul H. Dixon

Glad to do it, but but I like way to go in and get out of your school clothes and get your plate clothes and then we'll do it. And suppose he looks at me and says. I'll pray about it that.

00;27;48;20 - 00;28;02;24

Paul H. Dixon

I would say want to buy one more time, Scott. I'd like to pray about I've become very spiritual. I've had quite an awakening revival since you've been gone and I just pray about everything I do and I ask God, will I should obey you or not?

00;28;07;17 - 00;28;29;17

Paul H. Dixon

Get in there and change your clothes and don't hit your knees. Well, I tell you to do something, do it. When God tells you to do something. You don't have to pray about it. You just do it. You are under orders.

00;28;29;18 - 00;28;42;08

Paul H. Dixon

My friend. Did you notice that when Peter looked at Cornelia's, he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord? And you're disobedient, Christian. You'll never know the joy of your salvation until you do it right.

00;28;42;23 - 00;29;17;03

Paul H. Dixon

Immersion after salvation obligation No. two Identification. ID. God, the father identified Jesus as his son. There at his baptism. But Jesus. Was identifying with something else. Jesus was identifying with another baptism. I'm not going to develop this in this hour, but I'll tell you what I'd like for you to check out in your own study.

00;29;17;04 - 00;29;39;25

Paul H. Dixon

Go through the gospels and notice what Jesus had to say not about water baptism, but about another baptism that had to do with Calvary. He shared that with his followers. And he, when he was baptized, was identifying

with another baptism at Calvary when he would be immersed in our sin and immersed in the judgment of God for

00;29;39;25 - 00;29;56;09

Paul H. Dixon

you and for me. And when we go down into those baptismal waters, we are identifying with a death and the burial and the resurrection of Christ. I believe God gave two ordinances to the church. Not three foot washing is not a New Testament ordinance for the church.

00;29;56;23 - 00;30;19;15

Paul H. Dixon

He gave to his table. And baptism. What do we remember at his table? Is death broken body or to the bone? What do we especially remember at baptism, the resurrection? Granted, the death and burial is pictured as well, but it wouldn't be complete if you didn't come up out of that water and see the resurrection.

00;30;19;25 - 00;30;38;20

Paul H. Dixon

Both are important. His table and baptism Incidentally, I do not believe that anyone should ever be at the Lord's table until they've made the decision. For New Testament baptism now, they've made the decision and the church hasn't made it possible, then I believe that God understands that.

00;30;38;20 - 00;30;59;20

Paul H. Dixon

Certainly if a person refuses to be baptized, I believe they're disobedient Christian and they should not participate at the Lord's table lest they be in danger of judgment, according to first Corinthians Chapter eleven. But I do believe that baptism identifies what the death, the burial and the resurrection of Christ.

00;30;59;24 - 00;31;26;06

Paul H. Dixon

Number three, there's proclamation. Proclamation obligation, identification and proclamation. Jesus at his baptism chose this occasion to proclaim who he was. Actually, Christ started his ministry with this baptism. And really, I believe that every Christian starts their ministry with their baptism.

00;31;27;09 - 00;31;42;29

Paul H. Dixon

I have found so many people who've been hindered in their spiritual life until they make this decision. If they fight it, if they resent it, if somehow they give all kinds of excuses. I generally find that they're hampered in their spiritual growth.

00;31;43;12 - 00;32;00;18

Paul H. Dixon

But when Jesus started his ministry, he never preached a sermon, never performed a miracle until after his baptism. When he was proclaiming himself and friend. When you go down into those baptismal waters, you're

proclaiming yourself a Christian. You're saying I was dead in trespasses and sins.

00;32;00;22 - 00;32;12;27

Paul H. Dixon

I've been plunged beneath the blood of Christ, risen to walk in innocent life. I challenge you to check it out in the New Testament. What happened after people got say? I got baptized. That's the way they proclaim their faith.

00;32;13;06 - 00;32;29;14

Paul H. Dixon

In fact, when the Bible talks about contesting me before men, I believe that true biblical confession before men. Is it baptism? I believe that the baptismal service. It's one of the greatest opportunities for evangelism that we have in the church.

00;32;30;28 - 00;32;52;29

Paul H. Dixon

It's a time when friends will come and say, friends, family members, neighbors will watch you be baptized when coming any the other time. A lady in New York. Dear Catholic lady. Was saved. She lived in an area around there in the Buffalo area, where that particular neighborhood was probably 95% Roman Catholic.

00;32;56;02 - 00;33;16;12

Paul H. Dixon

We and our week of meetings saw so many couples and people from that neighborhood come to Christ, it was unbelievable. You know what? A few weeks before that lady's been baptized, she invited all of the neighborhood to come all our friends, all of our loved ones, and then after a baptism, she gave kind of a some punch

00;33;16;17 - 00;33;25;27

Paul H. Dixon

and cookies and things in a reception for all of her friends in the basement, the church, and stood up and gave her testimony, and God used that seed that was sown and those people started coming to that meeting.

00;33;26;03 - 00;33;43;17

Paul H. Dixon

And one after one, none of them came to Christ on an opportunity of witnessing professing their faith in Christ and the baptismal waters. That's why God gave it obligation, identification and proclamation. I honestly know what some of you are going through because I went through it.

00;33;47;01 - 00;33;59;17

Paul H. Dixon

Well, I was eleven years old, I was baptized. I'd probably been to church three or four times in my life up until that time I was baptized in a Baptist church and no one led me to Christ. No one took a Bible.

00;33;59;19 - 00;34;16;03

Paul H. Dixon

Explain the plan of salvation. In fact, I found out later that was a liberal Baptist church and they didn't get anybody saying they just baptized people. I was later to attend a Christian church. two or three weeks? A Methodist church.

00;34;17;03 - 00;34;32;03

Paul H. Dixon

two or three weeks? A Pentecostal revival meeting. one night I went to my first revival meeting when I was 15 years old. Later decided to go back. To the Baptist and give them a try again. They had a meeting just like we're having this week.

00;34;32;22 - 00;34;48;15

Paul H. Dixon

I didn't go one time. You know why? Because I wasn't saved and I had no heart for God, absolutely no heart for God. They brought the evangelist to us in Sunday school, the closing service. He preached back to you some Indianapolis.

00;34;48;16 - 00;35;03;05

Paul H. Dixon

His name was the weird little tabernacle in Indianapolis, Indiana. Some of you all remember followed by like in there. He came and he preached in Sunday school. Gave the invitation I knew I had need, but I didn't understand it.

00;35;03;06 - 00;35;17;29

Paul H. Dixon

I had not been on to the word that much. I went forward. They said, Why are you coming? I didn't know I was supposed to. I wanted to be safe. I said, I want to join your church. They said Fine found out I was a Baptist Muslim, a letter and never led me to Christ in a Bible

00;35;17;29 - 00;35;34;13

Paul H. Dixon

, believing Bible preaching church. I never read my Bible, had a zipper bible, it never got unzipped. I prayed one prayer only prayer I knew was Matthew, Mark, Luke and John bless the bed that I lay on a beach Adobe before I wake, I pray the Lord my soul to take.

00;35;34;14 - 00;35;44;03

Paul H. Dixon

I'm praying that now I'm 16 years old. I don't know what it was to go to church Sunday morning, Sunday night, Wednesday, and I don't know what it was tell people about Christ, I didn't know the Lord. I was about ready to graduate.

00;35;45;23 - 00;35;57;16

Paul H. Dixon

A couple of months before graduation, it was a Sunday night. I left the Friends House fully intending to go home and never made it. I pull my car up and from the Baptist Church where I was a member.

00;35;59;16 - 00;36;12;19

Paul H. Dixon

Got out of that car talking to myself, because as far as I know, that was the first time I'd ever been church on a Sunday night in my life. I said, Dixon, what are you doing? I made fun of those religious fanatics who went to church on Sunday night.

00;36;15;00 - 00;36;30;19

Paul H. Dixon

I walked in, sat down from the second row from the front row talking to myself. I couldn't believe it. I always got as far away from the actions I could get. A man start preaching, I realized for the first time in my life what I need to do not was join a church, not to get baptized.

00;36;30;20 - 00;36;46;13

Paul H. Dixon

I need to get same. And he gave that invitation, I slipped out, made my way to the front, received Christ, my whole life was changed. The Bible became a real book, an open book fair took on reality, I want to see my buddy say I went back to school with a Bible up on top, my books determined

00;36;46;13 - 00;36;59;06

Paul H. Dixon

to win every guy I could to the Lord before I graduated. Next thing I knew God was leading me in the ministry. You know what happened? I got to say baptism couldn't do that. Church couldn't do that. Christ it.

00;37;00;12 - 00;37;10;22

Paul H. Dixon

And I'm preaching to people here this morning that, first of all, need to be safe. All of this operative, all over this auditorium, there are people who are church members who've never been safe, you have no heart for God.

00;37;11;22 - 00;37;23;05

Paul H. Dixon

I'm pretty sure the people who make no pretense of being church members do need to get safe. I'm pretty sure the people here this morning who've been saved, but you've never been separately baptized, you never been immersed after salvation.

00;37;23;26 - 00;37;38;09

Paul H. Dixon

And I'm preaching to people who've been coming to this church. We're saved biblically baptized, but you've never united with this church. I believe that baptism and church membership are very closely related. You go through the New Testament. What happened?

00;37;38;09 - 00;37;49;24

Paul H. Dixon

People were baptized when they were added to the church. And I would like to challenge many of you families and couples who've been coming to this

church and sitting under this brother's ministry and you know, you're saying, you know, even scripturally baptized.

00;37;50;00 - 00;38;00;22

Paul H. Dixon

You really ought to become a part of this church. You ought to get active in it. You ought to be able to go out on visitation program and say, come to our church. And I wonder how many of you just get up all those places walk down here and say, We want you and I with the church

00;38;00;22 - 00;38;07;02

Paul H. Dixon

today or come and say, we want to be scripturally baptized just as soon as the church can make it ready or say, we want to be saved today.