



Transcript of Jim Burgen's excerpt on Baptism April 1-2, 2017

When you come to a point when you believe – not “well, my mom believed and she kind of taught me that stuff; my grandma – she taught me some stuff. I go to church. I must be a Christian.” No, no, no. When *you* believe by faith. Jesus says, “Do you believe I am who I say I am.”

“I do! For the first time. You know what? An hour ago I didn’t but for some reason something in my heart right now goes, ‘I don’t have it all figured out, but I believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God, and I want Him to be my Lord and Savior.’”

Jesus says, “*That’s* when you get baptized.”

When you come up out of the water all of the old stuff doesn’t go away. The sin and condemnation is gone because of faith, not because of water. But our Commander says, “It’s time.”

Here come all the questions going up in your head right now. Here’s one of the most famous ones: “So I don’t really remember this but my mom told me when I was a baby, I was baptized. Does that count?”

I don’t know.

I don’t know, what were you thinking? I’ve got to say this, I’m not going to slam anybody’s heritage. I just want to say thank you to moms, and dads, and grandmas, and uncles, and aunts, and whatever, that when they baptized us there when we were little babies, their intention was, “I want to point him or her towards Jesus.” But a point comes in our life where *you* gotta make a decision about your faith because you’re going to stand in front of Jesus one day, not your mom for you. You have to stand there and go, “I believe you’re the Son of God and I’ve demonstrated that by being obedient to you and I was baptized in water which symbolizes your blood that saves me. So, yeah, I’m going to get baptized.”

How about this: do you have to? I get this all the time, “Do you have to get baptized?” Or how about this, “I get it, I get the symbolism, stuff like that, but I’m fine. What if I don’t want to do that? What if I don’t want to get baptized? It’s just I’ve got lunch plans, and it’s cold outside, and I just don’t want to do that. Does that mean I’m not a Christian?”

No, it doesn’t mean you’re not a Christian. It doesn’t. But let me ask you this: when you apply that logic to other relationships, how’s that working for you?

I’ll give you an example. You look at a person and go, “I love her. She’s the most important person in my life. I want to be with her forever! Sidebar: what’s the least I have to do to be married to her? Do I have to come home *every* night? Is five out of seven good enough?” “Can I date anybody? Is there an over-under?” “How much do I have to talk to him in order to be married?” “How much intimacy is required for me to be married?”

Listen, technically you’re still married. You can never talk to them, you can never have any type of intimacy, you cannot communicate or spend any time together. Not even live in the same house, sleep in the same room, and technically you’re still married to them, but you know what? It’s not a marriage I want to be a part of! It’s not the marriage that you dreamed of. It may be the marriage you ended up with but that’s not what you had in mind going, “I

think I'm going to marry this person."

No. "What else can I do; what more can I do? I want to be with *them*."

There's so many areas of our life that we were made and created to give life to, and give pleasure to, and be strong, right? And we're not. And maybe, maybe there's an area of your life that would come back to life, and actually be better if you took one step of saying, "I don't fully understand it all, God, but I'll obey in this part of my life."

Last week we said this, what's one – we all wrote something down or put a piece of paper in our pocket, right? And you got it out of your drawer, you got it out of your pocket, you got it out of your dryer lint trap, whatever that is, and you wen, "I did it, I tried, I tried."

What's one thing that Jesus wants me to do in this area of my life to see where it goes? What if the one thing for you is to come and be baptized? You believe in your heart, and Jesus knows that. But then Jesus looks back at you and goes, "Do you believe, do you trust me? Get up out of that seat, and I want you to go be baptized." Not so that it saves you, but because you're going to need a marker in your life to look back on and go, "No, no no, I am God's son. I am God's daughter, and He's pleased with me, and I'm not turning back."

Let me talk to the men, though, really quick, all right? Hey husbands, fathers, boyfriends, you want to know what it means to be a good man? Here it is, ready? *Leaders go first spiritually*. And everybody that looks to you and goes, "You're the most important man in my life. You're the most influential man in my life." They are looking at you right now and go, "You go first." And you're going to look back at your family, or your friends, or whatever and go, "This is what it looks like. No matter who you are, what you've done in the past, it's never too late for us." And you're going to let go of that chair first, and you're going to walk down here, and you're going to get baptized. And your family is going to go, "I think I can follow him. Finally. Because he went first."

There's a lot of areas in our life.

Again, here come the questions. "Who will baptize me?" How about this? Probably the person sitting next to you that years ago, or weeks ago, or earlier today went, "Would you come and see?" They love you a lot, they care about you. It might be your dad, it might be your mom, it might be your friend, it might be your fiancé, whatever that is. Come and be baptized.

"Well, what will I wear?" You're wearing it!

"But we're going to lunch, and it's cold outside!" I say this every time. You're saved! If you get pneumonia and die, you go to heaven, it's all right! And it's great lunch conversation at Chili's. They're like, "Flatirons, right?" "Yea, it's us!"

"What if I make a mistake? What if I think that maybe this time I'm going to take a step of obedience, and maybe my life will change, and then on Tuesday, I screw it up again." Let me just tell you: you will. You will. You're going to mean it with all your heart to come get baptized, and from now on, "I'm going to follow you, and Jesus is going to live inside of me, and give me strength to do what I couldn't do before." And then Tuesday, and Wednesday, and Thursday are going to hit, and you're going to think, "I don't know if I even believe anymore. Should I do this [get baptized] anyway?" Yeah, look what Paul writes.

He says this, "And I am sure of this," meaning there's a whole list of things I'm not sure of. I don't have it all worked out. I *am* sure of this, "That he [God] who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ." (Philippians 1:6 (ESV))

Hey folks, listen, this is not the final version of you. This is a journey, and today is a marker in your life where you're going to go, "A lot of stuff happened before this day, and a lot of stuff is going to happen after this day, but there is a day in history that reflects another day in history where Jesus rose from the dead, and *this* day it counts for me. And, so, I'm going to identify with his death, burial, and resurrection, and I'm going to make an outward demonstration of my inward faith."

Is that you? If so, today's your day.