The Uniqueness and Dignity of Baptism

1 Peter 3:21,22

Introduction:
A. We often hear baptism discussed from many standpoints.
   1. What is it?
   2. What does it do?
B. We would like discuss it from the standpoint of uniqueness and dignity.

Discussion:
I. Baptism Has Uniqueness — Without Equal.
   A. Unique in that it is done only once.
      1. One may have to repent often (cf. Luke 17:3).
      2. One must worship often (Each item repeated).
   B. Unique in that lack of human rationale for it.
      1. Easier to see a need for faith (1 Cor. 1:18-21).
      2. Easier to see a need for repentance (Acts 17:30-31).
      3. Easier to see to contribute (1 Cor 16:1-2).
      4. Not easy to see reason for baptism
         a. We must accept the divine explanation.
         b. We do it purely out of faith in the Lord.
         c. Like Naaman’s dipping in Jordan.
   C. Unique in the amount of objection to it.
      1. It seems that repentance, giving time and money, clean living would be more objectionable.
      2. It just takes mention of baptism to start an argument.

II. Baptism Has Dignity.
   A. Seen by those who received it.
      1. Jesus was baptized.
      2. Paul was baptized (Acts 22:16).
   B. Seen by what is said about it.
      1. Christ, with all authority, commands it. (Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:16).
      2. Paul taught it (Rom. 6:1-4).
      3. Bible emphasizes it: Repeated often — among last words of Jesus
   C. Seen by the company it keeps. (Eph 4:4-6).
   D. Seen by what it accomplishes by the power of God.
      1. By it we enter Christ and his kingdom or church (Gal. 3:26, 27; 1 Cor. 12:13; John 3:5).
      2. By it we are saved (Mark 16:16; 1 Pet. 3:21).

Conclusion:
A. Baptism is unique, dignified, and necessary — Obey today.
B. Baptism does not complete obedience — it near the beginning.