What is Baptism and What Does it Mean?

Sermon Theme: Baptism is an ordinance commanded by Jesus Christ by which those who have repented and believed in Jesus are immersed in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Baptism expresses union with Christ, death to and cleansing from sin, and entrance into the body of Christ, the church.

1) What baptism is:

   a) Baptism is an ordinance commanded by Jesus
      Matt. 28:16ff

   b) Baptism is immersion in water
      Mark 3:9; Acts 8:36-39; Jn. 3:23

   c) Baptism is for believers
      Acts 2:41; 8:12-13; 10:44-48; 16:14-15; 18:8; 19:4-5

2) What baptism means:
   Rom. 6:3-4; Gal. 3:27; Col. 2:11-12

   a) Baptism expresses union with Christ

   b) Baptism expresses death to and cleansing from sin
      Acts 2:38; 22:16

   c) Baptism expresses entrance into the body of Christ, the church
      1 Pt. 1:23-25; 2 Cor. 5:17

What is the Local Church?

The local church is a community of regenerated believers in Jesus Christ. In obedience to Scripture they organize under qualified leadership, gather regularly for preaching and worship, observe the biblical ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper, practice church discipline, are unified by the Spirit, marked by love, and by the power of the Spirit seek to fulfill the great commission for God's glory and their joy.

1) The anticipation and arrival of the Redeemer who will bless the nations
   Gen. 3:15; 12:1-7; Luke 2:32; Mark 1:15; Heb. 2:14; Col. 2:15

2) The church inaugurated. (Acts 2:38-41)
   Acts 1:4-5; Jn 14:26; 15:26; 16:12; Acts 2

3) The church defined and explained

   a) Regenerate Church Membership
      John 3:1-8; Acts 2:41,47

   b) Qualified Leadership
      1 Tim. 3:1-13; Tit. 1:5-9; 1 Pt. 5:1-5

   c) Gathering regularly for preaching and worship
      Heb. 10:25

   d) Baptism and the Lord's Supper
      Matt. 28:18ff; Luke 22:14-23

   e) Church Discipline
      Matt. 18:15-20; 1 Cor. 5

   f) Unified
      Acts 2:4; Eph. 4:3; Phil. 2:1-11

   g) Love
      1 Jn. 3:23; 1 Cor. 13; 1 Pt. 4:8

   h) Mission
      Matt. 28:18ff; Jn. 20:21