

Bible Doctrine 2 – Lesson 11

The Doctrine of Church Ordinances

Acts 8:36-38 & Luke 22:15-20

Introduction: The observing of the ordinances is a source of great blessing to the Church. While it is a source of blessing and has meant to be so by God, it has also been a source of great contention in the church throughout history. Some have referred to thee as ordinances and others have referred to them as sacraments. There are two rites of the church: baptism and the Lord's Supper. In addition to the two accepted by most Protestant churches, the Roman Catholic Church adds five: ordination, confirmation, matrimony, extreme unction, and penance. In Roman Catholic theology "each of the sacraments confers or increases sanctifying grace. This sanctifying grace is known as sacramental grace inasmuch as it carries with it a right to the supernatural helps necessary and useful for the accomplishment of the purpose of each sacrament." Though the Reformed churches accept only the two rites, baptism and the Lord's Supper, they also see them as means of grace. Berkhof writes, "As signs and seals they are means of grace, that is, means of strengthening the inward grace that is wrought in the heart by the Holy Spirit." In order to avoid the mysticism characterized by the term "sacrament," it is perhaps better to use the term "ordinance" for the two rites of the church. An ordinance can be defined as an outward rite instituted by Christ to be administered in the church as a visible sign of the saving truth of the Christian faith. There is no special grace effected by either baptism or the Lord's Supper, though as we are obedient to Christ's commands and remember Christ and his sacrifice on our behalf, we do grow in the grace of the Lord Jesus. This, however, does not come through some mystical working of ordinance itself.

I. The ordinance of Baptism.

A. The _____ of Baptism.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

B. The _____ of Baptism.

- 1.
- 2.

C. The _____ of Baptism.

- 1.

2.

3.

4.

D. _____.

E. The _____ of Baptism.

F. The _____ of Baptism.

1.

2.

3.

II. The ordinance of the Lord's Supper.

A. Its _____.

B. Its _____.

C. Its _____.

1.

2.

3.

4.

D. Its _____.

1.

2.

3.

E. Its _____.

F. Important _____.

1.

2.

3.

G. The _____ Feast.