

The New Testament Church
Water Baptism – Colossians 2:11-13
Pastor Paul Jehle – June 27, 2021

I Philip and the Euthiopian Eunuch – Acts 8:26-40

- A. God speaks to us as he did to Philip to share the good news with those He is drawing
1. An angel gets his attention (through a dream or vision)
 - a. Angels don't preach the gospel, but they are "ministering spirits"
 - b. It is possible we have interacted with "strangers" that were angels (but it is limited)
 2. Arise and go toward the south along the road from Jerusalem to Gaza
 - a. It was unusual to be led into the desert – who goes there?
 - b. We could be given unusual leadings to test our obedience as well
 3. As he went, he saw a eunuch of Ethiopia in a chariot
 - a. He was the treasurer under Candace the Queen
 - b. A "eunuch" is one who cannot have children and often cannot marry
 - c. Pagan kingdoms demand total loyalty to the ruler, do not like family loyalty
 4. He was coming to Jerusalem to worship and was returning (a converted Jew?)
 5. He was reading from Isaiah – and the Spirit told Philip – go near and overtake him
 - a. Philip said "*do you understand what you are reading?*"
 - b. The humility of needing someone to help you understand Scripture
 - c. When we see God working in someone, it is time to share
 6. He was reading from Isaiah (Acts 8:32-33; Isaiah 53:7-8)
 - a. Is this the prophet Isaiah that would suffer or someone else?
 - b. Philip preached Christ from the Word in the Old Testament
 7. Consider Isaiah 56:1-7
 - a. God declares that the Eunuch will not be cut off from multi-generational promises
 - b. He will make them more a part of His house than married with children!
- B. The Eunuch said when they came to water – *what hinders me from being baptized?*
1. *If you believe with all your heart, you may.*
 2. *I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God*
 3. They commanded the Chariot to stop; Philip baptized (word means "immerse") the Eunuch
 4. This leader planted the first church on the African continent – a Christian nation by 4th century!

II Covenant – Colossians 2:11-13

- A. Circumcision – Old Testament seal of being a "member" of God's people
1. It cut away the flesh externally
 2. It marked an individual as a part of God's people
- B. Water Baptism – New Testament seal of being a "member" of the body of Christ
1. It signifies that the flesh has been cut away – old man has died...
 2. It signifies the burial of our sins – going under the water
 3. It marks the individual with resurrection power of the new man...
 4. Death / Burial / Resurrection is visually seen in an individual being immersed in water

III Sanctification – Romans 6:1-5

- A. The law and sin - the law exposes sin
1. Growing in God means surrendering as God convicts of sin – confession / forgiveness
 2. It is a gradual cutting away of the power of the flesh in our experience
- B. Public Promise and Proclamation
1. Water baptism is a public promise that you want to grow in the faith
 2. It is also a public surrender to the leadership of a local church – stay connected