**Why We are Baptists!**

**Dr. Thomas M. Strouse**

**I. The Person of John the Baptist**

 a. *John the Baptist* > Mt. 3:11; 11:11-12; 14:2; 16:14; 17:13; Mk.6:14, 24-25; 8:28; Lk. 7:28, 33; 9:19

 b. *Baptism* (22x): the rite of immersion, dipping, dunking for church membership >

1. It authenticates identification with Jesus as Messiah > Mt. 3:7 –> I Pet. 3:21

 2. It demanded prior repentance (Mt. 3:7-8; Mk. 1:4)

 3. It had divine authority (Lk. 20:4)

 4. It initiates one’s public ministry (Acts 1:22)

 5. It is permanent in this dispensation (Eph. 4:5)

 6. It is a picture of the Gospel: the death, burial, and resurrection (Rom. 6:3-4; Col. 2:12)

 7. It separates the baptized believer from the world (I Pet. 3:21)

 8. It is required by the Lord for all believers (Mk. 16:16)

c. *Baptized* (61x) > Mt. 3:6 –> Gal. 3:27 (never *rantizo* or sprinkling [Heb. 9:13; 11:28; 12:24; I Pet. 1:2])

 d. *Baptizing* (4x) > Mt. 28:19; Jn. 1:28, 31; 3:23

**II. The Prophecy of John the Baptist**

 a. Isa. 40:3-4

 b. Mal. 3:1 > Mk. 1:2-3

 c. Mal. 4:5-6; Lk. 1:15-17; Mt. 17:10-13

**III. The Passion > Jn. 3:30**

**IV. The Practice > History of Baptism**

 a. The Command to start the baptizing agency called the Baptist Church!

 1. Discipling > salvation

 2. Baptizing > immersion

 3. Catechizing > teaching

 b. The Continuation of the starting of and the adding to churches

 1. Acts 2:37-47

 2. Acts 18:1-11

 c. The Churches > I Tim. 3:15 (preservation of churches and revelatory truth [preserved text])

 1. Montanists > baptizing believers and not babies!

 2. Novatians > baptizing believers and not babies!

 3. Donatists > baptizing believers and not babies!

 4. Paulacians > baptizing believers and not babies!

 5. Waldenses > baptizing believers and not babies!

 6. Bogomili > baptizing believers and not babies!

 7. Albigenses > baptizing believers and not babies!

 8. Anabaptists (“re-baptizers” > Baptists)

 a) Persecution by RCC and Protestants (Luther and Calvin)

 b) Act of Toleration (1689) > John Gill (Calvinism and Universal church heresies)

 d. The Conclusion: We are Baptists because we obediently identify with Christ and His Forerunner!