



## Today's Message

Date: November 5, 2023

Speaker: Pastor Steven Thomas

Title: ***The Ordinances: Where Our Past and Future Meet***

Text:

Matthew 28:18–20 (ESV)

<sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

1 Corinthians 11:23–26 (ESV)

<sup>23</sup> For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, <sup>24</sup> and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” <sup>25</sup> In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” <sup>26</sup> For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

Introduction: The Baptist Confession of Faith has a brief statement about the church’s two ordinances (chapter 28). It is preparatory and introductory for the two chapters that will follow. This chapter focuses on what we might call today, the “metadata,” that is, data *about* the subject that one considers before looking *at* the subject itself (e.g., a book’s title, author, etc.). In keeping with the goal of the BCF, we will present an overview of the ordinances this week before looking at them deeply in the following two weeks.

**Today's take-home truth: Christ gave the church two ordinances by which to remember him.**

- I. Christ prescribed memorial practices (ordinances) for the church.**
- II. Christ alone has the authority to prescribe these ordinances.**
- III. Christ only commands us to observe two ordinances.**
  - A. The ordinance of baptism
  - B. The ordinance of the Lord's Table
- IV. Christ intends for the ordinances to serve as a picture of salvation, not the means.**
  - A. They symbolize the cost of salvation.
  - B. They symbolize the commitment of those who receive it.
- V. Christ intends for the ordinances to function within the local church.**
  - A. By baptism, the believer enters the fellowship of the body of Christ (the church).
  - B. By the Lord's Table, the believer maintains the fellowship of the body of Christ.
- VI. Christ intends for local church leaders to administrate the ordinances.**
- VII. Christ will bless his people as they practice the ordinances until he returns.**