

Contents

Preface to the American Edition.....	9
Introduction to the American Edition	17
Introduction to the German Edition	43
Abbreviations and Symbols	57
Introduction and Bibliography.....	61
A. The Foundation of Baptism	77
1. The Baptismal Command	77
2. The Historical Presuppositions of Christian Baptism	80
(a) Washings in the Old Covenant and the Promise of Eschatological Purification	80
(b) The Baptism of John	85
(c) Jesus' Baptism, Death, and Resurrection	90
(d) The Outpouring of the Holy Spirit	94
3. The Historical Problem of the Origin of Christian Baptism	95
4. The Multiplicity and Structure of the New Testament Statements concerning Baptism	101
5. The Starting Point for the Doctrine of Baptism	106
B. The Salvific Action of God Through Baptism.....	113
1. Baptism into Christ.....	113
(a) Baptism as a Transfer of Ownership to the Crucified and Risen Christ.....	113
(b) Deliverance into Jesus' Death and Resurrection	118
(c) The Gift of the New Life and the Exhortation to Walk in Newness of Life	126
(d) The Danger of Detaching the Understanding of Baptism from the History of Jesus Christ	128
2. Baptism through the Holy Spirit	131
(a) The Action of the Spirit through Baptism.....	131
(b) The Effects of the Spirit in Connection with Baptism.....	135

- (c) The Gift of the Holy Spirit and the Exhortation to Walk in the Spirit..... 140
 - (d) The Danger of Restricting the Action of the Spirit in the Understanding of Baptism 142
- 3. Reception into the Church 143
 - (a) Baptism as Incorporation into the People of God, the Body of Christ, and the Spiritual Edifice 143
 - (b) Incorporation into the Church and the Sending into Servant Ministry to the World..... 148
 - (c) The Danger of Reducing the Understanding of Baptism to External Church Membership 150
- 4. The Act of the Triune God That Creates Anew..... 151
 - (a) Baptism as the Act of God in Christ through the Holy Spirit 151
 - (b) The Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit..... 154
 - (c) The Intertwining of the Word, the Water-bath, and God’s Act of Salvation 157
 - (d) The Danger of Disconnecting the Statements concerning the Word, the Water-Bath, and God’s Act of Salvation .. 166
- 5. The Necessity of Baptism 175
- C. The Administration and Reception of Baptism 185
 - 1. The One-Time Nature of Baptism 185
 - 2. The Administration of Baptism 190
 - (a) The Baptizing Church 190
 - (b) The Church as the Instrument of the Baptizing God..... 191
 - (c) The Administration of Baptism Detached from the Church..... 194
 - 3. The Reception of Baptism 195
 - (a) Faith in Jesus Christ..... 195
 - (b) The Threefold Connection between Faith and Baptism 199
 - (c) The Reception of Baptism Detached from Faith..... 201
 - 4. Infant Baptism 205
 - (a) The Origin of Infant Baptism and Its Rejection..... 205
 - (b) Individual Theological Arguments for and against Infant Baptism .. 212
 - (c) Inferences from the Understanding of Baptism for the Position on Infant Baptism 218
 - (d) Inferences from the Understanding of the Church for the Position on Infant Baptism 224
 - (e) The Dogmatic Justification of Infant Baptism 231
 - (f) The Practical Difficulties Regarding Infant Baptism 234
 - 5. The Most Profound Difference in the Understanding of Baptism 238

D. The Form of the Baptismal Act.....	247
1. The Administration of Baptism according to the New Testament Scriptures	247
2. The Issue of the Form of the Baptismal Act	251
3. The Constitutive Center of the Baptismal Act	256
4. The Unfolding of the Baptismal Act through the Word	260
5. The Unfolding of the Baptismal Act through Further Acts	266
6. The Danger of Obscuring the Understanding of Baptism	271
 Conclusion The Ecumenical Significance of Baptism.....	 279
 Bibliography	 287
 Index of Scripture References	 311
Old Testament.....	311
New Testament.....	312
 Index of Names	 317
 Index of Subjects	 323
 Editor and Translators.....	 331