The Work of John The Baptist
Luke 3:1-9
What Is Scriptural Baptism?

Intro. A. At this time we study the ministry of John.
1. His birth was unique.
2. His parents were in their physiology too old to bear children.

B. John's work was specified by God.
1. Luke 1:15-17 - The angels prophecy
2. Luke 1:67-79 - The prophecy of Zacharias

C. These verses teach us of the beginning of His work.
1. We must learn of His work.
2. We must draw valid conclusions from it.

I. When Did John Begin His Work?

A. The time is firmly established.
Vs.1   1. The political world is used.
Vs.2a   2. Jewish Religious leaders are also used.

B. He came forward at God's urging.
Vs. 1:80   1. He had been kept in seclusion. "...was in the deserts till the day of his shewing unto Israel.".
Vs. 2b   2. "...the word of God came unto John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness".

II. What Was The Work Of John?

A. His work was always near water.
"the country   Vs 3 a   1. His message must be accepted or Received.
about Jordan"   2. This Reception must be followed by immersion.

II.) An Example Of John's Preaching.

A. The multitude came forth to be baptized.

Vs. 7   1. "O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

2. "warned" = ὑποδείκνυμι = to point out privately with the finger, "to signify", "let be known".

B. They must show they have changed.

Vs. 8   1. "Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of Repentance".

2. "worthy" = ἄξιος = of equal value, worthy of

3. "Let your lives, then, prove your Repentance" — TCNT

4. They must not claim their geneology as a basis of the remission of their sins.

C. They have very little time to Repent.

Vs. 9   1. "...the axe is laid unto the Root of the trees."

2. If they do not Repent and show fruit to demonstrate their Repentance, they will be destroyed.

III.) What Must We Learn From These Things?

A. Baptism is important.

1. Baptism was John's sole mission.

2. He could not have made ready a people for the Lord without it.

3. Baptism is essential to effective service.

4. These people were being prepared for Kingdom service.