

BAPTISM

Taking the Plunge!

Congratulations on deciding to publicly confirm your faith in Christ by participating in a water baptism!! It will be an exciting and lasting marker in your life! Although it is only a symbol of your profession it does carry great weight! We'll consider some of the truths that create that punch in the next few minutes. First, let's establish that being baptized is an outward sign of an inward change! This is a key truth and one we'll come back to often.

Water is one of those essential elements of life. Without it there could not be life as we know it. Through the centuries all mankind has been witness to the power and importance water played in their lives. In Romans 1:18-23, Paul tells us that all of creation tells of God's qualities, nature and power. Here are just a few implications and deductions we can make through God choice of water;

In all cultures water is used to clean things. So baptism is an event marking a cleaning of our lives. A washing away of sin and death and a new level of cleanliness is alluded to! Not that we've arrived (or ever will!?!?) or will never sin again, but rather a new appreciation for being spiritually pure and a heightened desire to stay that way! People should see a life that has a renewed direction and purity!!

READ John 8:1-11

Ancient people also associated water with birth. Just prior to birth a woman's 'water breaks' and it signifies the inevitable,... a new child will soon be here! Being baptized then is a great picture of being 'born again', (John 3). As 'babes' in Christ we must be careful to not walk away from those who would love us, keep us safe and healthy. People should see a new life, one marked by joy, innocence and gratitude!

READ II Cor. 5:17

Throughout history people have also linked water with burial. To this day people are often buried at sea. The fortunate part for you is that you'll come up and out of that water again!?!? The baptism event paints a victorious image of us dying to ourselves, joining in the suffering of Christ's burial and then being raised up again just as He was,...ALIVE and CHANGED!!! People must see a lifestyle modeled after our Master!

READ Romans 6:4

So taking part in baptism is a very public statement! It's what we call a 'stand-up time', one where we declare where our loyalties and priorities are set. If God is important to us then we shouldn't be ashamed to tell others about what He's done for us!!! **READ Matthew 10:22 That's where we're going now,.... What has He done for you!?!?! Turn to the next page!**

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To help you fully grasp what it is God's done for you start with these helps and work through them over the next week! Be sure to hand them in to Pastor Steve's office by June 15th.

Describe how you came to know Christ as your Savior and Lord.

Name two or three who have had a real influence on your coming to know Christ and in walk with Him since then.

In what ways do you now exhibit or demonstrate that Christ is your *C.E.O. / Master / Boss* ?

What do you think it says about baptism, that Jesus Himself chose to be baptized? **Matt. 3:13**

Write out a prayer that voices your heart for God right now! What do you want to say to Him and what do you seek from Him?

For a deeper look at things turn to the study on the next page!

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Deeper Study

1. What was the mode of baptism in Bible times?

- A. Requires water..... Acts 8:36
- B. Requires much water..... John 3:23
- C. Requires to go down into the water Acts 8:38
- D. Requires a “burial” in the water..... Romans 6:4; Colossians 2:12
- E. Requires a coming up out of the water Acts 8:39

2. What is the significance or symbolism of baptism?

It pictures the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ and of the believer in fellowship with Him. Romans 6:4-5; Colossians 2:12

3. What is the right formula for administering baptism?

“...of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”..... Matthew 28:19

4. Who are scripturally qualified to be baptized?

- A person must first realize they are a sinner and then repent and believe..... Mark 1:15; Acts 2:38
- Believers, and only believers, are to be baptized. Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16

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The Baptism Service

1. You'll come to church, as usual, on the day of your baptism. After church we'll head to the Best Western Inn at Pheasant Hill. About 12:20PM we'll gather everyone up and ask them to join us around the pool. Pastor Jason will have his guitar and we'll worship and then pray!
2. At the designated time, the pastor will ask you to meet him out in the pool. We'll ask you some questions like, "When did you decide to follow Christ?" or "What does Jesus mean to you?"
3. Then Pastor will say something like, "Bob, upon your public confession of faith in Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord, I now baptize you in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit! Amen."
4. Then we'll quickly dip you in and out of the water. Everybody will be celebrating with you!
5. Someone should meet you with a towel as you come out of the water.



NOTE: Wear something that will be modest, **wet or dry**, and will not look like you're going out for a casual swim.

Sharing Your Special Story

1. Each person who is going to be baptized will have an opportunity to tell about their choice to follow Jesus.
2. Someone will help remind you of things you wrote in your application. Remember: everyone listening is very happy about your decision. It makes them excited about Jesus and what He does.
3. You'll receive your baptismal certificate later in the week.

NOTE to parents: Have the kids practice talking about their special story. Refer them to the highlights in their baptism application.