

## Baptism Celebration – 10/13/13

Welcome to our baptism services; Different service, 3x a year  
35 people are getting baptized – 27 Main, 8 West  
Every one of whom has spent a good deal of time and effort working through a Bible study to understand what baptism is, what they're doing, and why  
And have a desire to honor the Lord Jesus Christ accordingly

➤ IOW having realized their sin and need for a Savior . . .  
Having believed that Jesus died in their place and rose again for their life . . .  
Having repented of their sin and asked for forgiveness . . .  
And having received the Holy Spirit into their lives . . .  
They now follow Jesus as Lord, and are getting baptized to show it – to show the *new life* they have in him

Just like **Rom 6:3** says – *Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?*  
It's a rhetorical question to say – don't you know that those who have been *saved*, those who have been brought under the influence of *Christ* . . .  
Have also been brought under the influence of his sin-defeating death? It's true

And then, in **v4**, he says – *We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.* There it is

*We were buried with him by baptism into death* means that as believers, Christ's death was our death; When he died *for* sin, physically, we died *to* sin, spiritually  
*In order that, just as Christ was raised* [to life] *by the glory* [or power] *of the Father* – we too might be raised to life; Raised from our *spiritual* deadness, to live a *new* life  
And one of the purposes of baptism is to show it; To declare it; To delight in it\*\*\*\*\*

➤ That said, it's important to understand that baptism doesn't save you; Or even contribute to your salvation somehow  
If it did, that would be a work; And the Bible says that we're saved by *grace*; Not our works of obedience, but God's unmerited favor toward us  
We obey *b/c* we're saved, not to *get* saved

And in the waters of baptism, our obedience shows that we're a follower of Jesus Christ;  
That he's Lord of our life  
Picturing outwardly what has *already* taken place inwardly  
That we've been forgiven of our sin, cleansed of all unrighteousness, and have *new life* in Christ

So get ready to rejoice as you hear the testimonies to that effect  
And afterward, I'm going to give you an opportunity to follow Jesus yourself; To have life to the full and life everlasting

## Post-Baptisms

You've just heard \_\_\_\_ people bear witness to the saving work of Jesus Christ in their lives; And I can't help but think that some of you need the same; You need to be saved

And you can be, if you . . .

*Admit* that you're a sinner, in need of a Savior . . .

*Believe* that Jesus is the one – that when he died on the cross, he did so for *you*, so you wouldn't have to . . .

*Repent* of your sin – asking him to forgive you . . .

And *receive* him into your life – to live *his* way, according to *his* word, for *his* glory

Admit, believe, repent, and receive

If that's you, if you need to be saved – you pray as I pray

Pray – I admit . . . I believe . . . I repent . . . I receive . . .

For those who just prayed, would you encourage them with a sense of your presence and peace and assurance?

And for those who were baptized – would you bless them immensely for their act of obedience and allegiance and proclamation?

Thank you for all you're doing; And thank you for the ability to give now, as an expression of our response; We delight in you God

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