

Baptism Celebration – 10/28/18

Welcome to our Baptism Celebration. We've been looking forward to this for over a month now, and it's finally here. Welcome livestream (West at 9). This is a different *kind* of service, where people are expressing their faith and obedience to Christ in the waters of baptism. 23 this weekend, with 8/8/7 in *this* service.

And every one of them 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. Nobody is shooting from the hip here on a whim.

And if I were to summarize their testimonies, it would go something like this: Having come to the end of *themselves*, they embraced *Jesus* as Lord and Savior. So that now, they follow him as Lord, and are getting baptized to show it; to show the *new life* they have in him.

➤ It's just like **Rom 6:3** says – *Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus [as in brought under his influence] 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 baptism pictures it. It's one of the reasons he *uses* the word.

Baptism pictures our spiritual participation in Christ's death (Rom 6:3)

His sin-defeating death on the cross. In our place. For our sins.

In other words, Christ's death (*cross*) was our death, and baptism pictures it. All of us who have been brought under his saving influence, *baptized into Christ*, have been brought under the influence of his sin-defeating death. And water baptism pictures it. It pictures our spiritual baptism.

➤ And then, in **v4a**, he reiterates it.

We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death [we participated in his sin-defeating 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 [we too might be raised].

As believers, when he died *for* sin, physically, we died *to* sin, spiritually.

No longer bound by its power. No longer subject to its eternal consequences.

*In order that, just as Christ was raised [to life], we too might be raised. Raised from our spiritual deadness, to live a new life in him******

➤ So baptism not only pictures our death, but our life.

Baptism pictures our new life in Christ (Rom 6:4)

If anyone is in Christ [the Bible says], he is a new creation; The old has passed away, behold the new has come. (2 Cor 5:17)

When we're saved, we are given new desires, new passions, and new purposes. Making us a new person.

Or to say it another way, when we are baptized into Christ, spiritually, we are given new life. A new life to live, and enjoy, and offer to the Lord as an act of worship.

And baptism pictures it. It pictures all that, coming up *out* of the water, washed and new.

So baptism pictures death *and* life. Our new life in Christ.

Declaring it to the *church* so that all may rejoice, and declaring it to the *world* so that all may be saved. (**Summary**)

➤ And just to be clear – baptism *pictures* these things, it doesn't *accomplish* them. In other words, baptism doesn't save you. Or even *contribute* to your salvation. If it did, that would be a work. And the Bible says that's not how it works.

We're saved by *grace* it says (Eph 2:8-9)

Not our works of obedience, but God's unmerited *favor* toward us. (2 Tim 1:9)

We obey *b/c* we're saved, not to *get* saved.

And baptism is a part of that. It's a part of our obedience.

So . . .

Baptism pictures outwardly what has already taken place inwardly

In other words, each and every person, by getting baptized, is saying that they've already been forgiven of their sin, they've already been cleansed of all unrighteousness . . . And they already have new life in Christ. It's already happened. And this is their golden opportunity to glorify God because of it

➤ So get ready to rejoice, and get ready to respond. (**Summary**)

Because afterward, I'm going to give *you* an opportunity to follow Jesus *yourself*. To have new life and eternal life, just like they do.

Pray – Lord, bless each and every person getting baptized. Be glorified by their obedience and magnified by their testimony. And impress on us the symbolism of it all.