

Baptism – 3/8/26

34 people are getting baptized this weekend. 18 students and 16 adults. So I'm going to give you two quick thoughts, and then get at it. And if that leaves you with questions, go to our website for a full-length sermon. We have one highlighted on the back of your notes.

Here's the first thought:

Baptism symbolizes our death to sin and life in Christ (Rom 6:3-4)

Our new life in Christ. But let's start with our sin.

Baptism symbolizes our death to sin, in that, when we are saved, when we repent and believe in Jesus, his death becomes our death. Or even more pointedly, we died *with* him. That's what Paul says in Galatians 2:20 – *I have been crucified with Christ.* (ESV)

And in Romans 6, he explains it further by using baptism as a *metaphor* for our death and life in Christ. A metaphor that means “immersed in or brought under the influence of.”

So speaking to believers in **Romans 6:3**, Paul 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 Jesus, or *baptized into Christ Jesus* – don't you know that they have also been brought under the influence of his sin-defeating *death*? Baptized into his death?” It's true.

And then, pressing the analogy even further, he says in **v4** – *We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death.* Not baptism into water, but baptism into death. To say that when we were saved, we participated by proxy, by faith, in the sin-defeating death and burial of Jesus. *We were buried with him,* it says. (4a) Dying to the *consequences* of our sin, when he died *for* our sin.

In order that [v4b], just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father [his amazing power], we too might walk in newness of life. We too might be raised to life.

All of which baptism symbolizes. Buried, raised. Dead, alive. Old, new. It's a picture. A powerful metaphor to describe and symbolize our death to sin and new life in Christ. Death to our old way of thinking, and life according to God's. Death to the world's way, and life in God's. Death to the sinful deeds of our flesh, and life in the righteousness of Christ.

Baptism is a symbol of that. *All* that. Dead to sin, alive in Christ.

Second . . .

Baptism symbolizes our deliverance from judgment (1 Peter 3:21)

Our salvation from judgment. In 1 Peter 3 (18-22), Peter draws an analogy between *Noah's* salvation and *our* salvation. To say that just like Noah was saved in the *ark*, we are saved *in Christ*. United with Christ.

And baptism, Peter says, *corresponds to this* (1 Pet 3:21). Or pictures it. Symbolizes our salvation. Symbolizes our deliverance.

Just like Noah was delivered from death in the flood, we are delivered from death in judgment. And just like *Noah* was brought safely through water (20b), we are brought safely through water. Picturing in a few minutes what Noah endured for a year.

So the whole thing – from passing through, to going down, and coming up – symbolizes our deliverance from judgment. In addition to the sin-defeating, soul-cleansing death of Jesus, and our new life *in* him.

Two thoughts. And with those in mind, let's pray and get at it.

Prayer – Lord, do a work. Use these baptisms to encourage those who know you and convince those who don't. Use them to spur us on and spread the word. To live you for you and love you more. For your glory and our joy.

Post-baptisms

You just heard 17 testimonies of how God used various circumstances to get their attention, save their soul, and give them life.

And you can experience the same, if you too . . .

Admit you're a sinner

All have sinned the Bible says (Romans 3:23), and if you're going to be saved you have to admit it. That you're a sinner in need of a Savior.

And then believe that Jesus is the one. Admit you're a sinner and . . .

Believe in Jesus

In who he is and what he did. That he's God in the flesh who died for your sins and rose for your life. Sparing you from hell and guaranteeing heaven. If you want to be saved, you have to believe. You have to put your faith in him. You have to trust your life to him.

Third . . .

Repent of your sin

Ask God to forgive you of everything you've done and everything you're doing. And in the strength he provides, make a commitment live *his* way.

And last . . .

Receive him into your life

To be united with him forever. Enter into a relationship with him. Love him and live for him.

You too can be saved if you admit, believe, repent, and receive. If that's you, if you need to be saved, pray with me right now.

“God, I admit . . . But I believe . . . So I repent . . . And I receive.”

If you just prayed to receive Christ, I'm not going to ask for a response, but encourage you to be baptized. The next time around, make sure you're the one declaring your salvation.

Prayer – Father, thank you for your work of salvation. Give those who just prayed great joy and great desire to know you, and follow you, and live for you all the days of their life.

If you just prayed with me, let me encourage you to . . .

1. **Pick up a New Believer's Packet** at the door. Or, if you're online, go to our website.
2. **Tell someone** about your decision. We're not saved to be silent.
3. **Tell us.** Text "saved" to the number on the screen. We'd love to encourage you and pray for you.
4. **Get involved.** In a Small Group or Bible study. We're not meant to live the Christian life alone. You can't. You won't. So get involved.

That said, we have lots to celebrate with all the baptisms this morning. So let's stand to worship.

Baptism Recognition (on the floor)

Would those of you who were baptized come down front so we can recognize you and bless you?

God bless you for your obedience and witness. We praise God for you.

But don't *stop* with this. Baptism isn't the end, it's a springboard for more; *more* obedience, *more* discipleship. And more joy; joyful devotion.

To encourage you in that, we're going to make our way down front right after the benediction, shake your hand, and say, "Thank you, God bless you, and keep on."

And now, may . . .

[24] *The LORD bless you and keep you;*

[25] *the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;*

[26] *the LORD lift up his countenance upon you [pay special attention to you] and give you peace.* (Numbers 6:24–26)

You Are Loved