

BAPTISM AT RIVERDALE

We see that the Scriptures teach that baptism is part of accepting Jesus as our Lord and Savior. It is associated with beginning a new life in Jesus Christ and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Baptism is also symbolic of the cleansing of our sins and being clothed with Christ. Because the devotion at baptism requires a personal faith decision, we do not baptize babies, and we strongly encourage those who were "christened" to be baptized as a personal expression of faith

WHY BE BAPTIZED?

Because you want to follow Christ's example. "At that time Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptized by John in the river." Mark 1:9

Because Christ commanded it. Jesus said, "Go then, to all people everywhere and make them my disciples, baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you." Matthew 28:19-20

Because it shows you are a believer. "...many of the Corinthians who heard him and believed were baptized." Acts 18:8

THE MEANING OF BAPTISM

It is a symbol of Christ's burial and resurrection. "Christ died for our sin...he was buried... and he rose again." 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

"For when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ." Colossians 2:12

It is a symbol of your new life as a Christian. "When someone becomes a Christian he becomes a brand new person inside. The old life has passed away and a new life has

begun!" 2 Corinthians 5:17

"By our baptism then we were buried with Him and shared His death, in order that just as Christ was raised from the dead also we might live a new life!" Romans 6:4

Baptism does not make you a believer, it shows that you already are one! Baptism does not "save" you, only your faith in Christ does that. Baptism is like a wedding ring - it's the outward symbol of the commitment you made in your heart.

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith. it is the gift of God not by works, so that no one can boast." Ephesians 2:8,9

HOW ARE WE TO BE BAPTIZED?

1. Like Jesus was baptized by being immersed in water. *"As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water."* Matthew 3:16
2. Every baptism in the Bible was by immersion under water. *"...then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water..."* Acts 8:38,39
3. The word "Baptize" literally means "to dip under water". The Greek word "baptizo" means "to immerse or dip under water."
4. It is the best way to picture a burial and resurrection.

Baptism is a precious moment where you commit your life to Jesus. We are excited that you are interested in taking this step of faith. Please feel free to contact us with any questions or when you are ready to make your decision.

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