

## Baptism Celebration – 5/6/07

Welcome to our first Baptism Celebration in our new building

Always a great joy to witness baptisms

45 people who are being baptized

Who have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord

Too many to fit in both services

So after the second service, we'll dismiss and then start baptizing again

- In Acts 8:9-13

Stephen was just stoned to death for his allegiance to Christ

The church was being ravaged/persecuted by Saul

Believers were being scattered

In the midst of all that – Philip goes to Samaria of all places

That's like out of the frying pan and into the fire –

Philip decides to go there and preach the gospel

The effect was astounding – people actually believed and were baptized

Read **Acts 8:9-13**

They had seen it all; They had their miracles; They had their heroes

But the power of the message was so compelling

The power of God so gripped them

That they set aside their old ways, beliefs, and allegiances . . .

And publicly aligned themselves with *Christ* in the waters of baptism

- The same thing is happening this morning

Each and every person is so gripped by their relationship with Christ that they are publicly aligning themselves with him in baptism

By doing so, they're saying – "I'm forgiven, I'm saved, I'm his"

Get ready to rejoice and be blessed

It's an awesome thing to see changed lives

If you know Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior . . .

You haven't been baptized as a believer

Your heart's burning to do so

You can, right now; this morning

As soon as I'm done talking, or anytime during the rest of this service . . .

Go to the back of the Worship Center

Met by one of our staff/elder/spouses

Listen to your testimony

Add you to the list of those already scheduled to be baptized at the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> service

Don't have to worry about what to wear – shorts and shirts for you

Don't have to worry about what you look like – God doesn't care; neither do we

Doesn't matter if you *just* committed your life to Christ; Or been a believer for 20 years

If you understand what you're doing, and your heart burns within you – get baptized

Quick break for announcements and offering . . . John

### Close

Baptism CD's available

2<sup>nd</sup> Service Only – Pick up your kids, come back if you can

Next week – Mother's Day . . . don't forget!