

Baptism Celebration

2/26/06; 5/17/09

Welcome to our Baptism Celebration

Always a great joy

56 people getting baptized today; (20, 18, 18) in this service

People who . . .

Proclaim Jesus as their Savior and Lord

Love him and trust him with their whole heart

Desire to honor him with their life

Want to grow in their relationship with him

Just to make sure we're all on the same page . . .

It's important to understand what the Bible teaches about baptism

Especially in a day and age of so much confusion and misinformation

So as you witness these baptisms, keep in mind first of all, that . . .

Baptism is a symbol

A symbol of our – unity with Christ and new life in him

Cleansing and release from the grip of sin

Entrance into the family of God

Bottom line

Baptism is a symbol of our salvation *in* Christ – i.e. our forgiveness of sins and assurance of eternal life

And our identity *with* Christ – that we are one of his followers

That's why . . .

It's for believers

Otherwise you're saying something outwardly that's not true inwardly

You're saying that you're saved – forgiven, cleansed, and adopted into God's family . . .

When you're not

More importantly, the precedent/pattern of Scripture is belief, then baptism

Acts 8:12 – ***When they believed** Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of*

*God and the name of Jesus Christ, **they were baptized**, both men and women.*

When they believed – i.e. when they trusted Jesus to save them from their sins

Then they were baptized

Getting baptized doesn't save you

If it did, or in some way contributed to it – that would be a work

And we saw last week in **2 Timothy 1:9** that . . .

[God] *saved us and called us to a holy calling, **not because of our works** but because of his own purpose and grace*

It's God's work of grace in your life that saves you, not your works of obedience

We obey *b/c* we're saved, not to *get* saved – salvation is a gift

And baptism is an act of allegiance/obedience that shows you've embraced that gift . . .

That you're a genuine follower of Jesus Christ

That's what each person is saying by being baptized

That having been forgiven of their sin, and saved to eternal life . . .

Jesus is Lord of their life, and they're not ashamed to show it

- So get ready to rejoice and be blessed

B/c it's an awesome thing to see changed lives

And if your heart burns within you as they speak . . .

If God is calling *you* to himself – respond; don't wait

Talk to someone and get right with him today

Pray

Close