

Baptism – 5/23/10

Welcome to our Baptism Celebration

This is a different service for us, but always a great joy; This weekend is no exception
61 people getting baptized – 22 students and 39 adults

People who are standing up to say – “This is who I am; This is who I follow; This is
what God has done in my life;” People for whom Jesus is Lord/Savior of their lives

In fact, baptism, in and of itself, is a picture of that

It’s a picture of salvation

Without ever saying a word, each baptism is a picture of their death *to* sin, and Christ’s
death *for* their sin

And a picture of their new life *in* Christ, b/c of Christ’s life in them

Like when Paul says in Rom 6 that we’ve been *baptized into Christ Jesus*, so that we
might walk in newness of life

He’s saying that we’ve been saved, *baptized into Christ*, brought under his influence –
so that we could and would, live the life we’ve been given

That’s what baptism pictures – our salvation, and the resulting newness of life

So by being baptized, each and every person is picturing outwardly, what has *already*
taken place inwardly

That they’ve been forgiven of their sin through repentance, and assured of eternal life
through faith

It’s a picture of salvation

It’s an expression of belief

B is one of the main ways in the Bible, for us to say publicly, that we believe personally
That we believe in Jesus; That we believe his Word; That we trust him by faith

Over and over again you find statements in the Bible like . . .

When they believed . . . they were baptized (Acts 8:12)

And those who received his word were baptized (Acts 2:41)

Why? Why were they baptized? To declare their belief; To declare their faith in Jesus

So by the very act of being baptized, each/every person is expressing their belief in Jesus

Their faith that he has secured their future, and their trust that he has forgiven their sins

It’s an expression of belief

It’s a declaration of identity

That we are a Christ follower – a disciple of Jesus

Having been united with him, each and every person is saying – “I’m his, and he’s
mine; I’m in him and he’s in me; I’m his child and he’s my Lord”

That’s what each and every person is saying by being baptized

“Jesus is Lord of my life, and I’m not ashamed to declare it” (Doug in tank)

It’s a declaration of identity

So get ready to rejoice w/ these guys, at the work of grace that God has done in their lives

Nathan

I never tire of hearing people confess Jesus as Lord like that

Of hearing them say – I believe, I’m saved, and I’m his; We’re blessed

- Before we close our service, I want to take a few minutes to say goodbye to Nathan/Em
As I announced 4 weeks ago, this is Nathan’s last weekend with us . . .
B/c he and Emily are moving in the next few weeks to KC, to be a part of the Harvest
that’s being planted there

Which is bittersweet for us

Sweet b/c you’re helping one of our own – one of the churches in our fellowship . . .

But bitter b/c you’re leaving here, and we’re going to miss you

So before you go, let me just say on behalf of all of us – thank you

Thank you for 5 ½ years of faithful service . . .

Thank you for 5 ½ years of fruitful ministry . . .

And thank you for 5 ½ years of leading us in worship

You’ve been a blessing in many, many ways – to many, many people

- And speaking personally, thank you for your partnership in all of this, and the risk you
took to join me in the first place – God bless you for that
- That said, we hope you look back on your time here fondly
And to help with that, we’d like for you to have this picture frame, with several photos
of you leading in worship (**photo**)
The plaque says . . .

Worship – Unchanging

Close

Be sure to express your love and thanks to Nathan and Emily afterwards / at Open House

And be sure to encourage those who were baptized with your joy for them

Nathan & Emily – from all of us to both of you, you are loved