

Baptism Celebration – 10/14/12

Welcome to our Baptism Celebration; A total of 33 people are getting baptized this weekend, and it's always a joy to be a part of it
But before we get there, I want to be clear about what baptism is, and isn't

It's an expression of belief

Baptism 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

Several times in the Bible, you find statements like. . .

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

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

Why? To express their belief; To show their faith in Jesus

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

It's a declaration of identity

Baptism is a declaration of identity as a child of God

Having been united with him through Christ, each and every person is saying – “I'm his child, and a part of his family”

Like **Gal 4:4-5** says – [4] *When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, [5] to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.* Adoption

Each person being baptized has been adopted into God's family

It's a proclamation of allegiance

Allegiance to Jesus Christ, as Lord

2 Cor 5:15 says – *He died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.*

Jesus died so you and I would no longer live for ourselves, but for him – that he would be Lord of our lives; And baptism is a *proclamation* of that allegiance*****

“Jesus Christ is Lord of my life, and I'm not ashamed to proclaim it”

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

It's an act of obedience

Just like any other act of obedience in the Bible, baptism is a part of working *out your own salvation with fear and trembling* (Ph 2:12); It's a part of your walk with Christ

The Apostle Peter said – *repent and be baptized every one of you* (Acts 2:38)

And Jesus said in **Mt 28:19** – *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit*

Jesus taught it, the apostles commanded it, and the early church practiced it*****

It's a picture of the Gospel

The good news of Jesus; That he died in our place, for our sin, so we wouldn't have to Washing us clean by the regeneration of the HS w/in us; And baptism pictures it

It doesn't *save* you, or somehow *contribute* to your salvation – it shows that you *have* been saved

By being baptized, each and every person is picturing outwardly, what has *already* taken place inwardly; That they've been forgiven of their sin and assured of life
That the gospel has taken root through faith and belief

- So get ready to rejoice as you hear the testimonies to that effect; Testimonies of God's work of grace (**Summary**)
And afterward, I'm going to tell you how you too can respond to it
How you too can be saved (In the water – Grady, Doug, Garth)

Baptism Celebration (after Wave #2)

You just heard 12 different stories of how God used the circumstances of life, to get their attention and prepare their heart to receive the Gospel – the good news
That God so loved us, he sent his Son to die for us, in our place; The death *we* deserved, b/c of our *sin* and God's view *of* it

He came, he died, and then he rose again – proving he's Lord of all, even death
Sparing us from an eternity of hell, while guaranteeing our life
That's the power of the Gospel; It's good news that saves

Or as Paul says it in **Rom 1:16** – [The Gospel] *is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes*

IOW it's the means by which God saves us from eternal damnation, and gives us life to the full and life forever

- But only if you believe – **Believe in Jesus** that is; In who he is and what he's done
That he's God in the flesh and Lord of all
That he died for your sins, *your* sins – so you wouldn't have to
And rose again so you could too
You too can be saved by the power of the Gospel, if you believe

And repent – **Repent of your sins**; As in acknowledge your sin and sinfulness
Admit you're a sinner in need of a Savior
And ask God to forgive you, and cleanse you of all unrighteousness
You can be saved by the power of the Gospel if you repent of your sins

And 3rd, if you – **Receive him into your life**

Giving him full rule and reign; And living his way as found in the Bible
And doing what he wants as Lord of your life

If that's you; If you believe the Gospel, if you believe in Jesus; And you're ready to repent of your sins; And want to receive him into your life . . .
I want you to pray with me right now; Let's bow our heads

- If I've been talking to you as if you're the only one in the room – I want you to stand right now as if you're the only one in the room
Just stand and remain standing, and pray with me in a minute; Is there anyone?

Anyone who wants to be on the receiving end of the Gospel's power?

Anyone who so believes, and so needs to repent, and so wants to receive Jesus – that you're not ashamed to stand

Don't be ashamed; Jesus said – *Whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will*
[I] *be ashamed when* [I come in my] *glory*

Prayer – I believe . . . I repent . . . I receive . . . In Jesus name (be seated)

I lift these precious ones up to you; Would you bless them; And keep them; And make
your face to shine on them even more; Would you be gracious to them, and turn your
face toward them, and give them peace (Austin)

We believe Lord; We believe in the kingdom come; We believe in the risen Son
So let revival come as we sing the glory of your name (*Come to the Water*)

Close – God bless you; New Believer's Packets; Visitors Bags