



## “Baptism Sunday 2009”

Colossians 2:6-15

6-7-09

### \*Sermon Exploration:

This Sunday was Baptism Sunday. Once a year we give an open call to people to be baptized. Pastor Steve simply explains the importance of Baptism and then we call people forward. What an incredible day; I hope you were in one of the three services. We had a total of 68 people baptized!!

- As you prepare for this message it will be helpful to look over our teachings on Baptism. You can find them on our website. Go to the church’s website and on the top of the main page click on “We Believe”. Once you get to the next page – look on the right hand side. You will see a list of topics. Click on baptism and you will get a great explanation about what we believe and teach regarding baptism.

### →Bare Bones Outline...

It all begins with a commitment to Christ...

#### 1. Receive Christ as Lord (vs.6)

- This is where salvation starts - Surrendering to Jesus as our Lord - It’s a once and for all moment in time

#### 2. Continue to Live in Him (vs. 6)

- Faith in Jesus is a continuous action - This is the actual evidence that receiving Jesus as Lord has actually taken place - True saving faith always continues
- But what does continuing to live in Him entail? What does this look like?

##### A. Rooted and built up (vs.7)

- Faith goes down and up (see Psalm 1:1-3)

##### 1. Rooted – firmly attached

- Roots reaching down to the nourishment of the rich soil of God’s Word

##### 2. Built up = strengthened in the faith (vs. 7)

- Faith grows strong, it pleases God, moves mountains and increases our spiritual vision and hope

##### B. Being taught (vs. 7)

- A Christian is a disciple of Jesus
- Disciple = learner – one who sits at the feet of another

##### C. Overflowing with Thankfulness (vs. 7)

- Thankfulness is one of the most natural results of receiving Christ
- Christians are thankful people – they don’t even have to try, it comes naturally – from deep within

##### D. Free from Worldly Deception (vs. 8)

- This is why learning and being rooted and built up is so crucial - There are so many obstacles to trip over
- They are hollow, deceptive, and can take a person captive for life. Things like: **Atheism** – worship of ego, **Materialism** – worship of stuff, **Relativism** – worship of open-mindedness, **Pragmatism** – worship of knowledge, logic, science, **Humanism** – worship of self, **Environmentalism** – worship of nature, **Moralism** – this is the worship of self-righteousness. This is the deceptive belief that we can make ourselves decent enough

This is why receiving Jesus as our Lord and Savior is infinitely more life-changing  
Eternity changing

### 3. **We Are in Christ (vs. 9-11)**

What it means to receive Christ as Lord in our lives (vs. 6)

#### A. **We have been given fullness in Christ (vs. 10)**

- Full = nothing is missing, we need no other
- All of His power/authority over all these hollow and deceptive philosophies, religions and traditions

#### B. **We have been spiritually circumcised (vs. 11)**

- Christ has performed it - He has done a spiritual surgery on our hearts

#### C. **We were dead in our sins (vs. 13)**

#### D. **God made us alive in Christ (vs. 13)**

- He opened our spiritual eyes and ears, forgave all our sins; Jesus took them away and they were nailed to the cross

Right in the middle of all this incredible supernatural transaction – we have an event, a sacred Christian privilege - a divinely symbolic and powerful picture of salvation – **Baptism**.

### 4. **BELIEVERS CELEBRATE IN BAPTISM (VS. 12)**

#### A. **Buried with Jesus in baptism**

- Christian baptism is a life-changing participation in the burial of Jesus
- It is as close as we possibly come to joining with Jesus in what He has done for us - Symbolic of our old sinful nature being killed-left for dead

#### B. **Raised with Jesus through faith in the power of God**

- The physical act of coming up out of the water is the closest we come to joining with Christ in His resurrection. Baptism is the reflection of what has happened to us spiritually

### Conclusion

#### **Baptism is a part of:**

- Receiving Christ as Lord, continuing to live in Him, being rooted, built up, strengthened and overflowing with thankfulness

#### **Baptism is a part of declaring:**

- We are not being held captive by all of the hollow/deceptive philosophies, traditions, worldly principles

#### **Baptism is a physical/symbolic participation in a spiritual miracle:**

- Removal of spiritual death caused by sin - burial of an old nature - being raised through faith in the power of God through faith

**SO WHO HERE IS READY?**

## **LifeGroup Discussion**

→ **Introduction...** I hope that everyone had a chance to attend one of our services on Sunday. It was "Baptism Sunday." It's that time once a year when we teach on baptism and give an open call to anyone who has not been immersed to be baptized. This Sunday, in our three services, we saw 68 people get baptized!

→ **Open it...**

1. If you were at one of the services, what did you think? What ran through your mind as you heard Pastor Steve teach and then see people come to be baptized?
2. If you have been baptized, what do you remember about your own baptism? Why was it special to you?

Trans: Let's take a quick look at baptism Jesus-style.

→ **Explore it...**

Read Matthew 3:13-17

1. Who baptized Jesus?
  - Why did he try to prevent Jesus from being baptized?
  - Do you think John knew who Jesus was at this point? Why or why not?
2. Why was Jesus baptized? Verse 15 gives us some key insight.
3. Look carefully and you'll see the entire Trinity show up for this special occasion.
  - How does each member of the Trinity make themselves evident at this event?

Read Romans 6:1-7

4. What does baptism represent and how does it represent it?

Read Mark 16:16; Acts 2:37-41 and Matthew 28:18-20

5. According to what we have read so far, why do you think it's important for a believer in Christ to be baptized?
  - Jesus was baptized as an example for us, as believers we are commanded to be baptized, it is a public declaration of an inward commitment and everyone who comes to faith in Christ in the book of Acts is baptized.
6. According to these verses who should and who should not be baptized?
  - Baptism is only for those who have accepted Christ and repented of their sins.

→ **Apply it...**

1. Why are some believers in Christ hesitant to get baptized?
2. What would you say to someone who is a believer but is struggling with one of these reasons for not getting baptized?
3. Is there someone you know who is a Christian but hasn't been baptized that you can share this information with?

→ **Suggested assignment for the week...**

- ***If someone in your group has questions about baptism encourage them to get a copy of our church's position paper on baptism. You can pick one up at the church or look at it online on our website.***

Personal Ah Ha's!! What was one thing that really hit you from this week's message? What is one way you can apply the message from this week to your life?

