

Leaving the Past (3)

WATER BAPTISM



We have been learning how important it is to deal with the things that happened in our lives before we came to Jesus. There is another important step you need to make to show the old life is gone – and that is to be baptized in water.

1. WHAT IS BAPTISM?

The first person who baptized others in the Bible was called John the Baptist.

✚ Why did John baptize people?

Matthew 3:1-2, 11 _____

✚ What did Peter tell the people who responded to his message to do?

Acts 2:38 _____

✚ When were those who believed in Jesus baptized?

Acts 16:29-34 _____

We see in the New Testament that baptism was for those who had turned away from their sin (repentance) and decided to follow Jesus. Usually they were baptized soon after they believed in Him. The word baptize means 'to dip' or 'to immerse', and so the way in which people are baptized is by going under water. This may seem strange if you have never seen someone baptized before, but it has a wonderful meaning as we will learn.

2. WHY BE BAPTIZED?

A. JESUS WAS BAPTIZED

✚ Why do you think John did not want to baptize Jesus? Discuss.

Matthew 3:13-14 _____

✚ What reason did Jesus give to John that he should baptize him?

Matthew 3:15 _____

Jesus wanted to do everything that pleased His Father. Although He had never sinned and did not need to be baptized to show He had turned from sin, He wanted to stand on the side of sinners. Now we are followers of Jesus, we are to follow His example.

B. JESUS COMMANDS US TO BE BAPTIZED

✚ What 3 things did Jesus tell His disciples to do?

Matthew 28:18-20 _____

✚ When we obey what does it show? What does God promise to do?

John 14:23-24 _____



When Jesus obeyed and was baptized God the Father was pleased. In the same way when we obey it also makes our Heavenly Father happy.

💡 Perhaps some of you have been baptized in water. Share with us your experience.

3. WHAT DOES BAPTISM MEAN?

When a person becomes a Christian something happens on the **inside** of his life. Baptism is the **outward** sign of this, and is the way we show others what has happened. Let's learn more about what this means.

A. IT IS A SIGN THAT YOUR SIN HAS BEEN FORGIVEN

✚ What is the meaning of baptism in this verse?

Acts 22:16 _____

When we are dirty we wash ourselves in water. Baptism is a sign that we have been washed on the inside from our sin by the blood of the Lord Jesus.

B. IT IS A SIGN THAT YOU HAVE DIED AND RISEN WITH CHRIST

✚ What else does baptism mean in these verses?

Romans 6:3-11 _____

Baptism is a picture to show that our old sinful life has been buried just as Jesus was buried in the tomb. This means our old nature is dead. When something is dead it has no power! The old nature no longer has power over us, and we can follow the new nature God has given us, which is the nature of Jesus.

Baptism is also a picture that shows that we have received a new life, just as Jesus was raised to life. God has given us His power, the power of the Holy Spirit, so we can live this new life. Read Romans 8:9-14.



Once we have turned from our sin and put our trust in Jesus it is important we follow His example and be baptized. It is an outward sign to others of what has already happened in our lives, and since we have obeyed God in taking this step the power of Satan is broken over our lives.

If you have never been baptized then it is good to do so. If you have, then continue to live out the truth and meaning of your baptism.



Pray for one another.

Memory Verse

“For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.”

Romans 6:4