

## BAPTISM: MY ACT OF FAITH

Jesus' salvation is available to all: we receive it personally through the covenant of baptism.

### KEY POINTS

- ❖ We expect those who are close to us to remember our "special" dates (birthdays, anniversaries, etc). They make a big deal of them – give us gifts, buy us flowers, take us out to dinner; they rejoice with us.
- ❖ And there is one date we should all have on our calendar: the day on which we became part of the family of God. The day we became a citizen of heaven. The day we were baptized in the wonderful, saving name of Jesus Christ!
- ❖ When it comes to one of our greatest internal desires – the desire to feel clean inside, to be free from guilt and shame because of things we've done – we're in a very tough spot.
- ❖ This most critical issue deals with our relationship with Almighty God, our creator, master and Lord!
- ❖ When our conscience convicts us of our sinful acts, what are we to do? When we read in the word of God that sin leads to eternal separation from Him, what are we to do?
- ❖ Some go to church, cry their way through a service, leave, and never go back, hoping they'll never again feel the conviction of sin.
- ❖ Some hesitate, due to a lack of faith that there could actually be a solution to their problem. They're consumed by guilt and shame and find it impossible to believe they could ever be forgiven.
- ❖ Some try *doing good works*, the most prevalent *man-made* solution to guilt reduction.
- ❖ But when we realize our good works are useless for getting us back into a good relationship with God, what are we to do? How do we deal with that level of guilt, helplessness and hopelessness?
- ❖ This is the only way out: *call out to Jesus for His help and forgiveness*. We must believe His word that He truly loves us, died to bear our sin penalty and rose again from the dead to guarantee that we too can have eternal life!
- ❖ How does this work for us as individuals? Through faith, confession and obedience (Mark 16:16; Acts 16:31; Romans 10:9-10; Matthew 3:13-15).
- ❖ It is imperative that we truly believe what the Word says to us: we are all sinners on our way to death.

**KEY SCRIPTURES:** Matthew 3:13-15;  
 Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38-41, 16:25-34;  
 Romans 9:30-10:17; 1 Peter 3:18-21

- ❖ We have no way to help ourselves, so there's no use trying. Our good works cannot save us from God's wrath and judgment.
- ❖ Only Jesus' death on our behalf, His burial and His resurrection can save us.
- ❖ We need to receive this word with joyful hearts and obey it quickly (Acts 2:38-41). This is how we personally receive the salvation Jesus purchased for us 2,000+ years ago.
- ❖ Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, stands before us today with open arms, willing and ready to receive us and to give us His full and free salvation.
- ❖ He's made the offer – all we need to do to receive it is to believe and be baptized.
- ❖ Make sure this date is on your calendar: the day you willingly sealed your covenant with Jesus through baptism in His name. The day you made a public statement to the world that you had become a part of God's family.
- ❖ The day your sins were forever washed away and you began your new life in Christ.

### DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Find the answers for the blanks below using the scripture references in the parentheses. Discuss the function and importance of baptism in salvation.
  - a) To be saved, a person must \_\_\_\_\_ and be \_\_\_\_\_. (Mark 16:16)
  - b) Jesus said we must be born again of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. (John 3:5)
  - c) Baptism identifies us with the \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus. (Romans 6:3-4)
  - d) Through baptism we are \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. (1 Corinthians 6:11)
  - e) Why should we be baptized? For \_\_\_\_\_. (Acts 2:38)

### Prayer Time

Lord, I covenant with You to receive Your salvation and to serve You. I (will) "sign" this covenant by my baptism in Your name. Amen.

Start-up: What is needed for something dirty to become clean? (Is it necessary to use soap, or is soap only needed for disinfecting?)

## WEEK OF SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2018

### NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

-  (Reminds me/Confirms)
  (New idea)
  (Think about)
-  (Do this)
  (Speaks to my heart)
  (Must share)

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### PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

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*Go deeper with your Life Group family.*  
**CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD**  
*Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline*