

WATER BAPTISM: MY ACT OF FAITH

Jesus Christ offers salvation to all people, and we personally receive it through faith, repentance and baptism in His name.

KEY POINTS

- ❖ There are sicknesses and diseases we have no power to control; things that seem to leap upon us and render us powerless.
- ❖ And when these things happen, we ask questions. We want to know if there's anything we can do.
- ❖ God's Word tells us we all have a spiritual disease – the systemic blood-poisoning of sin – the worst disease known to man, fatal in all untreated cases!
- ❖ What are we to do? Is there hope for a dying sinner?
- ❖ When we begin to understand the depth of our problem, we can try to deal with it in various ways.
 - Some come to church, cry all the way through a service and leave, never to return, hoping they will never again feel the conviction of sin.
 - Some are consumed by guilt and shame and try to drown out the reality and consequences of their 'sin diagnosis' with drugs, alcohol and all the pleasures the world has to offer. Some even end their own lives because of their feelings of despair.
 - Some try doing good works – the most prevalent man-made solution to eliminate guilt.
- ❖ But the truth is, salvation by good works is totally impossible, since the very first sin we committed destroyed any possibility of us attaining eternal life (outside of Jesus Christ).
- ❖ Let us turn our attention to the word of God to get His perspective on this situation and discover His solution to this problem.
- ❖ Paul writes to the church in Rome giving details about "justification by faith", "the free gift" leading to "justification of life" and how "sinners" can be "made righteous" (Romans 5:1-2, 6-8, 12, 18b-19).
- ❖ He continues in Romans 6 with a very important question we all need to answer:
 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? ²Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? ³Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? ⁴Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. (Rom. 6:1-4).
- ❖ How do we receive this justification from our sins? Through our faith, and our obedience to water baptism in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ (see Mark 16:16; Acts 16:25-34; Matthew 3:13-15).
- ❖ We need to receive this word from God with joyful hearts and obey it quickly. This is how we personally receive the salvation Jesus purchased for us 2,000 years ago.

KEY SCRIPTURES: Romans 5:1-2, 6-8, 12, 18b-19; 6:1-4; Acts 16:25-34, 2:38-41; Mark 16:16; Matthew 3:13-15; 1 Peter 3:18-21

- ❖ Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit... ⁴¹So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls. (Acts 2:38-41)
- ❖ In Genesis 6-8, Noah and his family had to enter the ark to be saved from the flood's destruction.
- ❖ The flood came and everyone outside the ark died. According to Apostle Peter, it's the same way with baptism: no baptism, no salvation.
 "...in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark...a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through the water. ²¹Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 3:18-21 NASB)
- ❖ Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, stands before us today with open arms, willing and ready to receive us and give us His full and free salvation.
- ❖ He's made the offer. All we need to do to receive it is to believe, repent and be baptized. He promised to fill us with His Holy Spirit to give us the power to live a new life in Christ. But no baptism, no salvation.
- ❖ If you have not already taken advantage of Christ's incredible offer, make this a new anniversary date on your calendar: The day you willingly participate in the sacred covenant of baptism. The day your sins are forgiven, paid for and removed from your record by God Himself. The day you make a public statement to the universe that you have become a part of God's family! The day you are washed clean to begin your new life in Christ.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. As a group, research and share mentions of and examples of baptism in the Bible.
2. Discuss what you learn from the various scriptures. E.g., Who were baptized? Is it possible to be saved without baptism? Is there a proper way to be baptized?
3. Take time to reflect on the meaning of baptism.

Prayer Time

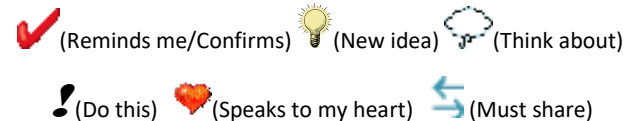
Your word says, "today is the day of salvation," and I want to obey and live according to Your Word. May this statement will true in my life. Amen.

Start-up: Do you enjoy water sports/being in the water? Why or why not? (If 'yes', what do you most like to do?)

WEEK OF SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2020

NOTES

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



PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

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

"WE PRAY" FS FACEBOOK GROUP

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/wepprayatfaithsanctuary/>

PRAYER FOCUS: F.S. Outreach: Daughter works, personal witnessing, lifestyle evangelism, community work



ANNOUNCEMENTS

N.B. PLEASE CHECK WITH CONTACT PERSONS RE: ALTERNATE PLANS FOR ANY SCHEDULED MEETINGS

TO SUBMIT A BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT

Obtain approval from Head of Department and send to announcements@faithsanctuary.com by Wednesday @ 4:00 p.m. (If projection is desired send to media@faithsanctuary.com.)

FAITH SANCTUARY DONATIONS

For email transfers, please use the following address: donate2faith@faithsanctuary.com

2020 MARRIAGE PREP COURSE

(5 Sessions)

Dates: Every Saturday from April 4th to May 2nd, 2020

Contact: Sis. Verona McKenzie

Notice:

Faith Sanctuary services are suspended until Good Friday, April 10th at 11:00 a.m.

👁👁 Watch our services at 11:00 a.m. every Sunday morning until we return to regular scheduled services.

3 ways to get to it:

- i) click the "livestream" link on the top menu bar on the Faith Sanctuary homepage
- ii) type www.faithsanctuary.com/live
- ii) go to www.youtube.com and search for "Faith Sanctuary".

Blessings Everyone

FAITH FOUNDATIONS

GOD

We believe there is only one God: the eternal, holy, loving, all-knowing, all-powerful, omnipresent Spirit, creator of all (Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Timothy 1:17; Leviticus 19:2; 1 John 4:8; Hebrews 4:13; Revelation 19:6; Jeremiah 23:24; John 4:24; Isaiah 44:24; Colossians 1:16).

GOD'S WORD

We believe the Holy Scriptures—The Bible—is God's true and complete Word to humanity, verified most notably through fulfilled prophecies concerning Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Isaiah 41:21-23, 42:8-9, 46:9-10; Luke 24:25-27; John 17:17).

GOD'S CREATION

We believe all people were created in the image of God for His pleasure, to be His children, His church and His bride, living in eternal love and fellowship with Him (Revelation 4:1; Genesis 1:27; John 1:12-13; Romans 8:16; Ephesians 5:25-32; Revelation 19:7).

HUMANITY'S FALL

We acknowledge that we have all sinned and failed to fulfill God's plan and purpose for our lives, through willful disobedience to the word of God and our own conscience. All sinful acts lead to separation and alienation from God's pure, holy presence, eventually resulting in both physical and spiritual death (Romans 3:23, 6:23a).

THE GOSPEL

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Almighty God, fully divine and fully human (1 Timothy 3:16). He came to Earth and suffered death by crucifixion, willingly substituting Himself for us in receiving God's judgment against sin (Isaiah 53:5). But God raised Him from death (Acts 5:30), and He now offers eternal life to all who will believe in Him (John 3:14-17, 6:29; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Romans 6:23b; Ephesians 2:4-9). Faith is sparked within us when we hear the gospel, the "good news" that Jesus died, was buried and rose from the dead for our benefit (Romans 10:14-17; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

OUR FAITH RESPONSE

Hearing the gospel is intended to lead us to repentance, a divinely inspired change of heart that causes us to turn away from our sins and turn to God (2 Corinthians 7:9-10; 2 Timothy 2:24-26). Faith and repentance lead us to obey the scriptural command to be baptized in Jesus' name for the forgiveness of our sins and to receive His gift of the Holy Spirit. His Spirit gives us the power to live a righteous, godly life, joyfully sharing the good news of our new life in Christ with others (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38, 4:12; 1 Peter 1:22-23).

CHRIST'S RETURN

We believe our Lord Jesus Christ will soon return to Earth to receive His people to Himself and establish His righteous, eternal kingdom (John 14:3; Matthew 25:34).

MARCH 22, 2020


Faith
SANCTUARY
Know Jesus, Love Jesus, Share Jesus

2020 ~the year of vision~ 2020

Pastor: Rev. Granville E. McKenzie

"And he brought them out and said, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?'"
Acts 16:30 NKJV

SUNDAY SERVICES

Worship: 8:00 a.m. • 11:00 a.m. • 6:30 p.m.
Sunday School/Bible Study: 9:45 a.m.

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