

THE WISDOM OF BEING BAPTIZED

Romans 6:1-4

- **There is often confusion about what baptism is and what it means.**
- ***When should someone be baptized, and what is real Christian baptism?***
- **Christian baptism is "baptism by immersion" *after* someone has personally received Jesus as their Savior and Lord (Acts 2:37-41, 8:26-40, 16:25-34).**
- *"There is salvation in no one else (but Jesus)! There is no other name in all of heaven for people to call on to save them."* (Acts 4:12)
- *"If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."* (Romans 10:9)
- *"Those who become Christians become new persons. They are not the same anymore, for the old life is gone. A new life has begun!:* (2 Corinthians 5:17)
- **Baptism is an acknowledgement and celebration of the change that comes into our lives when we receive Jesus as our Savior.**
- "Baptism is an outward expression of an inward faith." - Watchman Nee
- **Since Jesus was baptized (Matthew 3:13-17), we should also want to understand baptism and go *All In* with baptism ourselves.**
- ***What does baptism mean and why should I be baptized?***

Christian Baptism By Immersion Symbolizes That:

WE ARE <u>CLEANSED</u> FROM OUR SINS

- *"Should we keep on sinning so that God can show us more and more of his wonderful grace? Of course not! Since we have died to sin, how can we continue to live in it?"* (Romans 6:1-2)
- **We should desire to live Spirit-filled rather than sinful lives.**
- **Our "road to victory" begins when we experience the Lord's cleansing and forgiveness at the moment of salvation.**
- **When God forgives and saves us our sins are *cast "out of reach."***

    - *"As far as the east is from the west, so far has He (God) removed our transgressions from us."* (Psalm 103:12 NIV)
- **When God forgives and saves us our sins are *cast "out of mind.***
    - *"For I (God) will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."* (Jeremiah 31:34 NIV)
- **When God forgives and saves us our sins are *cast "out of sight."***
    - *"You (God) will tread our sins underfoot and hurl our iniquities into the depths of the sea."* (Micah 7:19 NIV)
- **When God forgives and saves us our sins are *cast "out of existence."***
    - *"Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord."* (Acts 3:19 NIV)
- **Water baptism symbolizes the cleansing Christians experience through Jesus' blood and God's Spirit.**
- *"Don't you know that those who do wrong will have no share in the Kingdom of God? Don't fool yourselves. Those who indulge in sexual sin, who are idol worshipers, adulterers, male prostitutes, homosexuals, thieves, greedy people, drunkards, abusers, and swindlers - none of these will have a share in the Kingdom of God. There was a time when some of you were just like that, but now your sins have been washed away, and you have been set apart for God. You have been made right with God because of what the Lord Jesus Christ and the Spirit of our God have done for you."* (1 Corinthians 6:9-11)
- *"Water is a picture of baptism, which now saves you, not by removing dirt from your body, but as a response to God from a clean conscience. It is effective because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ."* (1 Peter 3:21)

Christian Baptism By Immersion Symbolizes That:

WE ARE <u>JOINED</u> TO CHRIST JESUS

- *"Have you forgotten that when we were <u>joined with</u> Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined Him in His death?"* (Romans 6:3)
- **When we are baptized we are joined to Christ Jesus *in His death.***
- *"For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism."* (Romans 6:4)
- **The "going down into the water" symbolizes our dying to our old way of life.**
- **Jesus said that anyone who wants to be His follower needs to be willing to "die" to their old way of life.**
- Jesus - *"If any of you wants to be My follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross daily, and follow Me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for My sake, you will save it."* (Luke 9:23-24)
- **When we are baptized we are joined to Christ Jesus *in His life*.**

- *"And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on Christ, like putting on new clothes."* (Galatians 3:27)
- **Baptism is proudly telling the world that you are now associated with Jesus Christ, His Followers called Christians, and His organization called the Church.**
- Jesus – *"If a person is ashamed of Me and My message, I, the Son of Man, will be ashamed of that person when I return in my glory."* (Luke 9:26)

Christian Baptism By Immersion Symbolizes That:

WE ARE <u>BEGINNING</u> A NEW LIFE

- *"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 <u>we also may live new lives</u>."* (Romans 6:4)
- **Coming up out of the water symbolizes a birth and resurrection – that which has "died" is spiritually alive.**
- **Baptism tells the world you believe that Jesus has the power to forgive sins and bring new life.**
- *"For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes - the Jew first and also the Gentile."* **(**Romans 1:16)

- **Failing to take the step of Baptism often holds people back from going to the next level in their relationship with God.**
- **The Lord wants all genuine Christians to "go all in with Jesus" and be baptized by immersion.**
- *"Jesus went from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. **But John tried to talk him out of it.** 'I am the one who needs to be baptized by You,' he said, 'so why are You coming to me?' But Jesus said, '**It should be done, for we must carry out all that God requires.'** So John agreed to baptize Him."* (Matthew 3:13-15)
- ***Have I been baptized since my salvation encounter with Jesus, and if not, am I willing to take that step of obedience and commitment today or in the near future?***