THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

NOVEMBER 7TH–8TH // BAPTISM

BAPTISM

A PUBLIC DISPLAY THAT WE'VE CHOSEN JESUS

We take on the "new man" or woman and are "brought to life." It is similar to a marriage ceremony where we take on our husband's name (the wedding ring).

- **Baptism is not salvation but an obedient response to and physical representation of being saved.**

BAPTISM IDENTIFIES US AS CHRISTIANS

This is the most evident part of our adoption into the family of God, and it should be **a visible turning point in our lives.**

- Our hearts should start to change when we accept Christ, but an even greater **change should come when we publicly commit to follow Jesus through baptism.**

THE EXAMPLE

JESUS CAME TO SHAKE THINGS UP

Jesus came to change the process by which our salvation comes. Part of this was through baptism—something that had never been done before to represent salvation.

- Instead of "rolling sin away" temporarily, **belief, baptism, and repentance erase sin and open the door for restoration.**
- Matthew 3:15–17

JESUS HAD NOTHING TO REPENT FOR

Jesus didn't get baptized because He had to; He wanted to give an example of what God wants from us because He knew **obedience to the Father was vital.**

- **Jesus never asks us to do anything He hasn't done first.** We also see that **baptism pleases our heavenly Father.**

AN ACTIVATION

A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD IS A PROCESS

As we move through the process of being set apart for God (sanctified), choices we make activate promises God has for us.

- When we **genuinely repent** and choose to **be baptized as a public profession of faith,** the **Holy Spirit will empower** us to live in a way that pleases God.
- Acts 2:38–41

LEARNING TO USE SPIRITUAL WEAPONS

After repentance and baptism, we should read 1 Corinthians 12–14 and start to pray for God to use these gifts in and through us.

- **These gifts help us advance God's Kingdom and grow our relationship with Him. We need the Holy Spirit to guide us as we work through this life.**

JESUS INSTRUCTS US

SOMETIMES, IT'S SIMPLY ABOUT OBEDIENCE

We are naturally rebellious because humanity is in a fallen state. As people who claim to follow Christ, **we need to trust God, stop debating, and just start following His lead.**

- Though I cannot explain everything about baptism, I know **it is imperative to follow God's instruction and example.**
- Matthew 28:19–20
- John 14:15

WE'RE RESURRECTED

THE SYMBOLISM OF A FRESH START

Baptism symbolizes our old selves dying, but more importantly, it identifies us with rising again! We will have struggles, but from this moment, we're labeled as new creations.

- **We're no longer slaves to our former selves! We're all born into some kind of struggle, but in Christ we're born again.**
- Romans 6:3–7

Becoming a Christian and responding in baptism doesn't mean we won't make mistakes. It does mean **we're no longer slaves to sinful lifestyles**. This means **we can be delivered and changed**.

- **The point of salvation is deliverance from destruction. Jesus gives us a fresh start.**

A NEW IDENTITY

BAPTISM ISN'T A MAGICAL FORMULA

The words spoken over the person getting baptized are not as important as **the sincerity of their heart.**

- How we pray for people is important, but **understanding** why **baptism takes place and** *whose* **identity the person is adopting** is more important.
- Galatians 3:27–28

ABOVE ALL THINGS, WE FIND OUR IDENTITY IN JESUS

Salvation only comes when we identify ourselves as followers of Jesus above all things, even gender, occupation, nationality, or skin color. That's why understanding our new identity in Christ is vitally important.

DO WE HAVE TO?

- 1 Peter 3:21–22

A LIFE "PLEDGED" TO GOD

Salvation is more than a one-time experience; it is a life-long relationship. Though initial salvation happens at conversion, baptism is one of the first steps in obedience, and **without obedience to Jesus, we can't be saved.**

- **Baptism shows the world our pledge to live a life that obeys and honors God.**

HOW SHOULD ONE RESPOND TO THE GOSPEL?

Belief: Realizing Jesus is the Savior. **Repentance**: Heartfelt sorrow for sin, desire to change, and denial of self in order to be obedient to Jesus. **Baptism**: Outward profession of inward work. **Daily faith:** Saving faith is personal trust in Jesus that is active every day. It is complete surrender to Him.

WE NEED TO CHECK OUR HEARTS

If one understands the weight of sin and the grace God has shown us through His forgiveness, they will start to approach God in humility and obedience.

- **When we start asking how little we must do to please Jesus, there's a much bigger heart issue that needs to be addressed.**

A BETTER QUESTION

- The questions about our relationship with God should never be centered around **"What do I HAVE to do?"**
- After we start to understand His sacrifice for us, we should respond with questions centered around "**What more CAN I do for Christ?"**

RESPONDING TO THE CROSS

- **We all have an opportunity to respond.**
- If you don't have a relationship with Christ, we can help you **start that journey.**
- If you have recently committed to Christ, you can make that public through **baptism**.
- If you already follow, you can remember the cross through taking **Communion**.