



SERMON NOTES & PERSONAL/GROUP STUDY

Sunday, October 11

PASSAGE

Acts 2:37-38

THEME

BAPTISM -- THE NEXT STEP AFTER SALVATION

QUESTION

What is the purpose of BAPTISM?

NOTES

Acts 2:37 -- *"When they heard this, they were pierced to the heart and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, 'Brothers, what should we do?'"*

Peter told them to TAKE THE FOLLOWING ACTION in **Acts 2:38** -- *"REPENT and be BAPTIZED, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."*

- **STEP #1** -- What did Peter tell them they should do first? REPENT -- to change your outlook or to have a change of heart -- or to reverse the direction of your life.
- **STEP #2** -- After REPENTING, Peter told them to be BAPTIZED in the name of JESUS CHRIST.

Here are **7 COMMON QUESTIONS** people have about BAPTISM and answers from God's Word...

QUESTION #1 -- What is the PURPOSE of baptism?

- It is public identification that you have repented of your sins and placed your faith in Christ Jesus.
- The PURPOSE OF BAPTISM is to serve as a SYMBOL of your SALVATION.

QUESTION #2 -- WHY should someone be baptized?

- #1 -- JESUS COMMANDS IT -- The Great Commission -- Matthew 28:19

- #2 -- JESUS'S DISCIPLES PREACHED & PRACTICED IT -- Examples are Philip & the eunuch (Acts 8) -- the Philippian jailer & his family (Acts 16)
- #3 -- TO FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE OF JESUS -- Matthew 3 -- Mark 1 -- Luke 3

QUESTION #3 -- HOW should someone be baptized?

- The biblical form of baptism in the New Testament is by IMMERSION.
- The Greek word for BAPTIZE is ***baptizo***, which means **to submerge, immerse in water**.
- Romans 6:4 -- *"Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too may walk in newness of life."*
- It illustrates your death to sin and you being raised to a new life in Christ.
- EXAMPLES OF BAPTISM BY IMMERSION in the NT --
 - Jesus was baptized by immersion -- Matthew 3:16
 - The Ethiopian eunuch was baptized by immersion -- Acts 8:36-39

QUESTION #4 -- WHO should be baptized?

- People who have REPENTED OF THEIR SINS and PLACED THEIR FAITH IN JESUS.

QUESTION #5 -- WHEN should a person be baptized?

- AFTER a person has repented of their sins and placed their faith in Jesus.

QUESTION #6 -- Is there ever a need for someone to be REBAPTIZED?

- #1 -- Those who were baptized IN THE AUTHORITY OF A NAME OTHER THAN JESUS -- Acts 19:1-5
- #2 -- Those who were baptized BEFORE THEY WERE SAVED.
- #3 -- Those who have been baptized BY MEANS OTHER THAN IMMERSION.
 - The most common means of baptism that is practiced other than by immersion is by SPRINKLING or POURING -- it is often referred to as "INFANT BAPTISM."
 - If a person can only be SAVED THROUGH FAITH IN JESUS, then a person HAS TO BE OLD ENOUGH to make their own choice to BELIEVE and PLACE THEIR FAITH IN JESUS -- an INFANT is NOT ABLE to make that decision on their own.

QUESTION #7 -- When are KIDS old enough to be saved or baptized?

- The Bible does not give specific instructions about being a certain age, but the Bible is clear by saying that the Holy Spirit will convict a person of their sin and they must be old enough to independently repent and place their faith in Jesus.

THE GIFT -- Paul told the people in **Acts 2:38** *"...and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."*

THE RESULT -- Here is what God did -- it says in **Acts 2:41** that on that day of Pentecost -- *"Those who accepted his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand people were added to them."*

TODAY'S TAKEAWAY

BIBLICAL BAPTISM should follow SALVATION to SYMBOLIZE your new life in Christ.

QUESTION

Have you repented of your sins, placed your faith in Jesus, and been biblically baptized?

PERSONAL / GROUP STUDY -- Discussion Guide

Face the Issue:

This week, Drew continued our new series, "God's Expectations of a Christian". Each week we will be looking at the basics that God expects of His people. This week's topic is Baptism.

Drew explained that there is no saving power in baptism. Instead it is a symbol of our salvation. It is an outward demonstration that we have been buried and raised to a new life in Christ. Jesus commanded that we be baptized as His followers because He also commanded that we need to die to ourselves.

Toward the end of His earthly ministry, Jesus was explaining the things that were about to occur, namely that He would have to suffer, die, and be raised to life. Peter immediately said that he would never let that Jesus be taken and killed.

Jesus' response to Peter can be disturbing: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it."

Why do you think Jesus reacted so strongly to Peter's words? What do you think it means to take up your cross?

How can we lose our life for Jesus? Does that just mean physical death? Explain another way that we can lose our life for Christ.

Into the Word

Christ commanded that we are to "lose our life" for Him and that baptism is an outward symbol of just that. It is the symbolic death of our old life. Our sinful self wants to put our interests in front of others. He said we must give outrageous grace to those that wish to harm us. Jesus said He was the Way, the Truth, and the Life and if we are going to follow Him through the gates of life, then the way that we have been living, our sinful way of life, has to die. He invites us to Salvation from that old life and baptism is the symbol of the death of that old life and rebirth to a new way of life.

Our problem is that, in many ways, we want to crucify Christ but we are not willing to follow Him in our own dying to self. We pick and choose from the teachings of Jesus and we feel spiritual without much cost. We try and go on with the life we have. We try to keep the self we have instead of putting it to death.

Our baptism is a symbol that we have chosen a better life than the one we had.

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Read 2 Corinthians 5:14–17.

What compels us to want Jesus more than our old selves (v. 14)? According to verse 15, why did Jesus die?

*How do we quit viewing people from a worldly point of view (v. 16)? If we are a new creation in Christ, why do we fall into old habits? **Read John 12:23–26.***

Jesus' death produced many seeds. How can our death to self do the same?

What does it mean to hate my life? Does that mean I need to find ways to be miserable? If not, what does it mean? (Does it help if instead of “hate my life” we say “my life is no longer the most important thing to me”?)

How will the Father honor the one who serves Christ?

Apply The Word

Maybe Drew’s sermon and this study has revealed to you that baptism is more than just that thing that we are told to do.

If you received salvation and were baptized years ago, ask God to reveal to you any ways in which you have not died completely to self. Ask forgiveness and work to fully embrace the new life that your baptism symbolized.

If you have never been baptized, then now is the time to obey Jesus and follow His example. Contact us here at Meadowdale and let’s talk about how you can demonstrate to the world that you have chosen to deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow Jesus to a brand new life.