

Baptism: what it means; why we do it? Romans 6:3-6

What does it mean to be baptized into Christ Jesus? (v.3)

It means being baptized in water.

You are saved by faith in Jesus Christ, not by baptism (Acts 16:31).

Everyone who trusts Jesus is called to be baptized (Acts 2:38).

Without faith, baptism means nothing (Eph 2:8-9).

What does it mean to be baptized into Christ's death? (vv.4,5,6)

It means that our sin nature was crucified with Jesus on the Cross (6).

This happened 2,000 years ago — our sins natures were killed with Jesus on the Cross.

God applies this to us at the moment we are saved by mortally wounding our sin nature, and then progressively destroying our sin nature throughout our lives, and giving us entire liberation when we die or Jesus returns, whichever comes first.

What does it mean that we are raised with Christ? (vv.4-5)

2,000 years ago, when God raised Jesus from the dead and gave him resurrection life, God also raised you from the dead and gave you resurrection life.

This means its certain that we will be raised from the dead and experience resurrection life in the future.

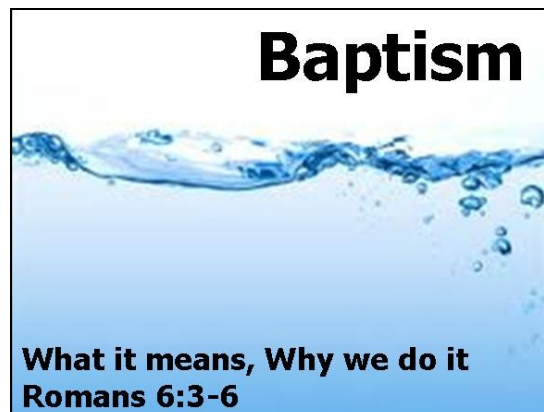
But God gives us a taste of this now — we get a taste of God's presence now, a sample of the joys of heaven now, and growing in righteousness now.

What does this have to do with baptism?

Baptism reenacts what Christ did for us on the Cross 2,000 years ago.

In baptism someone is immersed under water, showing how our sin nature was crucified with Christ.

And in baptism someone is raised up from the water, showing how we are raised to new life with Christ.



HOME GROUP DISCUSSION OF SUNDAY'S TEACHING

(Sometimes in our home groups we talk about Sunday's teaching, so we can work together on responding to God's Word — asking questions, sharing insights, talking together.)

What was the Holy Spirit saying to you Sunday through this passage?

What questions, ideas, objections, encouragements did you come away with?

Have you ever seen water baptism as a reenactment of what Jesus did for us on the Cross? Why or why not? How did this impact you?

Some people think that Jesus accomplished our forgiveness from the guilt of sin, but that we ourselves have to accomplish our freedom from the power of sin. Have you ever thought that?

What difference does it make to think that it is God who crucified our sin in Christ, who mortally wounds it at conversion, who progressively overcomes it in our lifetimes, and who finally frees us from it in Glory?

Have you been baptized? If not, and if you are trusting Christ, what is holding you back?

What's your take-away from this message? What are you going to do differently? When? How?

Share prayer requests that come up in the discussion, jot them down below, and pray for each other.

