

His death. Having died to sin, we are no longer under its condemnation or bondage. Then, our emergence from the waters of baptism signifies that through our union with the living Lord we have been raised from death with Him. We now have new life--that which gives us spiritual victory. Here is what the apostle himself told us:

Therefore 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. 6:4).

Water baptism speaks of our identification with Christ. By that identification we are delivered from the condemnation and bondage of sin and brought into a life of peace with God and triumph over sin. Baptism, therefore, has served symbolically as an introductory rite from the Day of Pentecost onward. It is the new believer's first step of obedience. It is his public identification with Christ. The apostle said:

Do you not know that as many of us as were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into His death? (Rom. 6:3).

In his book *Epistle to the Ephesians*, F. F. Bruce made this statement in reference to the words in Ephesians 4:5, "One Lord, one faith, one baptism":

Baptism in water continued to be the outward visible sign by which individuals who believed the gospel . . . were publicly incorporated into this spirit-baptised fellowship--"baptised into Christ" (Gal. 3:27). It must be remembered that in New Testament times repentance and faith, regeneration and conversion, baptism in water, reception of the Holy Spirit, . . . admission to church fellowship . . . were all part of a complex of events which took place within a short time. . . . Logically they were distinguishable, but in practice they were all bound up with the transition from the old life to the new (*Epistle to the Ephesians*, Revell, 1961, p.70).

Baptism, then, is a testimony of our death to sin, the end of its domination, and of our pledge to live a new life through our faith-union with Jesus Christ. During the first century, baptism quickly followed salvation and was closely associated with membership in the local church. No one should ever make the mistake of depending on baptism as a basis of his hope for heaven. Whether baptised by sprinkling, pouring, immersion, or all three, a person may still be unsaved. The only way you receive the forgiveness of sin and the gift of everlasting life is through a personal acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour.



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Please feel free to contact the Pastor for any needs you may have, queries, or questions about our church family.

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Central Mountains Baptist Church

16 MAY, 2010

Information for Visitors.

- * We're glad you're here. Sit back, relax, and enjoy the service. You're very welcome to join us for a cuppa after church.
- * a Kid's Church and creche is normally provided, during the sermon for the **toddler to primary age bracket**. Please ask for details.

What is Baptism?

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul then drew an analogy between the first Adam, who brought condemnation and death by his one act of disobedience, and Jesus Christ, the last Adam, who provided justification and life for all through His one act of obedience.

In the first five chapters of Romans, the apostle stated clearly that salvation is received by faith and faith alone. ...:

What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? (Rom. 6:1).

In answer to his own question, he went on to say:

Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? (Rom. 6:2).

When a person receives the Lord Jesus as his Saviour, he dies to the domination of sin. Yes, in Christ believers have died to sin, and this is the truth signified in baptism. By going down into the waters of baptism, we who have placed our trust in Christ testify that through our union with Him we have been buried with Him in



Baptismal Service

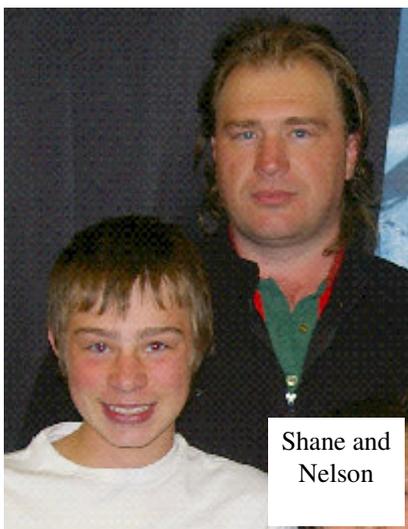
(Mark 12:29-31) "... *The first of all the commandments is: 'Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one. {30} 'And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment. {31} 'And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these.'"*

(Matthew 28:18-20) "... *All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. {19} 'Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, {20} 'teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.' Amen."*



There are two parts to the process of making disciples:

1. _____ing,



Shane and Nelson

(John 14:15) *"If you love Me, keep My commandments."*

(Mark 1:8) *"I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."*

(Acts 2:38) "..., *'Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'*

(Acts 2:41) *'Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.'*

(Acts 8:36-38) *'Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?" {37} Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." {38} So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him.'*

(Romans 6:3-5) *'Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into*

His death?

{4} *Therefore 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.*

{5} *For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection,"*

(Ephesians 2:1) *'And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,'*

(2 Corinthians 5:17) *'Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have*

passed away; behold, all things have become new.'

2. _____ing, Luke 14:15-33



Debbie

1. I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
No turning back, no turning back.

2. Tho' none go with me, I still
will follow,
Tho' none go with me I still will
follow,
Tho' none go with me, I still will
follow;
No turning back, no turning back.

3. The world behind me, the cross
before me,
The world behind me, the cross
before me;
The world behind me, the cross
before me;
No turning back, no turning back.

Lyrics: Unknown

Music: Folk melody from India