

**Sunday, May 28, 2023**  
**The Encouraging Jesus Series**  
**Baptism and “New Life”**

**Last Week: My Baptism Represents My Heart**

**Baptism represents more than Forgiveness!**

- **Jesus was baptized in preparation for His ministry.**

*John the Baptist: “I have the need to be baptized by You, and yet You are coming to me?”<sup>15</sup> But Jesus, answering, said to him, “Allow it at this time; for in this way it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he allowed Him.<sup>16</sup> After He was baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and settling on Him,<sup>17</sup> and behold, a voice from the heavens said, “This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.” **Matthew 3:11-17***

- An act of consecration (prayer in action) for the road ahead.
- God’s response and display of commitment to helping Him.
- God’s verbal expression of gratitude for His Jesus’s resolve.

- **Baptism represents our public prayer for God to work in us.**

*“<sup>21</sup> Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but **an appeal to God** for a good conscience—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,” **1 Peter 3:21***

*“In baptism we show that we have been saved from death and doom by the resurrection of Christ; not because our bodies are washed clean by the water but because in being baptized, we are **turning to God and asking him to cleanse our hearts from sin.**” **New Living Translation***

- Baptism represents our appeal to God for cleansing and liberation.

**Baptism Represents the Totality of Jesus’ Work in Us**

- 1. **Baptism represents Jesus’ removal of the major threat to our lives infecting our heart. **Colossians 2:11****

- “Immersion in water” is a choice to identify with Jesus’s victory accomplished through death.

*Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? **Romans***

**6:3**

- Removing “the body of the flesh” as the determinative influence in life now and into eternity is a fact hard to fully appreciate and realize.

*For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, **Romans 6:5-6***

**The desires and emotions associated with our earthly bodies are the most significant influence on our hearts.**

- 2. **Baptism represents identification with the resurrection power of Jesus working in us. **Colossians 2:12****

- “Coming Up from the water” represents identification with the resurrection of Jesus and the “new life” He guaranteed.

- 3. **Baptism represents liberation from all debts so that we can live a “new life” through what Jesus has done.**

*<sup>13</sup> And when you were dead in your wrongdoings and the uncircumcision of your flesh, **He made you alive together with Him**, having forgiven us all our wrongdoings, ... **Colossians 2:13-15***

**“Baptism” Initiates a “New Beginning”**

- **Baptism represents our commitment to embracing the work of Jesus in our lives.**
- **The “body of the flesh” removed by Jesus is removal of its dominion but not its habitual influence on our heart.**
- **God’s Spirit in us and Jesus’ teaching will grow to be the dominant influence on our heart over time.**

**TODAY: Lunch with the Pastor: Questions answered about Baptism, Membership and Valley Park**

**Baptism: Sunday, June 11, after morning service**