

What does the Bible say? BAPTISM Nov 17

Intro: Stefan Duerksen, Lead Pastor **PRAY FOR OFFERING**

BAPTISM WEEKEND! Exciting! We have 33 people who have decided to get baptized! We'll be doing that at the end of the service!

Church-Wide Prayer: Baptism Weekend

- Pray for the baptism candidates HOW MANY?
- For God to strengthen them in their walk with him
- For them to continue to rely on God's grace as they trust Him
- For God to give them a fresh filling of His Holy Spirit
- For spiritual protection for them and their families
- For God to plant a seed in each one of them for living missionally
- For them to have a love for the Word of God, Prayer & Worship (big 3)

Today we are going to launch and new series: What does the Bible say?

What's my point? Many in our culture – including Christians are feeling this same way.

1. **We are hearing stories of people deconstructing their faith – or – committing adultery or other abuses**
2. **We are seeing people fall “off the roof” beside us (question their faith). Our youth. Our friends. Our family.**
3. **And we ourselves are unsure about our footing. WHAT WE BELIEVE.**
4. **Result – many are getting off the roof. Even if they still ‘believe’. They aren't engaged their faith. Disengaged from the church. Disengaged from mission.**

What is truth? Can I know it? Is there anyone or anything that I can trust? What we believe MATTERS.

Our CORE BELIEFS dictate how we behave. E.g. addicts believe their addiction will help them cope with stress and pain. They act, even though it's dysfunctional in line with their beliefs. E.g. **Christians who believe Jesus died, rose, and is coming back again** – live their lives to honor what he has done and getting ready for his 2nd coming.

Understanding the Grand Story of Scripture gives us a firm foundation to understand who God is, what he expects from us, and what to expect from Him when He returns! **THE RETURN OF THE KING!!**

From here – we can look at core Christian beliefs as well as compare what the Bible says about current cultural beliefs/issues and how we are to face them.

Barna reports that 2 in 5 US Christians have deconstructed the faith of their youth! “Overall, 42 percent of adults say they have deconstructed the faith of their youth. Of today's Christians, it's 37 percent, with little difference whether they're practicing (36%) or nonpracticing (37%) Christians. That means more than one-third of committed, churchgoing Christians relate to the idea of having deconstructed the faith of their youth.” Barna CEO David Kinnaman said in [an interview on Barna's Resilient Pastor podcast](#). “We need to tell the truest story about what it means to be part of a Christian community so that when people encounter disappointment or [larger questions](#) about God and life, they remain grounded.”

We live in a post-Christian culture. This has created two fronts: inside the church – progressive Christianity AND outside the church – post Christian culture.

- **Both challenge what the Bible says. Stating it's outdated, bigoted, violent, nonsensical, misogynistic, racist, and sexually oppressive.**
- **Result 1:** cancel the OT, redefine love, dump the church, get rid of hell and judgement and go with the flow of the culture.
- **Result 2:** those left IN the church often respond with fear rather than faith and can easily end up hiding from culture OR holding so tightly to secondary beliefs and doctrines that they lose sight of Jesus and end up being cliches in the church and close the door to questions about faith or outsides.
- **Result 3:** believers don't know what to believe so they disengage from the church, from God, and live spiritually anemic lives. Stuck in bondage to sin, broken relationships, and feeling stuck in life.

INTRO TODAYS MESSAGE: Baptism – what is it? Is it important? Why should I get baptized?

What does the BIBLE say?

Ephesians 4:1-6 (BSB) As a prisoner in the Lord, then, I urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling you have received: with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, and with diligence to preserve the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Matthew 28:18-20 (BSB) Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

- 1) Jesus reiterates his authority as God
- 2) GO and make disciples – NOT AN OPTION
- 3) BAPTIZE THEM – wow!
- 4) teach them to obey Christ (sanctification)
- 5) Jesus is with you through the above process

A. What is baptism?

Baptism comes from the Greek word Baptizo which means: to "immerse" or "dip" or "plunge"

In the NT John the "Baptist" was baptizing people in a river!

Mark 1:4-5 (ESV) ⁴ John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

- It was being done in a river – which seems to support the idea of IMMERSION baptism.

Acts 8:35-38 (BSB) Then Philip began with this very Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. As they traveled along the road and came to some water, the eunuch said, "Look, here is

water! What is there to prevent me from being baptized?” And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.

- **This is why we practice IMMERSION here at Southland!**
- **CAVEAT: If people have health problems, we also practice POURING/SPRINKLING.**

When we baptize people. We dip them under water and then raise them up from the water!

B. Is Baptism necessary for salvation?

Mark 16:15-18 (BSB) And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

- Though Mark CLEARLY connects BELIEVING & BAPTISM in someone’s salvation – he also clearly OMITTS BAPTISM from the following statement... “whoever does not BELIEVE will be condemned”
- **This is important! BELIEVING in Jesus is the only thing necessary for salvation.**
- **BUT – baptism is still necessary!**

1 Peter 3:18-21 (BSB)... In the ark a few people, only eight souls, were saved through water. And this water symbolizes the baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body, but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

- Peter is not saying that water baptism saves someone, in the sense of, once immersed, the person is SAVED.
- **Baptism saving you is symbolism** – just as Noah was not saved by water – but by the ark – we are not saved by the water – but by FAITH. “the pledge of a clear conscience”
- **The saving is done by the object of Baptism – JESUS CHRIST!**

Baptism & Salvation in 3 steps:

- 1. Repent – repentance is a change of mind followed by a change of direction.**
 - a. BEFORE one puts their FAITH & TRUST in JESUS – they have to have a revelation of their need for him so that they TURN FROM SIN – TURN FROM THEIR LIVES & TURN TO JESUS.
 - b. **Acts 2:38-39 (BSB)** Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. This promise belongs to you and your children and to all who are far off—to all whom the Lord our God will call to Himself.”
- 2. Believe – Belief is a ‘work’ that involves FAITH that results in ACTION (jn 6:28-29; jms 2:14-25)**
 - a. **Romans 10:8-10 (BSB)** ... that if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with your heart you believe and are justified, and with your mouth you confess and are saved.
- 3. Be Baptized – “buried with Christ in the likeness of His death & raised to walk in new life!”**
 - a. **Romans 6:1-4 (BSB)** What then shall we say? Shall we continue in sin so that grace may increase? Certainly not! How can we who died to sin live in it any longer? Or aren’t you aware that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that, just as

Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may walk in newness of life.

Baptism isn't necessary for salvation - BUT - baptism is necessary!

C. Baptism represents:

Baptism represents the washing away of our sins! (Eze 36:25)

Baptism is a means of enacting God's grace in our lives! (Mt 3:11; Col 2:11-15; Gal 3:27-28)

Baptism is the outward action of an inward faith! (Acts 2:40-41, Mt 28:18-20, Col 2:11-15)

Baptism unites us with Christ Jesus in His death & resurrection! (Gal 3:26-27; Rom 6:5; Col 2:12)

Baptism unites us with Christ's Body – the Church! (Acts 2:38-47; 1 Cor 12:12-14)

BAPTISM is not something you need to wait for until you reach a level of maturity! NO! it is the FIRST act of a believer upon the confession of their faith – when they are choosing to UNITE themselves with Jesus in his death & resurrection and with His Body – the Church! It enacts grace in their lives to continue living out their faith!

REFLECT: I wonder if there are people in here today who feel sidelined, have big questions, are stuck in sin, etc. heart is beating! Jesus is INVITING you into relationship with HIM & His Body – the Church! I encourage you to REPENT – turn from your current path and BELIEVE IN JESUS - for salvation! And then... to BE BAPTIZED!

LETS GET TO BAPTISMS!

AFTER SERVICE PRAYER – PRAYER ROOM – 9AM and 11AM

MARANATHA!! Come soon Lord!

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SC CHURCH WIDE PRAYER REQUESTS 2024

Cruise ship → → → → Battleship

1. **Life on Mission** (Mt 28:18-20, Mt 22:37-40): Love, serve & disciple people to Jesus
2. **Next Gen** (Ps 78:7-8): Encounters with Jesus, strong mental health, boldness & belonging
3. **Israel & Persecuted Church** (Lk 21:13): Faith, fortitude & wisdom “to not waste the opportunity to share the Gospel”
4. **Heart of Prayer** (Ps 27:4): Every generation to find Jesus & learn to bring their needs to Him in prayer
5. **Church Renewal**: Directors for India and other new countries & many global disciple makers