

**Victoria Ave./Emmanuel Baptist**

**Sunday, September 6, 2020**

**Romans 6:1-14: What's so important about Baptism?**

**Part 2**

Are you familiar with the term “armchair quarterback or armchair general?” This is when a person who is not a quarterback (or general, etc.), but offers opinions and criticism on the performance or decisions of those who are.

You have laugh at the honesty of children. My son once said that he wanted a job like mine...because Dad, you only work on Sundays. He rubbed salt in the wound and proceeded to tell me that all I do is get up front and go “blah, blah, blah, blah, blah!”

What can be deceiving is when you encounter a person who makes their job seem so effortless. Perhaps you have watched an artist, a chef, or some other skilled worker or artisan. Your curiosity is peaked and perhaps you are inspired to try your hand at baking, or painting, or writing. Then reality hits! You try to duplicate the actions of someone else only to find that it is much more difficult than you first thought.

You soon realize that it is all about experience. Before I was married, I could talk about the marriage relationship, but I didn't really know until I was married. Until I became a father, talking about being a father was academic. Experiencing joy and sorrow, gain and loss, all give us unique perspectives.

Today we continue on with the second part of our discussion on the necessity of Baptism. We are going to dig deeper into the meaning of Baptism having discussed the need for it. I truly believe that by obediently going into the waters of Baptism we partake of a unique experience that takes the idea of following Jesus from academic to participatory.

Let's look at our scripture lesson today...Romans 6:1-14.

**6 Well then, should we keep on sinning so that God can show us more and more of his wonderful grace? <sup>2</sup> Of course not! Since we have died to sin, how can we continue to live in it? <sup>3</sup> Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death? <sup>4</sup> For we died and were**

**buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.**

**<sup>5</sup> Since we have been united with him in his death, we will also be raised to life as he was. <sup>6</sup> We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin. <sup>7</sup> For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin. <sup>8</sup> And since we died with Christ, we know we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup> We are sure of this because Christ was raised from the dead, and he will never die again. Death no longer has any power over him. <sup>10</sup> When he died, he died once to break the power of sin. But now that he lives, he lives for the glory of God. <sup>11</sup> So you also should consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus.**

**<sup>12</sup> Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires. <sup>13</sup> Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God. <sup>14</sup> Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God's grace.**

Last week we answered the question of "WHY" get baptized by establishing the reasons that:

- Act of Obedience
- A powerful testimony
- Ordained by Jesus
- It Pleases God!

Now we want to go even deeper into the WHY! What is it that a believer participates in that makes it a necessity? Through symbol...what is it that we are experiencing and committing ourselves that shapes our future continual walk with Jesus until we see him face to face?

## MODE OF BAPTISM

To start us thinking deeper, we need to look at how a baptism service is done. Once again, I am coming from a Baptist point of view. We believe that baptism is properly done through immersion, or completely be submerged in water. This can be a point of argument with other groups. Generally, there are three main ways or “modes” of baptism practiced. Immersion (complete submersion), pouring water on the head, and sprinkling water on the head, often making the sign of the cross on the head with water.

Why immersion? We take our reasons from the words being used in scripture. The term “baptism” is actually what we call a “transliteration” or a word from another language that we have not translated but rather anglicized. The Greek term used in scripture is “baptizo.” The Greeks had several words for applying water. These words could refer to the actions of washing, pouring, and sprinkling. The word we find used when Jesus was baptized and the word we find Paul using in Romans is “baptizo” and was used to describe the act of dyeing cloth. It is translated as submerge, to plunge, to immerse. It is the word used repeatedly in the New Testament.

Why is the definition of a Greek word important? We look underneath the term to see the important life decision you have made.

Paul gives us the wonderful picture of what baptism symbolizes:

## JOINING JESUS

You have come to the place where you recognize your sin. You know you can't save yourself and you acknowledge the reality of Jesus, the Son of God, and the sacrifice he made on the cross so your sins can be forgiven. He died, was buried, and rose again on the third day...what we call the crucifixion and resurrection.

Why baptism is so necessary and powerful is because through it you participate with Jesus in his sacrifice.

The believer goes down into the water...symbolizing the reality of our sin. You have made the choice to change! The old way of living won't cut it for you! You know there is a better way to live!

The believer is immersed/submerged fully under the water symbolizing the literal death of our old lives and we are joining Jesus in his death and burial.

Paul stated this reality in 1 Corinthians 5:14-17:

**Since we believe that Christ died for all, we also believe that we have all died to our old life. <sup>15</sup> He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them.**

**<sup>16</sup> So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now! <sup>17</sup> This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!**

This is the difference between knowing something intellectually versus having the experience. As Paul stated, our view of Jesus goes from intellectual to experience! Old becomes new. We become a new creation by committing ourselves to the path of discipleship and service.

Finally, the experience is complete...we are brought up out of the water, experiencing true change through resurrection just as Jesus triumphantly rose from the grave. What a life changer to know that your sins have been forgiven, we aren't the same, and with that established relationship with Jesus and Lord, we have complete assurance of an eternal home with Jesus.

Galatians 3:26-27 tells us:

**<sup>26</sup> For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>27</sup> And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on Christ, like putting on new clothes.**

Baptism is a powerful outward visual representation of an invisible inward spiritual reality that portrays the believer's complete identification with Christ. By being baptized "into" Christ we are given a whole new identity

that isn't based on ethnicity or heritage, but on the person and work of Jesus Christ.

## BELIEVER

Once again, we stress that the biblical practice is called "believer's" baptism. It is not a rite for the uncommitted, nor for those too young to truly know right from wrong. It is for those, and only those, who make an informed decision to follow Jesus Christ as their Leader and Forgiver. It is the believer's willing response to a life of obedience to Christ. Those who would be baptized must be able to understand the commitment which they are making.

## WHERE ARE YOU TODAY?

For the believer...are you living day-by-day as a new creation? Have you allowed life to take you away from the reality of your baptism? I encourage you to remind yourselves and see if you need to rededicate your lives to the commitment you have made.

For the believer who has never been baptized. I encourage you to be an example for all around to live life in obedience. I am not saying that you aren't saved, and that you aren't serving Jesus, but perhaps consider Jesus' reasons he gave John the Baptist. Jesus was baptized to "carry out all that was required by God."

For the seeker, for the "almost persuaded." Step out in faith, step out of your comfort zone. If you have felt God calling you to a life of commitment, belief, and service...answer the call. Start your walk with Jesus by joining Him in his death, burial, and resurrection. Make your stand to choose Jesus.

Let's pray...

