

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF BAPTISM

Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness," then ... was baptized. (Matthew 3:15,16)

Baptism is one of the primary commands of Jesus in His Great Commission (Matthew 28: 19, 20). The apostles Peter and Paul obeyed and understood His instructions. They baptized new converts and taught baptism as a foundation of the Christian experience. Baptism signifies a turning point that begins the Christian life.

No picture developed by skillful marketing agencies could be more direct in message or more truthful in content than the picture of baptism, authorized by the Lord Jesus Christ:

1. **Baptism signifies belief.** Salvation comes by faith, before baptism. In this way, I let the public see what I believe: "That Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures; and that He was buried, and that He rose again on the third day, according to the Scriptures." (1 Corinthians 15:3,4) I show this when I am immersed. *Baptism is an expression of faith.*

2. **Baptism demonstrates repentance from a past way of life.** Water baptism is the clear line of demarcation between the old and new lives of the Christian. Repentance includes the willingness to give up goals and ambitions that are contrary to God's will, as it is clearly expressed in the Bible. Paul calls immersion in water a kind of burial of the old way of thought and action: "Therefore, we are buried with Him by baptism into death. (Romans 6:4) *Baptism is a drowning of my old way of life.*

3. **Baptism declares total commitment to a new way of life.** By being baptized, I show love for my Savior. I exemplify my willingness to follow Him all the way. I testify that I am dead to the world and living for God. Baptism pledges me to the clean, upright way of living. "Even so, we also should walk in newness of life." (Romans 6:4)

Baptism is my pledge to my God that I will serve Him because He has done so much for me.

4. **Baptism witnesses to my new relationship with God.** It proclaims, to family, friends and to the world, that I belong to Christ. I declare my allegiance publicly. I look back on my baptism as I look back on my marriage: I must remember my vows. I must not violate my covenant.

Baptism is a constant reminder of my privileges and responsibilities. I belong entirely to Christ.

Baptism is a sign instituted by Christ Himself. It can never be an option: It is a must. (Michael P. Horban)

The heart of the prudent getteth knowledge; and the ear of the wise seeketh knowledge.

(Proverbs 18:15)

Sunday:

- English-Chinese Service ~ in the annex 9:15 a.m.
- Sunday School of the Bible 9:45 a.m.
- Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
- Fellowship Dinner ~ in the annex following Morning Worship
- Afternoon Baptismal Service 2:30 p.m.

Wednesday:

- ICI Learning Center Ministry to Chinese; ESL Classes 2:00 p.m.

Under the direction of Missionaries Robert and Evelyn Bolton

Thursday:

- Prayer and Bible Study ~ in the annex 7:30 p.m.

FELLOWSHIP DINNER: This afternoon, we will share a fellowship dinner after Morning Worship, in honor of our graduates:

Nicole Argentati University of Pennsylvania
Masters in Social Work

Ikey Carter Bache Martin School
Eighth Grade

Danielle Clark Dobbins Vocational High School
Twelfth Grade

Joseph Flemming Bache Martin School
Eighth Grade

Melanie Kahler Drexel University
Masters in Biomedical Engineering

Jeffrey Minnis Community College of Philadelphia
Associate's Degree

"Esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake." (1 Thessalonians 5:13)

KEEP AN EYE OUT for a series of Friday night specials, coming in July. This evangelistic series is being prepared by our young people, to reach young people for the Kingdom. Join us in prayer for this important work.