

REMEMBER—3 BAPTISM

If you know the story of God - For God so loved the world that he became one of us, in the person of His son Jesus Christ. Born of a virgin he lived a complete sinless life. For the sins of the world Jesus gave His life on a cross, died, and was buried; three days later He rose from the dead. Just after His resurrection He assembled His disciples; the Chosen One and He gave them one last piece of instruction. You can only imagine that the very last recorded words of Jesus, just how important these words would be to "Him".

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...Matthew 28:19

What Jesus did not say is to build a church building and say come to us. He said basically if you are the church, be the church in the world. Get out of the building, go into the world everywhere you are seven days a week, 365 days a year. You be the light of Christ. Lift His name high as He draws people to Himself. Make disciples. Make them followers of Jesus. Baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The last recorded words of Jesus, these must be very important. Baptizing.

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John.

Who is John? John was an unusual dressed guy, he wore camel haired outfits, he ate locusts and honey and all sorts of things, but he was probably the most passionate preacher of the day. He had one message. His message was very clear. Repent, repent, repent, repent of your sins. He preached it in the wilderness. He preached it on the streets. He preached it anywhere to anyone who would listen. Repent every one of you and be baptized. His mission he saw it was to prepare the way for Jesus. One who he said was infinitely greater than himself. He said, "Don't look to me." He said, "My role is to decrease so that Jesus might increase." He said, "I am unworthy even to tie the guys shoes, this guy is the one who you need to look to repent and be baptized."

But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented. As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." Matthew 3:13-17

Jesus, the son of God says, "I want to be baptized, as he comes out of the water heaven splits open, the Holy Spirit descends upon him. Don't ever let anyone tell you that baptism is just a symbolic event. Watch as the power of the Holy Spirit, lands on him, and God the Father says, "That's my boy, that's my son, and I am proud of him." "I am well pleased" and at that moment the public ministry of Jesus is launched. Baptism, where does this word come from?

baptizo (bap-tid'-zo); to wash, dip, immerse, plunge under, submerge.

SPIRITUAL POWER IN BAPTISM

I want to help you to understand the spiritual power behind your decision to be baptized. It's not you just getting wet, I want you to understand what it is that God wants to do in and through your obedience to his word as you're baptized.

Three things if you're taking notes. The first thing as you're baptized, you will be publicly standing with Christ. Inside of you, you're making an outward declaration that I am identified with Christ. I am a follower of Jesus, and you're publicly standing with and for him.

- **YOU ARE PUBLICLY STANDING WITH CHRIST.**

You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. Galatians 3:26-27

Jesus was baptized in the Jordan; the Jordan may have been the most public gathering around. Why? People went there for their drinking water, they went there to wash their clothes, they went there to cool off on a hot day, they went there to go fishing, everybody gathered around there. Where was Jesus baptized? In the most public place you could imagine. That's why what I believe you need to do when you are baptized, I want you to invite everyone that you know, your family, your friends, the people that you work with, go to school with, the people that you see in the gym, and what you're going to do is, you're going to stand before all of them and say you know what? I'm not my own anymore. I stand with the Lord Jesus Christ. I am publicly standing with him. Now why is this so important?

"Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven. Matthew 10:32-33

- **YOU ARE BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST'S DEATH.**

Or don't you know 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...

Romans 6:3-4a

Your old nature dies. You are buried. In fact, a lot of people ask. Sometimes they will say, how should I be baptized? Should I be sprinkled? Should I be poured? Should I be dunked? Should I be sprayed with a water hose? How should I be baptized?

First of all Baptism is for people who are old enough to make a decision, I will tell you more on that in a moment. I prefer immersion for a couple of reasons. Baptizo. It means to immerse. I like to tell people that you are buried into his death. You are buried in a watery grave. Now, some of you have been really, really bad in your life. So, when you are baptized we are going to leave you down there for a while, okay? Until we stop seeing bubbles.

No you are buried in the watery grave and then like Jesus was raised from the dead, you explode out of the water. You are raised to walk in the newness of life.

For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin- because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. Romans 6:6-7

- **YOU ARE RAISED INTO NEW LIFE.**

...just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. Romans 6:4b

That word baptizo was used in a lot of different ways. One of the ways that it was used is when they were making a shirt, or an outfit, they would actually take a dye, take a cloth, and they would baptizo it in a dye (d-y-e). They would baptizo it in color, and when it would come out, it would be different. It would be changed. And that is what you are. You are different. You are changed forever. All the filth, all the old stuff, all the old insecurities, the fears, the sins, the guilt, the trash, the shame, the despair - it is buried, gone, and it is dead. You are raised to walk in the newness of life. You are different.

You may look the same on the outside; you're different on the inside.

When you are baptized, when you stand publicly with him, when you are buried, when you are raised, you are raised as a minister. You need to understand that. You are raised as a minister. You may say, "But I am a stay-at-home mom". No, you are now Minister Mom.

You are baptized into the life and the ministry of Jesus Christ, and then just what he said to his disciples 2000 years ago, he says to you. "You are a baptized follower of Jesus, so here is what I want you to do. Go. Go into all the world. This is the most serious thing that you are called to. Not making stupid money, or building bigger this or that, or all the things of this world that do not last.

We take every resource that we have and we devote it to him. Fully devoted followers of Jesus go into all the world, make disciples, baptizing them in the name of The Father, The Son & The H.S.