


DISCOVER

BAPTISM



Presented by Bethel
Savannah, Ohio

Revised March 2019

Review Your Jesus Story

- *Review your decision to trust Jesus as your Savior*
- *Remember when you were born again.*

STEPS to SALVATION

1st. YOU NEED TO BE SAVED.

"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God:' (**Romans 3:2.3**)

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (**Romans 6:23**)

2nd. YOU CANNOT SAVE YOURSELF.

"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us: (**Titus 3:5**)

3rd. JESUS HAS PROVIDED FOR YOUR SALVATION.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life:' (**John 3:16**)

4th. YOU MUST ACCEPT JESUS FOR SALVATION.

"But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name. (**John 1:12**)

5th. NOW IS THE TIME TO ACCEPT JESUS AS SAVIOR.

"Behold, now is the day of salvation. (**II Cor. 6:2**)

6th. WHAT TO DO.

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shall believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved:' (**Romans 10:9**)

"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved:' (**Romans 10:13**)

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING BAPTIZED

- ◊ I. WHY SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?
- ◊ II. WHAT IS THE MEANING OF BAPTISM?
- ◊ III. WHY BE BAPTIZED BY IMMERSION?
- ◊ IV. WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?



1. Why should I be baptized?

◇ To follow the example set by _____.

*“At the time Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptized by John in the river.” **Mark 1:9***

◇ Because Christ _____ it.

*“Jesus said, ‘Go then, to all people everywhere and make them my disciples, baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you.’ **Matthews 28:19,20***

◇ It demonstrates that I really am a _____.

*“...many of the people who heard Him believed and were baptized” **Act 18:8***

*“We know that we have come to know Him, if we obey His commands.” **1 John 2:3***



II. WHAT IS THE MEANING OF BAPTISM?

◇ It illustrates Christ's _____ burial and resurrections.

*“Christ died for our sins...He was buried...and He rose again. **1 Corinthians 15:3-4***

*“For when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ.” **Colossians 2:12***

◇ It illustrates my _____ as a Christian.

*“By our baptism then, we were buried with Him and shared His death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead...so also we may live a new life.” **Romans 6:4***



Baptism is NOT Salvation

Baptism doesn't make you a believer - it shows that you already believe. Baptism is like a wedding ring—it's the outward symbol of the commitment you made in your heart.

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith...it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.” **Ephesian 2:8-9**



III. WHY BE BAPTIZED BY IMMERSION?

◇ Because _____ was baptized that way.

*‘As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water.’ **Matthew 3:16***

◇ Every baptism in the _____ was by immersion.

*(Example) “...then both Philip and the man went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water...” **Acts 8:38-39***

◇ The word “Baptize” means to _____ the water.

The Greek word baptize means “to immerse or dip under water.”

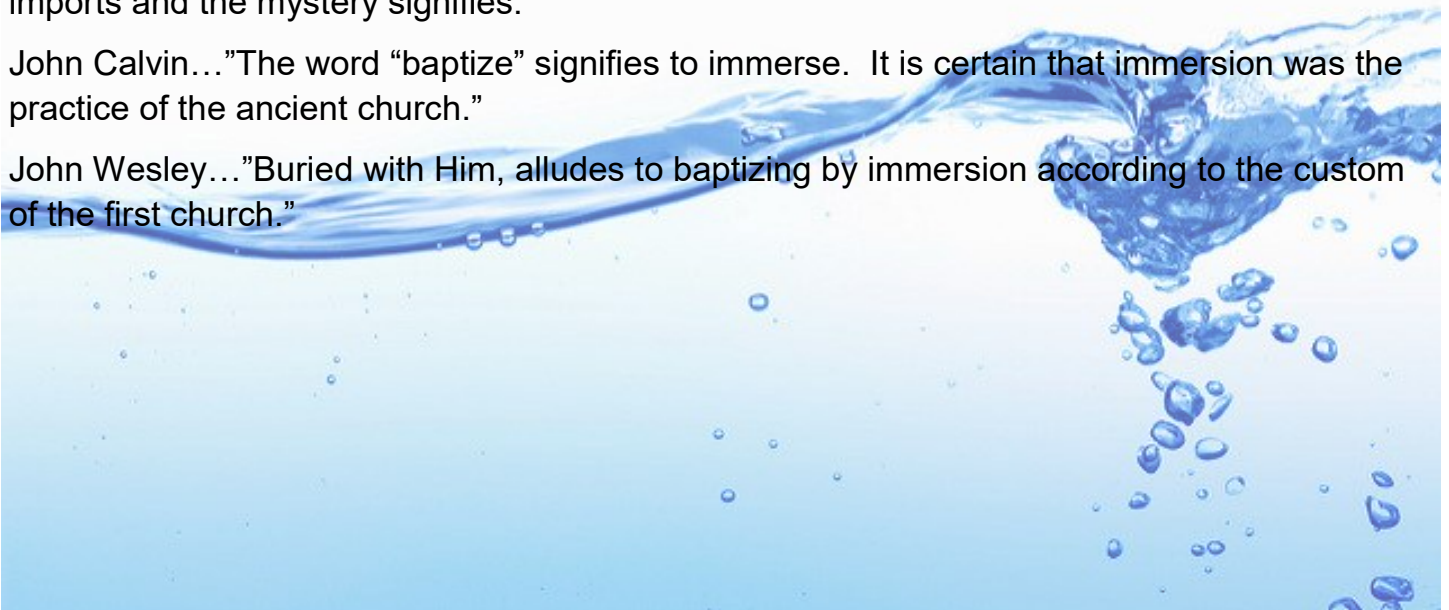
IT BEST SYMBOLIZES A BURIAL AND RESURRECTION!

Church fathers have said:

Martin Luther...”I would have those who are baptized to be entirely immersed, as the world imports and the mystery signifies.”

John Calvin...”The word “baptize” signifies to immerse. It is certain that immersion was the practice of the ancient church.”

John Wesley...”Buried with Him, alludes to baptizing by immersion according to the custom of the first church.”



IV. WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

◇ Every person who has _____ in Christ.

“Those who believe and accepted His message were baptized...” **Acts 2:41**

“Simon himself believed and was baptized...” **Acts :13**

“But when they believed Philip as he preached the Good News...and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.” **Acts 8:12**

At Bethel, we wait until our children are old enough to **believe** and understand the true meaning of baptism before we baptize them.

Some churches practice a “baptism of confirmation “ for children. This ceremony is intended to be a covenant between the parents to God on behalf of the child. The parents promise to raise their child in the faith until the child is old enough to make his/her own personal confession of Christ. This custom began about 300 years after the Bible was completed. **This is different from the baptism talked about in the Bible** which was only for those old enough to believe. The purpose is to publicly confess your personal commitment to Christ.

At Bethel, it is a membership requirement that every member must have been baptized the way Jesus demonstrated, even though many of us were “confirmed” or christened as children.



Membership & Baptism

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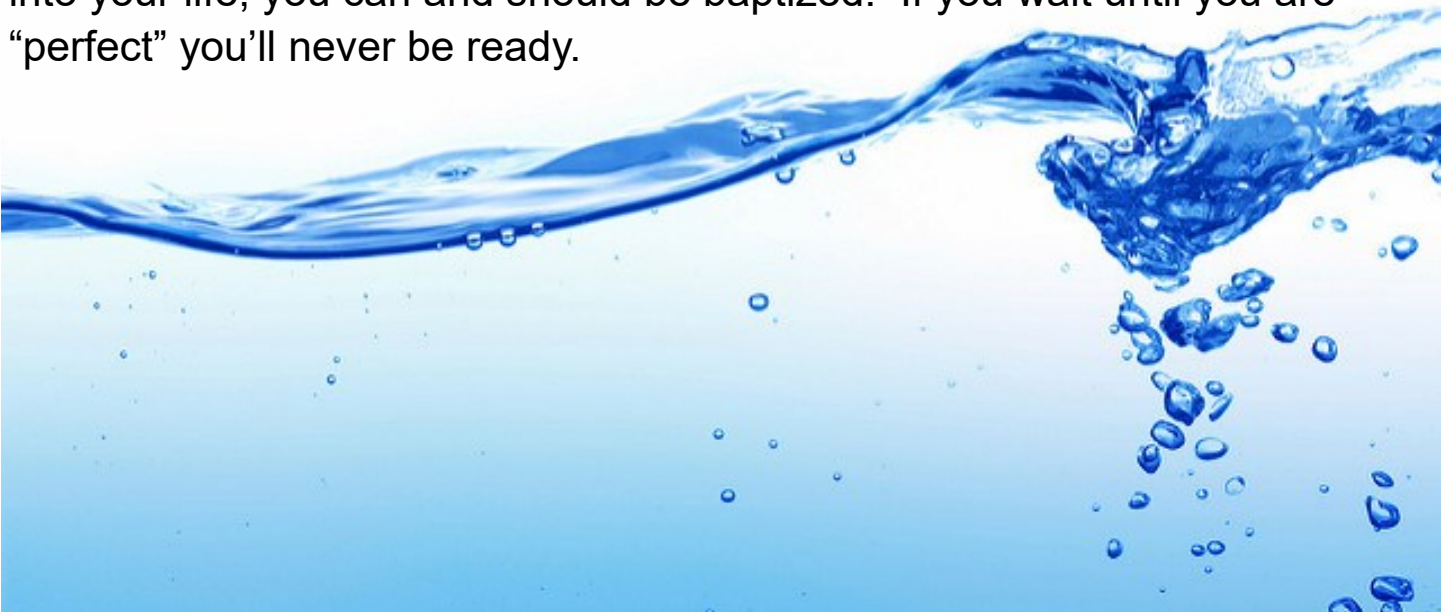
V. WHEN SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

“Those who believed...were baptized...that day!” Acts 2:41

As soon as you have believed!

“Then Philip began with the scripture and told him the Good News about Jesus. As they traveled along the road, they came to some water, and the man said, ‘Look, here is water! Why shouldn’t I be baptized right now?’ Philip said, ‘If you believe with all your heart, you may.’ The man answered, ‘I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.’ So they went down into the water and Philip baptized him.” Acts 8:35-38

There is no reason to delay. As soon as you have decided to receive Christ into your life, you can and should be baptized. If you wait until you are “perfect” you’ll never be ready.



Process

We encourage individuals to prepare a brief testimony of your decision to trust Jesus as Savior and their desire to follow Him in Baptism.

Video Testimony ... we would enjoy recording your written testimony or we are willing to conduct an interview with you.



WHAT NOW?

BETHEL'S PROGRAM TO HELP
YOU GROW



Remember the year

The Year YOU came to Bethel

Date _____?

The year you joined the family



We'd Like to get to know YOU!

- ◇ If you prayed in any of these classes to receive Jesus in your heart please indicate that.
- ◇ If you desire obedience in baptism, check it.
- ◇ If you want to CONNECT attend _____.
- ◇ Continue to CONNECT by attending _____.



Frequently Asked Questions

CAN MY FAMILY BE BAPTIZED TOGETHER?

Yes! If each family member understands fully the meaning of baptism, and one has personally placed his/her trust in Christ for salvation, we encourage families to be baptized at the same time. It is a wonderful expression of commitment. Young children who wish to be baptized are asked to meet with our staff or deacons for a pre-baptism conversation.

However, it is important to remember that baptism is a *personal* statement of faith, not a family tradition. It is usually not wise to delay your baptism while waiting on other family members to accept Christ, particularly children. This puts an undue pressure on them and delays *your* obedience.

WHAT SHOULD I WEAR WHEN I AM BAPTIZED?

Women should wear shorts and a top or a swimsuit. Men may wear a swimsuit. The church will provide a robe for the baptism. Bring a change of clothes, a towel and a plastic bag for your wet clothes. We provide changing rooms.



STAFF

John Bouquet, Sr. Pastor

Bobby Brown, Associate Pastor

Chris Lopez, Youth Pastor

Eric Abel, Counseling Pastor

Jimmi Delay, Worship Pastor

Karen Hetrick, Executive Assistant

Renee Workman, Office Assistant

