Salvation January 25

What is Baptism?

We have looked at the steps leading up to baptism: Hearing that leads to believing, confessing that Jesus is the Christ and repenting of our sins and seeking forgiveness.

Now we are ready to look at baptism:

To answer the question, What is baptism? It is an outward act of obedience to an inward belief in Jesus.

By our baptism, then, we were buried with him and shared his death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from death by the glorious power of the Father, so also we might live a new life. Romans 6:4.

Since we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. Romans 6:8.

Through our baptism we have buried our sins in a watery grave and are to rise to a new life in Christ.

VERSE FOR TODAY: In the same way you are to think of yourselves as dead, so far as sin is concerned, but living in fellowship with God through Christ Jesus. Romans 6:11.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Lord, Help me to keep my sins buried in that watery grave and to live the way you would want me to live.

Salvation January 26

Rise to a New Life

We enter into baptism our old self, and we rise from the water cleansed from our sin and enter into a new life in Christ –For when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ through your faith in the active power of God, who raised him from death. Colossians 2:12.

In this new life Christ lives in us – so that it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. This life that I live now, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave his life for me. Galatians 2:20.

We have Christ living within us, now what do we do? – So get rid of your old self, which made you live as you used to — the old self that was being destroyed by its deceitful desires. Your hearts and minds must be made completely new, and you must put on the new self, which is created in God's likeness and reveals itself in the true life that is upright and holy. Ephesians 4:22-24.

We see our lives must change since we have put on Christ, because if we keep on in our old ways Christ’s dying for us was in vain.

VERSE FOR TODAY: To be controlled by human nature results in death; to be controlled by the Spirit results in life and peace. Romans 8:6.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me, O Lord, not to rearrange my life so Christ will “fit in” but to make him first in my life.

Salvation January 27

What is Received?

Through baptism we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit - Peter said to them, “Each one of you must turn away from your sins and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, so that your sins will be forgiven; and you will receive God's gift, the Holy Spirit.”  Acts 2:38.

The Holy Spirit was promised to the original twelve disciples – “…I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, who will stay with you forever…” John 14:16. That helper is with us today and is received in baptism!

The Spirit will bring us truth – “…When, however, the Spirit comes, who reveals the truth about God, he will lead you into all the truth…”John 16:13a.

The Spirit comes into our heart – for God has poured out his love into our hearts by means of the Holy Spirit, who is God's gift to us. Romans 5:5b.

Why would anyone not want to be baptized? The cleansing from sin and the gift of the Holy Spirit. WHAT LOVE! WHAT A GIFT!

VERSE FOR TODAY: And you also became God's people when you heard the true message, the Good News that brought you salvation. You believed in Christ, and God put his stamp of ownership on you by giving you the Holy Spirit he had promised. Ephesians 1:13.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Thank-you, O Lord,

for the Holy Spirit that I can be filled with

your truth and love every day of my life.

Salvation January 28

Why Water?

Water is a symbol of washing in the

blood of Jesus, since he died for us.

Water is used to cleanse within –

The few people in the boat — eight in all — were saved by the water,which was a symbol pointing to baptism, which now saves you. It is not the washing away of bodily dirt, but the promise made to God from a good conscience. It saves you through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 1 Peter 3:20b-21

Baptism alone will not save us, we

must rise from baptism to live a new life, if

we go on willfully sinning, our baptism

will not save us in itself, we must live a new

life in Christ – From now on, then, you must live the rest of your earthly lives controlled by God's will and not by human desires. 1 Peter 4:2.

We know when we are dirty on the

outside water will make us clean so will the

cleansing water of baptism make us clean

within.

VERSE FOR TODAY: And now, why wait any longer? Get up and be baptized and have your sins washed away by praying to him. Acts 22:16.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me to hear you

calling, O Lord, and respond to that call to a

new life in you.

Salvation January 29

Do we HAVE to be Baptized?

There seem to be conflicting verses in the Bible on the need to be baptized. Such as – Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; whoever does not believe will be condemned. Mark 16:16. In contrast to – If you confess that Jesus is Lord and believe that God raised him from death, you will be saved. Romans 10:9.

Baptism is an act of obedience and a following of Jesus as our example –. It was to this that God called you, for Christ himself suffered for you and left you an example, so that you would follow in his steps.1 Peter 2:21. In light of these verses there should be no confusion about the need for adult baptism because an infant cannot confess or believe and to follow the example of Jesus that is no question that the person must be an age to have an understanding of the things of God.

Don’t let the above so called conflicting verses confuse you the key is to believe and in believing you will want to be obedient and be baptized.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized and praying the heaven was opened. Luke 3:21. KJV.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Dear Lord, help me to know that baptism is part of my total acceptance and obedience to you.

Salvation January 30

Being Put Right with God

Grace is unmerited kindness, mercy and forgiveness of God. Grace is a free gift from God; all the laws obeyed make no difference, if you are not right with God and have His grace. – Those of you who try to be put right with God by obeying the Law have cut yourselves off from Christ. You are outside God's grace. Galatians 5:4. The laws Paul was talking about were the old Jewish laws of circumcision, but many of us today find ourselves caught up in the “laws” set down by denominations, when what we really need is to be put right with God – God puts people right through their faith in Jesus Christ. God does this to all who believe in Christ, because there is no difference at all: everyone has sinned and is far away from God's saving presence. But by the free gift of God's grace all are put right with him through Christ Jesus, who sets them free. Romans 3:22-24.

Going along with the lines that we cannot earn our salvation –

For it is by God's grace that you have been saved through faith. It is not the result of your own efforts, but God's gift, so that no one can boast about it. Ephesians 2:8, 9.

VERSE FOR TODAY: God gave the Law through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. John 1:17.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Praise be to you, O Lord, for giving us the wonderful gift of grace, since you knew none of us could ever repay the debt of love we owe you through the death of Jesus.

Salvation January 31

What is Faith?

To have faith is to be sure of the things we hope for, to be certain of the things we cannot see. Hebrews 11:1. Faith is believing and trusting, in our everyday life we put our faith in many people, our banker, not to embezzle our money, in our child’s school teacher, to be a good teacher and countless others. The most important faith we must have is faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ.

So your faith and love are based on

what you hope for, which is kept safe for

you in heaven. Colossians 1:5b. We all have

different hopes for our own futures, for

eternity our hope is eternal life through

Jesus.

Why should we have faith in Jesus?

-Because you are receiving the salvation of

your souls, which is the purpose of your

faith in him. 1 Peter 1:9.

What better reason is there? Put your

faith in the Lord for the salvation of your

soul!

VERSE FOR TODAY: And this is the

message: “Those who are evil will not

survive, but those who are righteous will

live because they are faithful to God.”

Habakkuk 2:4.

PRAYER THOUGHT: May the faith I have in you, O Lord, never waver but become stronger through the years.

Salvation February 1

Hope through Faith

Faith and hope go hand in hand, if

we have faith we have hope for this life and

the life to come, we put our faith in Jesus,

even though we haven’t seen him – You

love him, although you have not seen him,

and you believe in him, although you do not

now see him. So rejoice with a great and

glorious joy which works cannot express. 1 Peter 1:8a. – What can be seen lasts only for a time, but what cannot be seen lasts forever. 2 Corinthians 4:18b. As we know whatever we can see in this life, money, goods. Even this body will pass away but God and heaven are forever, both unseen.

One of the most important things in these uncertain times is to be firm in your faith and hope – Let us hold on firmly to the hope we profess, because we can trust God to keep his promise. Hebrews 10:23.

As the saying goes, “Where there is life there is hope.” While we still have life, we must put our hope in Jesus.

VERSE FOR TODAY: May God, the source of hope, fill you with all joy and peace by means of your faith in him, so that your hope will continue to grow by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Let the faith in my heart, O Lord, fill me with hope for all eternity.