

## BAPTISM: PAST, PRESENT, and FUTURE

080220A

### INTRODUCTION

1. The significance of baptism encompasses the entirety of the Christian life.
2. Rm 6:1-13

#### Introduction: The Basics of Baptism

1. *Baptize* = immerse into - united, identified in
2. Into what is the disciple baptized? *Christ Jesus - His death* [v3-4. United to Jesus in HIS death.
3. Why Jesus' death? v4 *so that...* purpose, result: 6:4b-5.
  - i. Jesus' death defeated death & He rose from death to resurrection life.
  - ii. Good news! Baptism - union w/ Jesus in His death & resurrection.
4. What kind of death did Jesus die? 6:10. atonement for sin - 5:8-10
5. How does a baptized disciple live? 6:5-7;11-13

#### 1st: Baptism Testifies to the Disciple's Past Union with Christ

1. Baptism depicts an existing union. The reality is rehearsed in the ritual.
2. Reality is the spiritual, living [Jn 3] union evidenced by repentance & faith.
  - i. The sinner alive by the Spirit evidences new life.
  - ii. Repent & faith -> disciple.
3. "Conversion": turn around. Negatively: turn from sin [repent] & positively turn to Jesus [faith] - depicted in baptism.
  - i. descend into water: death w/ Christ to self, sin, idols
  - ii. rise up from water: new life lived by faith in Jesus
4. Disciple was converted before baptism which marks beginning of being of Christian life - a life of continual repenting & believing.

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#### 2nd: Baptism Testifies to the Disciple's Present Union with Christ

1. Heartbreaking - a person baptized but not following Jesus as disciple: ritual without reality. Rocky soil - Thorny soil.
2. Christian life: continual rehearsal of movement of baptism: Rm 6:1-2,11-13
3. Ongoing repentance & ongoing believing - life lived for Jesus: love. *If you love Me, you will keep My commandments* [Jn 14:15].
  - i. Total devotion - Lordship of Jesus.
  - ii. Willing to be taught & to change.
4. Discipleship with hope in glory of the resurrection.

#### 3rd: Baptism Testifies to the Disciple's Future Union with Christ

1. Our likely descent into the dust: grave. Baptism is an expression of hope in the resurrection.
2. What baptism awaits you? Jn 5:28-29
3. Jesus is our hope - Jn 11:23-27
4. What is eternal life & eternal death? Union with, or separation from Jesus.
  - i. You will be resurrected on the last day - to eternal life or eternal death.
  - ii. What is eternal death? *eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord & the glory of His power* [2Th 1:8-9]
5. Don't watch Ellissa's baptism w/ just your eyes. Watch w/ discernment & self assessment.
6. May the Spirit enable us to see the gospel of Jesus Christ as we see this baptism. May we be united to Jesus now & forever.