

## WHY SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

- **Because it's following Christ's example.** Jesus himself was baptized. He was not a sinner, yet he humbled himself in obedience to identify with us and give us an example to follow. (Mark 1:9)
- **Because Christ commanded it.** Water baptism is an act of faith and obedience to the commands of Christ. (John 14:15, James 2:17-18)
- **Because it shows you are a believer.** Baptism declares that you are a follower of Jesus Christ. It is a public confession of your faith in, and commitment to, Jesus Christ. It is the next step after salvation through repentance and faith and is an important foundation for the Christian life.

## WHAT IS THE MEANING OF BAPTISM?

- Baptism is a visible act with a spiritual meaning. It is a symbol of Christ's burial and resurrection. Our entrance into the water during baptism identifies us with Christ's death on the cross and His burial. Coming out of the water represents His resurrection. (1 Corinthians 15:3-4, Colossians 2:12)
- It is a symbol of your new life as a Christian. We bury the "old life" and we rise to walk in a "new life." Baptism is like a wedding ring - it is the outward symbol of a commitment you have made in your heart. A commitment that has to be followed through and lived out on a daily basis. (2 Corinthians 5:17, Romans 6:4)
- Baptism does not make you a believer; it shows that you already are one! Baptism does not save you; only your faith in Christ does that. (Ephesians 2:8-9)
- The Gospels tell us to baptize believers "...into the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19). Baptism confirms our position "in Christ" and affirms the blessings of the Father on us as his children.
- Baptism also connects us to the "body of Christ" - His people on the earth. In baptism there is a real sense of being joined with other believers, not just participating in an individual act of our own spiritual journey. (1 Corinthians 12:13)

## WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

- Every person who has made the decision to believe in Christ. When Paul writes to the believers in Rome, he assumes that all of them have been baptized (Romans 6). The only requirement for baptism is belief in Christ! (Acts 8:12)
- We do not baptize children until they are old enough to understand and believe.

## WHEN SHOULD YOU BE BAPTIZED?

- As soon as you have believed! You shouldn't delay. Believers in the New Testament were baptized the same day. As soon as a person decides to believe in Christ, they can and should be baptized. (Acts 2:41, Acts 8:35-39)

## WATER BAPTISM AT BETHESDA

*Below are some helpful instructions if you are getting baptized at Bethesda.*

- Meet in the Prayer Room 15 minutes prior to the service.
- Wear comfortable clothes - a t-shirt will be provided for you.
- Do not wear anything that would be see-through when wet.
- Bring a change of dry clothes for after your baptism.
- Bring a bag with you to carry your wet clothes home.
- You are not permitted to wear footwear into the baptismal tank.
- Towels will be provided onsite - but you are welcome to bring your own.