



Moving Forward #4

A Time of Baptism

Just before Jesus ascended into heaven, He left His disciples with His very last words here on earth. He said one thing. He could have left them with anything, but He left them with these words.

Matthew 29:18-20

And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. ¹⁹Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to follow all that I commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

He left His disciples with the charge of going out into all the world and bring all those that would listen to a relationship with Jesus Christ. Then He added, "Baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit," It would seem as though it must be important if He left them with these, His last words.

What Baptism isn't...

Baptism is a command from God Himself and we have to understand that baptism is required AFTER you are saved. It is not your salvation but in part of the results of your salvation by being obedient in following Christ in baptism.

Romans 10:9

that if you confess with your mouth Jesus *as* Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;

Yes we receive salvation by confessing and believing but, didn't we discover that baptism is a command right after salvation in the New Testament? The disciples were commanded to go and baptize believers in Jesus Christ, are we then commanded to be baptized? Yes.

Romans 6:1-5

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? ²Far from it! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? ³Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? ⁴Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too may walk in newness of life. ⁵For if we have become united with *Him* in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be *in the likeness* of His resurrection,

When we are baptized we are brought below the surface of the water, as to be buried as Christ died and was buried, then we are brought back above the water as Christ was raised from the dead to life.

Baptism is the testimony that we are followers of Jesus, that we are DEAD to sin, BURIED with Him, RESURRECTED, walking in newness of life.



Baptism has been described as an outward expression of an inward commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. It is a public proclamation of a personal decision to identify with Christ, in His death, burial and resurrection.

A short personal observation and experience happened when a young boy was baptized after putting his trust in Jesus Christ. After baptism he posted images on social media. A friend of his grandfather asked about it and shortly thereafter, put his faith in Jesus and was baptized. Two of this gentleman's friends heard about their friend's baptism and wanted to hear more about it. Because of his testimony they too became followers of Jesus and soon afterwards were baptized.

This is what obedience to Jesus Christ can do. Hearts will be turned to Him when we do as He commands us to do. There is a joy in following Christ, first in salvation and then in baptism, through joining Him in death to our old self, burial and then the resurrection of our new self.

In order to truly grow in Jesus Christ and His family we must follow His commands. The first command He has given us is to be baptized. Have you made that step yet? If not, find someone that is willing and able to baptize you... a pastor or strong Christian friend. Invite those around you that you want to share your new life with and get it done. You will never regret it and your testimony will speak to those around you.

Matthew 5:14-16

"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵ No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

You are a new creation, a light to the world around you. Your light should not be hidden. Allow the love of Jesus Christ to shine from you to all those that can see. Begin with your baptism.