

Members Notes #12

Hebrews 5:11-6:2

Doctrine of Baptisms

Over the next couple of weeks of our discussions, we'll be touching on a few of the elementary principles mentioned in chapter 6:1-2. This week we will discuss water baptism and next week we will be discussing the 2nd coming of Christ.

TONIGHT'S PURPOSE: To ensure that Water Baptism is thoroughly understood in ACF so that this important ritual can be explained properly to our increasing number of visitors who are becoming disciples of Jesus.

Please read Hebrews 5:11-6:2

Heb 6:1 "Therefore we must progress beyond the elementary instructions about Christ and move on to maturity, not laying this foundation again...teaching about baptisms" (NET).

QUESTIONS

- 1 Mark 16:16 "He who believes and is baptized will be saved but he who does not believe will be condemned."

Does this mean that we must be baptized to be saved?

_____, it just shows that becoming a _____ and water baptism go hand in hand.

Eph 2:8-10 "For by *Grace you have been saved*, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, _____, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."

Water Baptism is a symbolic action showing that something important has happened. It's like a historical marker by the road telling people that something significant has happened at that spot, it doesn't make something _____, rather it shows that something noteworthy has already transpired.

What then is the symbolic significance of Water baptism? It is a:

Wedding (we're getting married to Jesus)

Press conference

two-act role-play

- 2 **How is water baptism a wedding? Doesn't a wedding make the couple married? So if water baptism is symbolic of a wedding ceremony, this must be the point we become Christians, right?**

Matt 25:6 "And at midnight a cry was heard: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!'"

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_____, it's like the couple has already been _____ and is therefore already legally married (at conversion). The couple is now having the ceremony (getting dunked) to celebrate and confirm with family, friends and community what has already _____.

3 How is water baptism a press conference?

Rom 2:29 "but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; circumcised in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God."

The fulfillment of the Old Testaments' circumcision is the indwelling Holy _____ changing us from the inside ____ (heart surgery so to speak). This new kind of circumcision changes our "spiritual anatomy" forever. When the Holy Spirit works on our hearts we should be forever different. Therefore, water baptism is the press conference after the surgery to tell the waiting reporters (the people attending the baptismal ceremony) that the bad part of the heart was cut out and the _____ a success!

4 How is water baptism a two-act role-play? Clue: It's a murder mystery with a happy ending.

2 Cor 5:17 "This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun" (NLT)!

What's the first act about?

Romans 6:4 "When we are lowered into the water, it is like the burial..." (MSG).

Going down into the water is a role-play showing that someone has _____.

What's the second act about?

1 Peter 1:23 "For you have been born again, but not to a life that will quickly end. Your new life will last forever because it comes from the eternal, living word of God" (NLT).

Coming out of the water is a role-play that someone has been _____.

When we attend a baptismal service we are symbolically attending a "funeral" and a "full moon" celebration (party to celebrate the birth of a new born) at the same time. You don't go to a funeral to watch someone die; you go because someone is already dead. Likewise you don't go to a full moon celebration to watch someone being born but rather to celebrate a birth that has already happened.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Even if you've missed the first session, you are still welcome to join in for the River of Life Bible School's series "Laying The Foundations", which will run for the next 3 consecutive Tuesdays - 17th, 24th and 31st May, **7:30PM-9:30PM**.
- Pick up your copy of *What's Cooking?* Devotional @ \$5.00 each from the **Welcome Desk**.
- Pick up copies of ACF's discipleship materials, *Successful Christian Living* and *Designed for Discipleship* series, at the **Welcome Desk**.