***Foundations of Baptisms***

**Why Does God Want**

**You to Get Baptized?**

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**Family Worship Center 5/8/16**

**Text:** Hebrews 6:1-3 “Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, 2 of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. 3 And this we will do if God permits.”

**Part One: The Foundation of Baptisms**

1. Hebrews 6.

1. Foundation of Repentance.

1. The Verb (action word) Metanoeo means to change one’s mind and purpose, as the result of acquired knowledge. Used with the cognate noun Metanoia to indicate true repentance. You change your lifestyle to reflect that you have changed your mind to thinking God’s way.

1. From dead works of thinking you can save yourself to faith - relying on the completed work of Christ on the cross.

1. The doctrine of baptisms is PLURAL.

A. The first is baptism in water.

B. The second is the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

1. After you accept Christ and are saved you then should be baptized in water.

A. Jesus in Mark 16:15-16 And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.”

B. Acts 2:38 “Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

C. Repentance and believing come first.



**Part Two: The Purpose of Water Baptism**

1. The purpose of water baptism is to symbolize the transformation you have experienced in Christ and to publicly proclaim your personal faith.

1. The symbolization of baptism.
2. Romans 6:1-4 “1What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? 2Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? 3Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 4Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”

1. The symbolism of Baptism ~ in linguistic, cultural and historical context “baptism” means “immersion” not sprinkling or pouring.

 1. Baptized into Jesus’ death – symbolized in being immersed into the water - declaring that what Jesus did on the cross was for you.

 2. Therefore… we are buried with Him - symbolized in being under the water – declaring your old life is over.

 3. Raised with Jesus – symbolized in coming up from under the water ~ declaring you are a new person in Christ.

 4. Walking in a new life – symbolized in stepping out from the water – you have a new lifestyle of truly following God.

1. **External representation of internal experience, I Peter 3:21.**
2. The public proclamation of your personal faith.

1. What about baptism as a baby?

A. It is wonderful when parents acknowledge the importance of spiritual life for their children. Really, this is dedicating the child to God and scripturally, babies should be dedicated to God.

B. There is not one scripture calling babies to be baptized. Baptism is for those who have made a personal choice to follow Jesus and are able to make a public declaration of personal faith.

**Part Three: Why Does God Want YOU to Get Baptized?**

1. In obedience to God’s command and in following Christ’s example.

1. Obedience always brings blessings.

1. Baptism builds confidence as it reinforces and strengthens your faith and testimony.

1. Baptism gives you a wonderful outreach as you share your testimony.

1. Baptism releases spiritual power just as it did when Jesus was baptized.

1. Matthew 3:13-17 13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. 14 And John tried to prevent Him, saying, “I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?”

15 But Jesus answered and said to him, “Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he allowed Him.

16 When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. 17 And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

2. Jesus didn’t need to be baptized as He never sinned.

3. Jesus set the example for you.

4. The power of heaven was opened for Him.

5. The same power awaits you as you follow Jesus.

**Closing…**

**Discussion Items and Questions for Home and Small Group**

1. Discuss why baptism as a believer is important.

2. Why do you think Jesus wanted to be baptized when He was the only one who didn’t need it?

3. If you haven’t done so already, please fill out the worksheet.

4. If you haven’t been baptized yet as a believer please turn in your request form.