

IN COVENANT WITH JESUS



BAPTISM

The following document is a rough copy of Pastor Drost's sermon
notes from June 7th, 2020

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- This morning I want to talk to you about BAPTISM.
To get us started watch this short video clip of **Acts 22:14–16**
- The Apostle Paul was quite the character before he met Jesus.
 - His name in Hebrew was Saul and Paul was his Latin name.
 - He was a fanatic Pharisee who passionately chased down followers of Christ.
 - He got them thrown into prison and watched them get stoned to death.
 - He made it his mission to eradicate Christians from the world and went from town to town hunting them down.
 - UNTIL one day, on his way to Damascus with a group of men to arrest some Christians, he met Jesus Christ.
 - Suddenly (as he was traveling) a bright light from heaven flashed around him and he fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him..

“Saul! Saul! Why do you persecute me?” “Who are you, Lord?” he asked. “I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting,” Jesus replied.” Acts 22:6–8

- “I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting.”

How I treat a follower of Christ is how I am treating Jesus.

What I do to them I do to Him! GOOD or BAD!

Jesus taught...

“As you did to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did to me.” Matthew 25:40

When we are in Christ we are in COVENANT with Christ!

Covenant: To be bonded together in a sacred relationship.

- Example: Marriage... “And the two shall become one”
- An exchange of promises
Examples:
 - Covenant with Noah (“I will not destroy the earth again with water”)
 - Covenant with Abraham (“Your seed will be like the stars/sand”)
 - Covenant with David (“The Kingdom shall not depart from...”)
- Sealed with covenant symbol = RINGS

When we are in Christ, we are in covenant with Him. We are one with Him. We are His body. There are two key covenant symbols in the Christian faith: (1) Baptism (2) Communion

Jesus took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." 1 Corinthians 11:25

Are we united with Christ in baptism...

"We have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with Him in the likeness of His death (Through baptism), certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection." Romans 6:4-5

In Baptism and in Communion we are ONE with Christ!

- We die to self and live for Him.
- Do you remember your baptism?
When you said "**I have decided to follow Jesus**"
Is that still the case? Are you still in COVENANT with Jesus?

Paul asked Jesus...

"Who are you, Lord?" Jesus replied,
"I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting."

And Paul responds...

"What shall I do, Lord?"

This fanatic Pharisee, this hater of followers of Jesus, calls Him Lord and immediately **places himself under His leadership!**

"What do you want me to do, Lord?"

Our true journey with Jesus starts when we, from our heart, say to Jesus "**What do you want me to do, LORD!**" "**I'll do what you ask of me, LORD**"

The Lord said to Paul, "Get up, and go into Damascus. There you'll be told what you have been appointed to do." Acts 22:10

So, the Lord told one of the disciples in Damascus called **Ananias** to go and tell Paul what to do. Jesus could have told Paul what to do right then. But instead, he tells Paul to go wait for a disciple in Damascus, one of the one's Paul was chasing after, to come and tell him what to do.

**When you start following Jesus, you also come into relationship with His body, His church...
for He is in unity with His body.**

- So, Ananias comes to Paul and says to him...

“God has chosen you to know his will and to see the Righteous One and to hear words from his mouth. You will be his witness to all people of what you have seen and heard. And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.” Acts 22:14–16

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- **“God has chosen YOU”**

You have a call from Him... a role to play!

- **What are you waiting for?**

If you have never been baptised, what are you waiting for?

Why haven't you obeyed the commandment of the Lord?

What are you waiting for?

Until we come back to church like before?

I was baptised in the river... Jesus was as well...

“Go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” Matthew 28:19

“And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.” Acts 22:14–16

- **Get up!** Be baptized!

- “Calling on his name” = Putting your trust in His Name for salvation.