

Baptism Service
Spiritual Death to Spiritual Life (Romans 6:1-4)
7-18-10

One of the many things I love about baptism is its rich symbolism.

- “ _____, upon hearing your confession of faith, I now baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, *buried with Him in baptism... and raised with Him to newness of life.*”

Baptism symbolizes the fact that *the moment* a person’s eyes are opened to the truth of the Gospel, and they repent of their sins and put their faith and trust in Jesus Christ, *they go from spiritual death to spiritual life.*

- The Bible teaches that we are spiritually dead until God makes us alive through Christ.
 - o **Ephesians 2:1-3 (NIV) - We’re all spiritually dead**
¹As for you, you were *dead in your transgressions and sins,* ²in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³*All of us* also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature *objects of wrath.*
 - God and sin are fundamentally opposed. God HATES sin and MUST punish it. *Thus because we are by nature sinners we are also by nature objects of God’s wrath.*
 - o **2 Timothy 3:1-5 (ESV) - Description of spiritual deadness**
¹But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. ²For people will be *lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy,* ³*heartless, unappeasable (never satisfied), slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good,* ⁴

treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power.

o **2 Timothy 4:3-4 (ESV)**

³ For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will *accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions,* ⁴ and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.

o **Judges 17:1-13 (ESV) - Example of spiritual deadness**

¹ There was a man of the hill country of Ephraim, whose name was Micah. ² And he said to his mother, "The 1,100 pieces of silver that were taken from you, about which you uttered a curse, and also spoke it in my ears, *behold, the silver is with me; I took it.*" And his mother said, "Blessed be my son by the Lord." ³ And he restored the 1,100 pieces of silver to his mother. And his mother said, "I dedicate the silver to the Lord from my hand for my son, to make a carved image and a metal image. Now therefore I will restore it to you." ⁴ *So when he restored the money to his mother, his mother took 200 pieces of silver and gave it to the silversmith, who made it into a carved image and a metal image. And it was in the house of Micah. ⁵ And the man Micah had a shrine, and he made an ephod and household gods, and ordained one of his sons, who became his priest. ⁶ In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.*

⁷ Now there was a young man of Bethlehem in Judah, of the family of Judah, who was a Levite, and he sojourned there. ⁸ And the man departed from the town of Bethlehem in Judah to sojourn where he could find a place. And as he journeyed, he came to the hill country of Ephraim to the house of Micah. ⁹ And Micah said to him, "Where do you come from?" And he said to him, "I am a Levite of Bethlehem in Judah, and I am going to sojourn where I may find a place." ¹⁰ And Micah said to him, "Stay with me, and be to me a father and a priest,

and I will give you ten pieces of silver a year and a suit of clothes and your living." And the Levite went in. ¹¹
And the Levite was content to dwell with the man, and the young man became to him like one of his sons. ¹²
And Micah ordained the Levite, and the young man became his priest, and was in the house of Micah. ¹³
Then Micah said, "Now I know that the Lord will prosper me, because I have a Levite as priest."

- *We all want the Lord to prosper us, but we want Him to prosper us on our terms, in our time, and in our way.* Unfortunately for us, that's not the way the Creator and Lord of the Universe works! And unless we repent of that selfish, foolish, arrogant attitude, the Bible says we will find ourselves separated from our Creator for eternity in hell.

So that is the spiritually dead state we are all in, but thankfully, we don't need to stay there.

- **Ephesians 2:3-10 (NIV)**

³All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. ⁴
BUT because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵MADE US ALIVE with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions--it is by grace you have been saved... ⁸For it is by grace you have been saved, *through faith*--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- ⁹*not by works*, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰For we are God's workmanship, *created in Christ Jesus to do good works*, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

- **Romans 6:1-14 (ESV)**

¹What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ²By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? ³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in

order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, *we too might walk in newness of life.*

⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶ We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be *enslaved to sin.* ⁷ For one who has died has been set free from sin. ⁸ Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹ We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰ For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. ¹¹ *So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.*

¹² Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. ¹³ Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. ¹⁴ *For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.*

The Lord has brought Sharon Krause, Denise Cooper, and Alexis Peterson from spiritual death to life. They have been spiritually “born again” as Jesus says in John 3. In a minute they’ll have a chance to tell you more about that.

But before they do, I want to offer YOU an invitation. *If the Lord has brought YOU from spiritual death to spiritual life, if you’ve been born again and have yet to be baptized as a born again believer, you should join them TODAY.*

- **Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV) - Commanded to baptize**

¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, *baptizing them* in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you...

- **Acts 2:37-41 (ESV) - Obedient to command**

³⁷ Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" ³⁸ And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself." ⁴⁰ And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation." ⁴¹ So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

You probably have a million reasons NOT to get baptized today... but if you can answer yes to the following three questions, and God is calling you, *you should answer the call.*

- Three questions
 - o Do you believe that you are a sinner in desperate need of a Savior?
 - o Do you believe that Jesus is that Savior and are you trusting in *Him alone* for salvation?
 - o Are you ready to repent of your sins and follow Jesus, allowing Him to be the Lord of your life?
- The only people we'd ask to wait are children and folks from other churches.