

A P P L I E D

These questions are for Small Groups and families who want to discuss these truths together.

1. **What is your background in understanding the word “baptism” and its significance?**
2. **Why do you think God commands believers to be baptized?**
3. **Read Matthew 3:13-17. What happened when Jesus was baptized?**
4. **What does this story tell us about the significance of baptism?**
5. **Read Romans 6:1-5. How does this passage help you understand what baptism represents?**
6. **What does it mean to be united with Christ?**
7. **Imagine that you have a non-believer with you at church and it is their first time attending a Christian worship service. At the beginning of the service, a person is baptized and your friend asks, “What was that all about?” How would you respond? If they wanted more information, what passages in the Scripture might you point them to?**

LIVING HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH

SERMON SERIES: ReNew Your Belief

Sermon Message: What’s Up with the Hot Tub at Church?

September 18, 2011

Dr. Jason Pettus

Public Reading: 1 Timothy 4:6–8

Next Week’s Text: Matthew 3:13-17

THE PURPOSE OF BAPTISM

BAPTISM DOES NOT MAKE US _____. **Matthew 3:13-17** (Pg. 808-809)

BAPTISM GIVES US A FIRST STEP IN _____. **Matthew 3:15** (Pg. 808)

BAPTISM IS CLOSELY LINKED TO SALVATION. **Acts 2:38** (Pg. 910-911)

THINGS THAT HAPPEN WHEN WE ARE SAVED:

We repent. 2 Corinthians 7:10 (Pg. 967)

We are baptized and identified with Christ. Romans 6:3-4 (Pg. 942)

We are filled with the Holy Spirit. John 14:16-17 (Pg. 901)

BAPTISM ANNOUNCES OUR _____. **Matthew 3:16-17** (Pg. 808-809)

BAPTISM PREPARES US FOR THE _____. **Mark 1:12-13** (Pg. 836)

Ephesians 6:12-13 / Philippians 3:8-10 (Pg. 979 / 981)

NOTE: You can check out Pastor Jason’s thoughts at pastorjasonpettus.blogspot.com or on Twitter at www.Twitter.com/pastorjpettus.

A copy of today’s message is available at the kiosk in the lobby immediately following the service. Suggested donation for CDs is \$2. First time guests get today’s CD free by turning in your guest card at the Welcome Center.

BAPTISM ...

We believe that baptism is a public identification with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. Baptism is immersion into water following a personal profession of faith in Jesus Christ done in response to the grace of God. It is a prerequisite to the privileges of membership at Living Hope Baptist Church.

U N P A C K E D

Many people consider baptism to be a casual, religious ceremony that you should go through whenever it is convenient. This is not how the Scripture portrays the significance of this ordinance.

In the New Testament, baptism is viewed as such an important aspect of confessing your faith that Peter can say in Acts 2:38, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins." Peter's language here is striking. Is the apostle implying that when you are baptized you are forgiven? Or, to put it another way, is he saying that unless you are baptized you cannot be forgiven by God?

This certainly is not what Peter intends in this statement. Acts 10:43 teaches that "forgiveness of sins" comes through the name of Jesus to "everyone who believes in him." Acts 26:18 speaks about "forgiveness of sins" as being granted to those who "turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God." All of these verses are providing different perspectives on the same basic truth: forgiveness comes to those who turn from their sin to Jesus in faith.

So why is baptism so important and how could Peter say that it is done "for the forgiveness of sins?"

Baptism is significant because it is the public and external confession of a private and internal commitment. In this way, getting baptized is similar to putting on a wedding band. The band itself does not make you a married person. However, wedding rings are typically exchanged by bride and groom to signify their commitment to one another. The commitment is private and internal but the ring is external so that all can see it. Wearing a wedding ring defines you as a person even though it carries no transformative power in and of itself. Baptism functions in a similar way. It does not transform you from a non-believer into a Christian. Rather, it publicly identifies you as one who has turned to Jesus "for the forgiveness of sins."

We believe that the mode of baptism is also important because of the symbolic weight it carries. During baptism, a believer is immersed into water to symbolize their union with the death and burial of Jesus Christ. The "old you" is crucified with Christ (Galatians 2:20) and you are now a "new creation" (2 Corinthians 5:17). The water is important because it represents the cleansing power of the Holy Spirit's "washing of regeneration and renewal" (Titus 3:5). When the person comes up out of the water, they are symbolically united with their resurrected Savior and commissioned to "walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:4). Each of these aspects of immersion point to a particular way that God's grace has intervened in your life.

Your baptism is a privileged opportunity to declare to the world what God has done in your life and your commitment to walk with him in obedience.