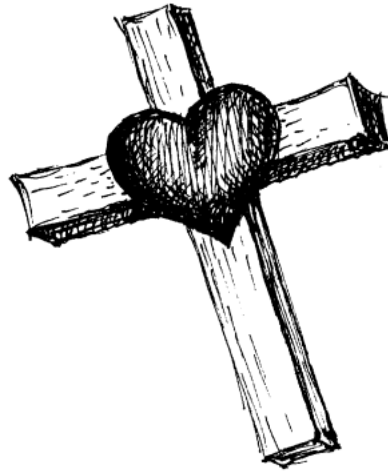


First Baptist Church



Believers Baptism

What Is Baptism?

Why Is Baptism Important?

Does Baptism Save Us?

What Precedes Baptism?

How Do We Baptize?

WHAT IS BAPTISM?

The New Testament opens with the proclamation of a new message, the message of the Kingdom of God. Matthew 11:13 says, "For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John." Since that time the Kingdom of God is preached. After 400 years of prophetic silence (no prophets had arisen since Malachi) John the Baptist comes declaring, "Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand." Matthew 3:2. All those who respond to John's message are baptized by immersion in water by John and his helpers.

Jesus comes and is baptized (Matthew 3). Immediately after baptism he is tempted by Satan and He overcomes Satan. Jesus' ministry then begins and his disciples baptize those who respond to the Gospel (John 4:1-2). Following three years of ministry Jesus is crucified and placed in a tomb. Three days later he rises from the dead and he goes on to commission His disciples to preach the Gospel and baptize those who believe (Matthew 28:15,20.)

Following Jesus' ascension into heaven, Peter preaches the Gospel and in response to the cries of the people tells them to, "Repent and be baptized, everyone of you." Acts 2:38. Three thousand new believers are added to the church that day. Throughout the early history of the church the Gospel is preached and people are called to believe and be baptized (Acts 8, 9, 10, 19).

WHY IS BAPTISM IMPORTANT?

1. Baptism is important because Jesus commands it. (Matthew 28)
2. Baptism by immersion symbolizes the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus and portrays our own experience with Jesus. The going down into the water symbolizes our death to sin and the coming up out of the water symbolizes our resurrection to a new life in Christ. Romans 6:3,4.
3. Baptism is an outward, visible symbol of an inward work of the grace of God and expresses a willingness to life of obedience to God. As Jesus was buried and rose again, so we too, identify with His death and resurrection and walk in newness of life.

DOES BAPTISM SAVE US?

No! Baptism is for those who are already saved. Salvation is a gift from God which we receive when we believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, repent of our sin, and surrender to Christ. We are saved by the grace of God (Ephesians 2). It is the blood of Jesus that cleanses us from sin (1 John 1:7)

WHAT PRECEDES BAPTISM?

There are three things that must come before anyone is baptized:

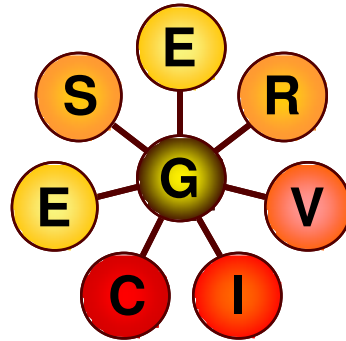
1. The person must believe in Christ (Mark 16:16). Jesus says that belief precedes baptism.
2. The person must have repented of their sins (Acts 2:38) repent and be baptized.
3. The person must be a disciple of Jesus (Matthew 28:19).

HOW DO WE BAPTIZE?

At First Baptist Church we acknowledge a diversity of Christian experience regarding baptism. Recognizing baptism as an outward symbol of an inward working of God's grace we accept and affirm those who have been baptized in different methods.

Respecting these factors we follow the Biblical pattern of baptism by immersion for believers (Matthew 3:16; Acts 8:38,39)

If you would like to be baptized or have any questions or concerns, please contact our pastoral staff.



First Baptist Church
483 Gillett Street
Prince George, BC
V2M 2T6
(250) 564 - 4522
Email: connect@firstbaptistpg.com
Website: www.firstbaptistpg.com