

# Water Baptism Class



## What is Water Baptism?

- A public declaration of our identification with Jesus
- The outward symbol of the inward action
- An identification with the death and resurrection of Jesus
  - “We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life” (Romans 6:4 NIV).
- A symbol that points to:
  - Our new life in Christ and the death of the old self (Galatians 2:20)
  - Our commitment to take up our cross and follow Jesus, dying daily to our old self and becoming more like Jesus (Luke 9:23; Ephesians 4:22-24)
  - Our future resurrection when Jesus returns for His children (1 Corinthians 15)
- A ceremony that symbolizes the beginning of the spiritual life

## What is salvation?

1. Do you know for sure that you are going to be with God in heaven when you die?
2. If God were to ask you, “Why should I let you into My heaven?” what would you say?

Heaven/Eternal Life is a free gift. It is not something we can earn or deserve.

- “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the **gift** of God— **not by works**, so that no one can boast.” (Ephesians 2:8–9 NIV)

Why can't we earn our way to heaven? Because humankind has sinned, and we are sinners.

- “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,” (Romans 3:23 NIV)

What is sin? Sin is doing anything against God and what He has commanded.

If you wanted to save yourself by the good deeds, do you know how good you would have to be?

- “Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.” (Matthew 5:48 NIV)

Despite this, God is merciful.

- “God is love.” (1 John 4:8 NIV)
- “I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness.” (Jeremiah 31:3 NIV)

But God is also just.

- “Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished;” (Exodus 34:7 NIV)

So, we have a problem. But God sent His Son, Jesus, into this world to fix this problem for us.

Who is Jesus? He is the Infinite God-Man.

- “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.” (John 1:1, 14 NIV)

What did Jesus do? He died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins and rose from the grave to purchase a place in heaven for us.

- “We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.” (Isaiah 53:6 NIV)

This eternal life is a free gift, and it is received by FAITH.  
Saving faith is not mere head knowledge, nor is it a temporal thing.

Saving faith is trusting in Jesus Christ alone for eternal life. It means resting upon Christ alone and what He has done rather than what you have done to get into heaven.

- “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved” (Acts 16:31 NIV)
- “That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.” (Romans 10:9–10 NIV)

What are we saved from, and what are we saved to?

- Eternal life begins now (John 17:3)

What does this mean for the future? What does this mean for today?

## Why Be Water Baptized? <sup>1</sup>

- “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.” (Mark 16:16 NIV)
- “Peter replied, “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.” (Acts 2:38 NIV)
- “Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”” (Matthew 28:18–20 NIV)
- Acts 8:26-39.

We are baptized because Jesus commanded us to be, and because it is the next step in our journey of faith.

## Practically speaking, what do I need to do?

- Write out your testimony and send it to me in an email. Use the testimony worksheet to help you write your testimony. You will be able to read your final testimony on a teleprompter while your testimony is filmed, so no need to memorize it.
- Come next week prepared to share your testimony with the class. After we confirm your testimony is ready, we will schedule a time for you to come record it with our media team.
- Choose a traditional Christian song you would like to have played while you are getting baptized. (I will provide a list you can choose from.)
- Baptisms are held during our Sunday morning services. After your testimony is ready, we will schedule a date for your baptism.
- Please be at the church 30 minutes prior to the service you’re being baptized in.
- Email me at [pastorben@calvarychristian.church](mailto:pastorben@calvarychristian.church) or call me at 781-592-4722 if you have questions or are stuck writing your testimony.

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<sup>1</sup>If you are currently living with someone and you are not married or you find yourself trapped in a pattern of sin, please speak with Pastor Ben after the class.

## **What to expect...**

- Bring a towel!
- Bring a change of clothing (including undergarments!); wear something you are ok being wet in (we will provide a t-shirt for the baptism, but please wear an undershirt).
- Walk into the tank, DON'T touch the mic!
- The officiating pastor will help you fold your arms and declare you ready to be water baptized to the church. They will say something like “based on the confession of your sins and your profession of faith in Jesus Christ, I know baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.”
- They will then completely immerse you into the water and lift you out. While music plays, the pastor will pray over you. Then you are free to exit the tank.
- There will be place you can change so you can go back to your family and friends in the sanctuary.