ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

2 Tim 3:16 *All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us* ***what is true*** *and* ***to make us realize what is wrong in our lives****. It* ***corrects us*** *when we are wrong and* ***teaches us to do what is right.***

Foundation of our belief:

The ***Foundation of our Belief is that:***

1. ***God loves us and wants to have a close relationship with us.***

   1 John 4:10 -This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us….

   John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ***17*** *For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.*

2. ***God needed to save us because we are sinners who right back in the garden of Eden broke relationship with God (Rom 3:23 below). A good definition of sin is the I that is the middle letter. Sin is when we put suiting ourselves and our own desires higher than wanting what God wants.***
   Romans 3:23 - For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
   Isaiah 59:2 -But your sins have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear.

3. ***Jesus is God's solution. (John 3:16) (Rom. 5:8)***
   Romans 5:8 - God demonstrates his own love for us in this: <u>While we were still sinners</u> Christ died for us.
   2 Cor. 5:21 - God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

4. ***Our response***
   Romans 10: 9, 10 -If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.
   Ephesians 2:8- For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.

Our **response** involves the two aspects of both **belief**, which equates to a personal knowing of God, AND **actions** which reflect our heart of knowing:

James 2:17 *In the same way, faith (belief) by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.* ***19*** *You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.* ***20*** *You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without actions is useless[j]?* ***21*** *Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar?* ***22*** *You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did.* ***23*** *And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,"[e] and he was called God's friend.* ***24*** *You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by belief alone.*

Just as we can't have belief without actions, the reverse is also true – we can't have just actions without belief, i.e. living a good, moral life without a friendship and personal relationship with Jesus won't bring eternal life.

Matt. 7: 21-23 *"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven.* ***22*** *Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?'* ***23*** *Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you (i.e. I never had a personal relationship with you). Away from me, you evildoers!'*

Hosea 6:6 *I want you to show love, not offer sacrifices.* ***I want you to know me more than I want burnt offerings (good actions alone).***

The bottom line is that following God is all about having a personal relationship with him – not simply obeying a set of rules without taking the time to get to know God personally, nor simply acknowledging what Jesus has done for us but then continuing on living with yourself as the one in charge of your life.

Jeremiah 9 23 *This is what the LORD says:*

"Let not the wise boast of their wisdom
or the strong boast of their strength
or the rich boast of their riches,
24 *but let the one who boasts boast about this:*
that they have the understanding ***to know me."***

SPRINGFIELD
CHRISTIAN FAMILY

WATER BAPTISM

INFORMATION SESSION

BAPTISM IN WATER



Now that we have examined in Lesson 2 what it means to be a child of God, baptism is the way that Jesus has designed for us to physically show others this decision we have made. There are many "opinions" today amongst Christians concerning **baptism in water**. We need to make sure that God's word is what determines our doctrine, rather than the opinions of people, as it says in Matthew 15.

Matthew 15: 8-9 (NIV)

8 " '*These people honour me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.*
9 *They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules.*'"

DEFINITION

The word “baptism” is the english form of the greek word “baptizo” which means “to immerse or dip” to “whelm” or “cover wholly with fluid”. The verses below emphasise this:

Mark 1:9-10 - ***9*** *At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.****10*** *Just as Jesus was* ***coming up out of the water…***

John 3:23 - ***23*** *Now John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because* ***there was plenty of water****, and people were coming and being baptised.*

These verses above and the meaning of the greek word baptizo, clearly reveal that baptism should be an action where someone is fully immersed under water, as opposed to being lightly sprinkled with water.

JESUS HIMSELF WAS BAPTISED.

Matthew 3:13-17 (NIV) - ***13*** *Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptised by John* ***14*** *but John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptised by you, and do you come to me?"* ***15*** *Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented.* ***16*** *As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him,* ***17*** *and a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased."*



JESUS INSTRUCTS US, HIS DISCIPLES TO BE BAPTISED

THE COMMISSION JESUS LEFT HIS FOLLOWERS



Matthew 28:19 (NIV) - **19** *"Therefore go and make disciples (followers)of all nations, **baptising** them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you and I will be with you always, even to the end of the age!"*

*Mark 16:15,16 (NIV) - **15** He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. **16** Whoever believes and is **baptised** will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.*

WHO DOES THE BIBLE SAY MAY BE BAPTISED?

Those who have repented from sin.

Acts 2:38 (NIV) - ***38*** *Peter replied, "Repent and be baptised, 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.*

(repentance: a change of mind followed by a change of action)

Those who receive the Word of God.

Acts 2:41 (NIV) - ***41*** *Those who accepted his message were baptised, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.*

WHO MAY BE BAPTISED CONT.?

Those who have faith in Jesus.

Acts 8:36-38 (NIV) - ***36*** *As they travelled along the road, they came to some water and the Eunuch said, " Look, Here is some water, what can stand in the way of my being baptised?* ***37*** *Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart you may." The Eunuch answered, " I believe that Jesus Christ is the son of God."* ***38*** *He gave orders to stop the chariot, then both Philip and the Eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptised him.*

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BAPTISM AND THE DEDICATION/CHRISTENING OF YOUNG CHILDREN

Jesus himself was dedicated to the Lord when he was 8 days old, and then baptised at 30yrs.

The Bible teaches that people who **repent** and **believe** should be baptised. In our Church, following the example of Jesus, babies are dedicated to the Lord where a special prayer of blessing is prayed over them.



WHEN WERE PEOPLE BAPTISED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT?

Acts 16:33 (NIV) - ***33*** *at that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptised.*

Acts 8:12 (NIV) - ***12*** *but when they believed Philip as he proclaimed the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptised, both men and women.*

These verses above reveal that baptism can be done immediately following a decision to follow Jesus.

SIGNIFICANCE OF BAPTISM



Mark 16:16 (NIV) - ***16*** *Whoever <u>believes and is baptised will be saved</u>, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.*

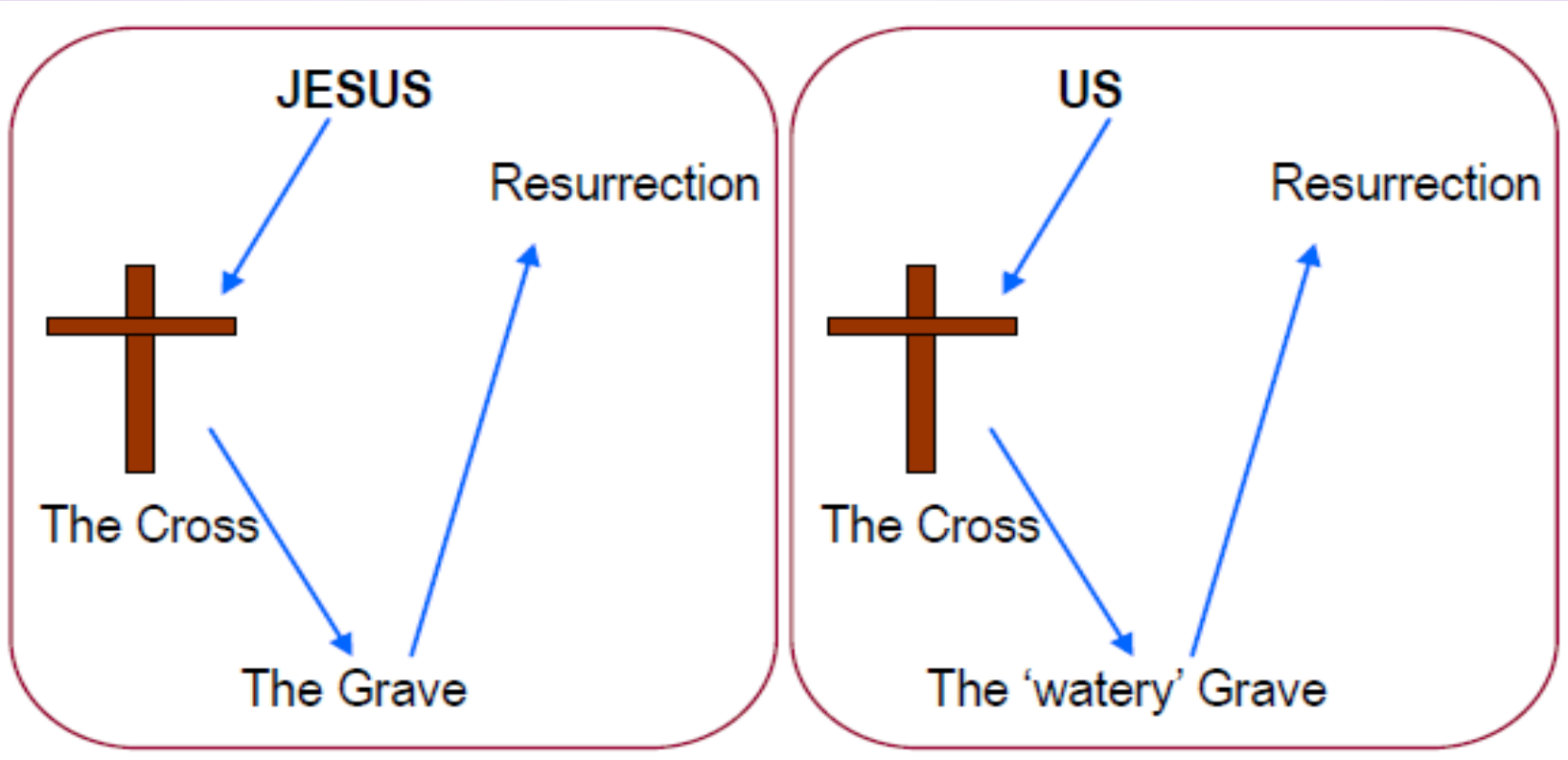
Baptism doesn't make you a member of God's family; only faith in Christ does that. Baptism shows that you a part of God's family. Like a wedding ring, it is a visible reminder of an inward commitment made in your heart. It is an act of initiation, and not something you put off until you are spiritually mature.

WHAT IS THE SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE OF WATER BAPTISM?

By being baptised a person identifies with Jesus' death and resurrection to *new life.*

Romans 6: 3-11 (Message)- *That's what baptism into the life of Jesus means. When we are lowered into the water, it is like the burial of Jesus; when we are raised up out of the water, it is like the resurrection of Jesus. Could it be any clearer? Our old way of life was nailed to the cross with Christ, a decisive end to that sin-miserable life, no longer captive to sin's demands! If we get included in Christ's sin-conquering death, we also get included in his life-saving resurrection. We know that when Jesus was raised from the dead it was the signal of the end of death as the end. Never again will death have the last word. You are dead to sin and alive to God.*

In baptism, we rise out of the water with the same new life which Jesus rose from the grave. We leave the old life dead and buried, and live in such a way that is glorifying to God.



ARE YOU READY FOR BAPTISM?

- WHAT DO I WEAR TO MY BAPTISM?
- DO I NEED TO SPEAK AT MY BAPTISM? (- *WHAT IS A TESTIMONY?)*
- WHAT HAPPENS AT MY BAPTISM?
- WHO SHOULD I INVITE TO MY BAPTISM?
- CAN A LOVED ONE COME INTO THE WATER WITH ME?
- WHERE CAN I BE BAPTISED?
- PLEASE SEE A SERVICE PASTOR TO TALK ABOUT THE NEXT OPPORTUNITY TO BE BAPTISED.