

## BAPTISM: WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Your viewpoint of baptism is mostly based on how you were raised

Christ commanded His followers to be baptized  
Matthew 28:18-20

Some believe the church is the authority in spiritual matters

At New Hope we believe the Bible is the authority in spiritual matters

Luke 11:37-38

Greek word "baptizo" – a common word with no religious meaning; means to wash, dip, sink, immerse, submerge

Translators took a Greek word, "baptizo," and made it an English word - "baptize"

When John the Baptist baptized people in the Jordan River, this was the first time in recorded history someone "washed" or baptized someone else

This event was symbolic of someone leaving one entity to join another with religious significance

Acts 19:4-5

Baptism is simply a public declaration of a new association (to follow Christ)

Baptism is for those who have personally, individually made a decision to associate with Christ

Baptism is for those who are old enough to understand what Christ did for him/her and to the best of their ability want to associate with Christ – aren't embarrassed by this

Infant baptism is not found in Scripture, and we do not baptize infants

An infant cannot make the decision to identify and associate with Christ

The tragedy of infant baptism is it often gives a false sense of security to the parents and child, i.e. now that I'm baptized, I'm in, things are fine with me

Baptism has nothing to do with salvation, i.e. going to heaven

Ephesians 2:8,9 & Titus 3:4,5

Luke 23:39-43

If you have placed your faith in Christ and want to identify with Him, you need to be  
baptized

Baptism is an act of obedience  
Matthew 28:18-20

More important than how you were baptized and where is when

Baptism connects you with other Christians all around the world

You will never know how your story of identifying with Christ will impact  
others

**My Next Step Today Is:**

- I want to publicly identify myself as a follower of Christ by being baptized at the beach on Sunday, August 28<sup>th</sup>
- I can't make the beach baptism, but I would like to be baptized on Sunday, Sept 18<sup>th</sup>
- I plan to attend Class 101, the church's basic information class, on Sun, Aug 21<sup>st</sup> at 12:30 pm