

A Place to Start in Obedience: Baptism part 2

Here is a description of baptism to help you think about following Christ in baptism. The whole article will be published in three parts. If you wish to read on go to:

<https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/why-is-baptism-important>

CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK

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When we trust in Christ, his death counts as our death; his resurrection counts as our resurrection. And then in baptism, we dramatically portray what happened spiritually when we received Christ. Our old self of unbelief and rebellion and idolatry died. And our new identity, a person of faith and submission and treasuring Christ, came into being — all of that through faith. And that's what we confess, and that's what we symbolize when we go down into the water, as though we were being buried with Christ, and then come up out.

3. Baptism is by immersion.

Which is the third point — namely, I'm a Baptist. If you ask another kind of Christian, like a Presbyterian or some others, they wouldn't say this necessarily. I believe that we should immerse people in water. Baptism is an immersion, as opposed to sprinkling water on the head. Romans 6 is my reason for that, and there are others. It describes the portrayal of death and burial and resurrection through going down into water as into a grave, and then coming back up out. "We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead, we too might walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:4).

But it's not only the imagery that points to immersion; so does the word itself. The word baptize in

Greek, baptize, means "dip" or "immerse." It means that; it doesn't mean "sprinkle." And most scholars agree that this is the way the early church did practice baptism,

Acts 8:38, when the Ethiopian eunuch became a Christian while he was traveling back and talking with Philip, it says, "They both went down into the water." The eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" (Acts 8:36). And it didn't say Philip went down and got a jug of water and poured it on his head. It says, "They both went down into the water." The same thing happens in John 3:23, where baptism is happening "at Aenon near Salim, because water was plentiful there." So, all of that to say, the third point is this: baptism is an immersion in water.

4. Baptism is in the name of the triune God.

Fourth, baptism means doing this immersing in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Matthew 28:19: "Go . . . make disciples . . . baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." This means that not just any immersing is baptism — like, diving into a swimming pool is not baptism. There is a holy appeal to God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit to be present in this act, and make the portrayal true and real in what it says about the work of redemption.

MORE TO COME NEXT WEEK



TRAILHEAD

BAPTIST CHURCH

Silver Threads Club, 1163 Victoria St. Petawawa, ON | Sunday 10:30 am

www.trailheadbaptist.com | 613-585-9501 | pauldegraaf58@gmail.com

Vision

To be a welcome and supportive community for both those who are still personally exploring a life of faith, and others who already possess an existing personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Mission

To exist as a church family focused upon inviting people to know and follow Jesus Christ within a supportive community of believers.

Values

All of the following values are to be considered acts of worship that are to be bathed in, and supported with abundant prayer.

Relationship/Gospel-Centered/Bible-Based/Intentional/Community-Driven/Teamwork

Sunday, August 9, 2026

Beach Evangelism Outreach // 226-972-9245

Samuel Ens is spearheading a local outreach ministry here in Petawawa for the summer. Consider being part of this experience and connect with Samuel.

Next Sunday at Trailhead // 08.16.26

The Letter of Applied Christianity
Two Kinds of Wisdom
James 3:13-18
Pastor Paul DeGraaf

New platform/New look

Make sure to check out the new look at trailheadbaptistchurch.com.

Note of Thanks

We want to mention what a blessing it has been to see all of the volunteers stepping up to do those big and little jobs that somehow just got done before Tim and Steph went on sabbatical! We can see that you are enjoying your service too! Thank you everyone for your servant like ministry to each other.

Pastor Paul & the Elders

The Letter of Applied Christianity
A Weapon of Mass Destruction
James 3:1-12 ESV
Pastor Paul DeGraaf

Main point: Genuine faith in Jesus Christ must demonstrate its vitality by exercising control over our speech.

James 3:2, 10. "For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. . . . From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so."

James offers four arguments to support his point by using word pictures to illustrate his point:

1. Our Words are influential (3:1-2)

First word picture: a teacher is influential in what he says (3:1)

Second word picture: a model person is influential as an example (3:2)

2. Our Words have Destructive Potential and Need to be Controlled (3:3-6).

Third word picture: a bridled horse (3:3)

Fourth word picture: a sailing ship (3:4)

Fifth word picture: a forest fire (3:5-6)

3. Our Words Are impossible to Control (3:7-8)

Sixth word picture: an animal circus (3:7)

Seventh word picture: a poisonous snake (3:8)

4. Our Words are Consistent with Who We are (3:9-12)

Eighth word picture: a spring of water (3:11)

Ninth word picture: an orchard (3:12)

Tenth word picture: the Dead Sea (3:12)

What to do?

1. Examine your thoughts and words. Recognize the source of what you think and speak.
2. Repent of the sin of your uncontrolled speech.
3. Trust and obey the Holy Spirit's prompting and power.



Sermon Notes

Financial Support Opportunities

Two ways to support Trailhead:

1. Place your donation into the black metal collection box located on the welcome table. Make sure your name and address is on the envelope if you wish to receive a tax deductible receipt.
2. E-transfer, directed to office@trailheadbaptist.com.

Additional details can be found under the 'GIVING' tab at, www.trailheadbaptistchurch.com

Trailhead Leadership

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