



Our Salvation



essentials]



Welcome!

Welcome to **Essentials 2: Our Salvation**. We're thankful you've come this far with us and have chosen to join us for our final study in the Essentials series. Today we will discuss what *Trinity church of Christ* believes about God's salvation plan *and* what we believe the meaning of life is, as found in the Bible.

"So, in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." ~Galatians 3:26-28

Here at *Trinity church of Christ*, our biblically founded salvation message is what unifies us a family. We are going to look at what God's original plan was for mankind, the sin problem man brought on himself, and God's solution to that sin problem: Jesus Christ. So, no matter where you are in your relationship with God, we hope you follow us the whole way through as it is always beneficial to hear the Good News of God's salvation again and hear other ways that the truth can be presented to others.

What, then, is the meaning of life?

The great majority of people live their life not ever knowing why they exist? They live day to day with no idea why they were born or for what purpose their lives have. But everyone wants to be happy and live fulfilling lives, and they try many ways to do this but fail time and again.

- Some seek happiness by acquiring better or more possessions.
- Some seek happiness through experiences of various forms of pleasure.
- Some seek happiness by gaining higher levels of prestige or power.

Real happiness comes from understanding one's **Purpose**.

We believe that it is important for everyone to know why they were created and for what purpose, why and how their relationship with God was broken, how they can make right their relationship with God, and how they can then purpose their life to live within His will.

So, why am I here? Because, God made me so that He could **love me!**

“The Lord appeared to us in the past, saying: “I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.” ~Jeremiah 31:3

“For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined for us the adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will” ~Ephesians 1:4-5

We were created to **Live** in a personal relationship with God and with all the rest of God’s creation. This is our purpose!

“God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. So, God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.” ~Genesis 1:25,27,28

What’s the problem?

Relationships require trust, and a choice, a conscious decision, to love. So, God lovingly gave man a gift: **Choice**. We can choose to love God and live our life according to His will or not love God and continue in our sin filled lives doing whatever we are pleased to do.

“The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. And the Lord God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die” ~Genesis 2:15-17

Because of man’s innate desire, his nature, he chooses to disobey and to ignore God’s principles for living. And there are many reasons and excuses for **disobeying** God.

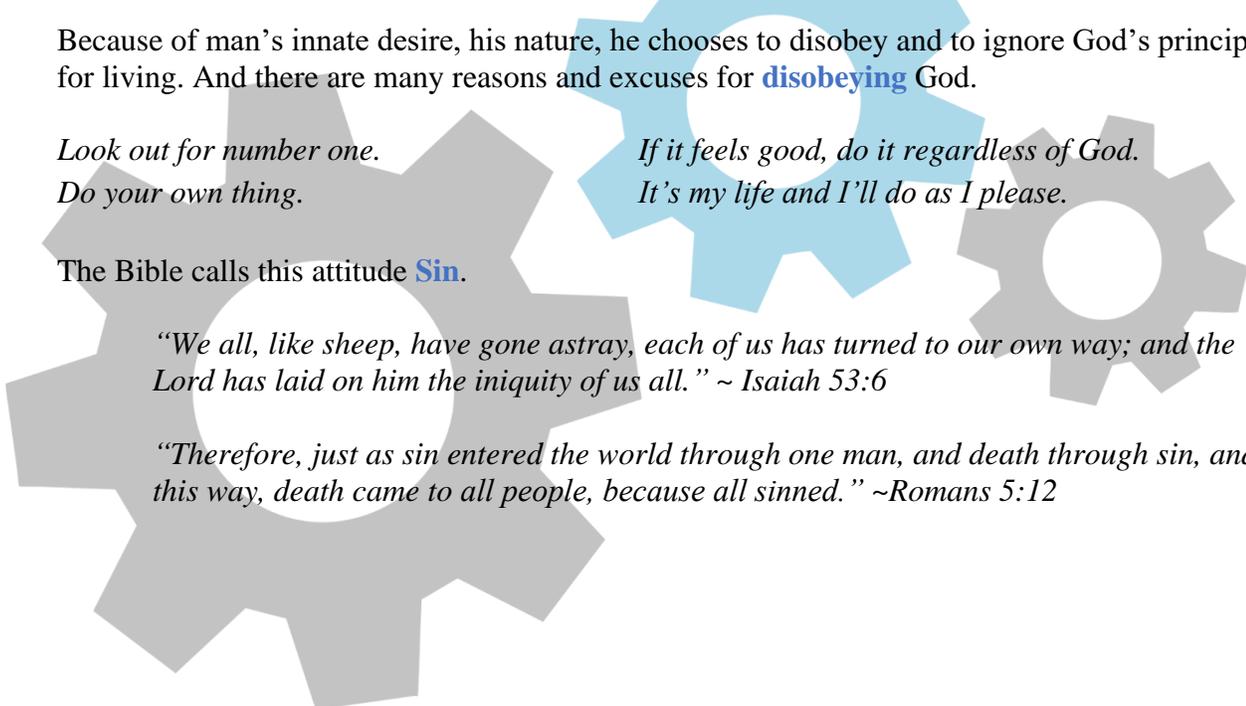
*Look out for number one.
Do your own thing.*

*If it feels good, do it regardless of God.
It’s my life and I’ll do as I please.*

The Bible calls this attitude **Sin**.

“We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.” ~Isaiah 53:6

“Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way, death came to all people, because all sinned.” ~Romans 5:12



Sin breaks our close relationship with God. It causes us to fear God's wrath rather than have reverence for Him and give thanks for His mercies and grace. We struggle because it is our nature to live our lives **outside of His will**.

"But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear." ~Isaiah 59:2

"...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." ~Romans 3:23

God is life, and separation from Him is death, eternal death. Sin has put our lives in eternal jeopardy, and even today we can see the world is filled with pain and despair all because of sin.

"They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; they have no understanding, no fidelity, no love, no mercy. Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them."
~Romans 1:29-32

There is a problem, sin is a problem, and people know it. They also understand their need for a solution. Seeking spiritual answers, we often try to rationalize our spiritual needs (or our lack of spiritual needs):

*My mother was a Christian so...
I'll give up all my bad habits.
I'll be religious and go to church.*

*It doesn't matter what you believe, just be sincere.
I'll work real hard and earn it.
God will understand, He made me this way.*

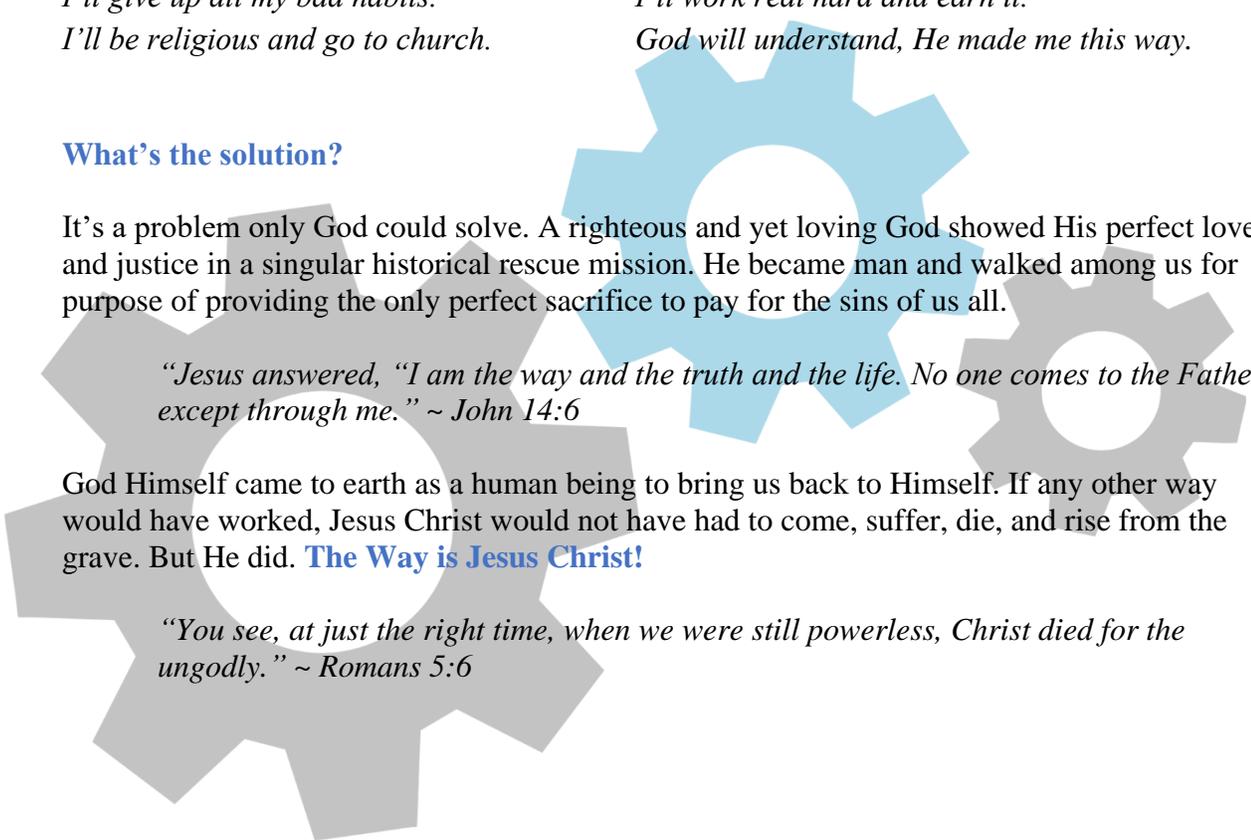
What's the solution?

It's a problem only God could solve. A righteous and yet loving God showed His perfect love and justice in a singular historical rescue mission. He became man and walked among us for purpose of providing the only perfect sacrifice to pay for the sins of us all.

"Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." ~ John 14:6

God Himself came to earth as a human being to bring us back to Himself. If any other way would have worked, Jesus Christ would not have had to come, suffer, die, and rise from the grave. But He did. **The Way is Jesus Christ!**

"You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly." ~ Romans 5:6



“Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him! For if, while we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.” ~Romans 5:9-11

Christ is the bridge, the “**way**”, between our sinful self and our being in right relationship with God.

Jesus has taken care of your sin problem!

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” ~ Romans 6:23

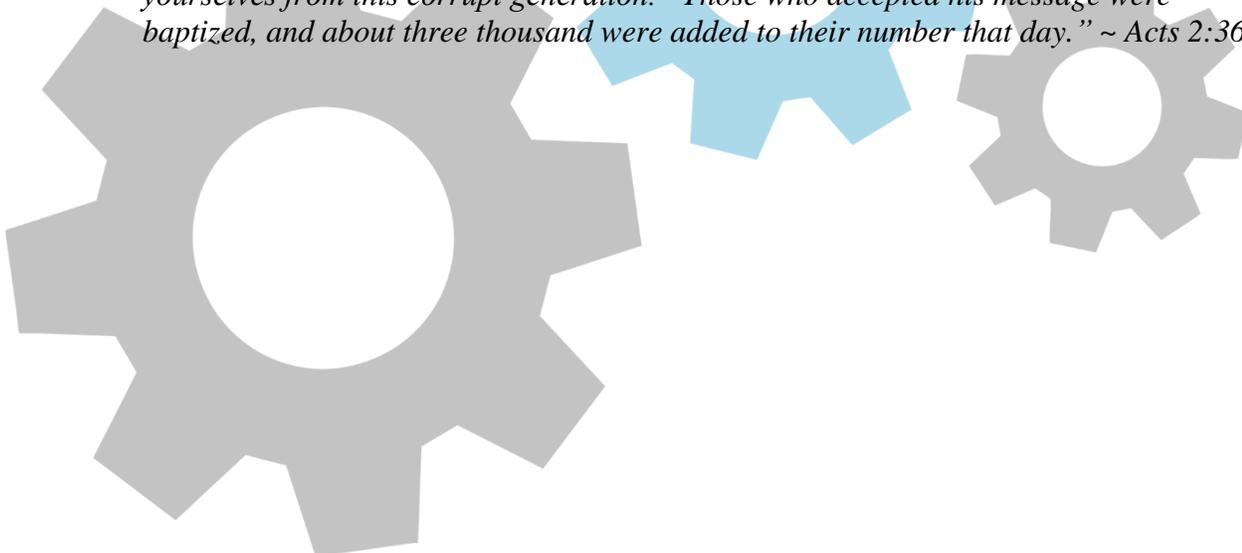
“Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” ~ John 14:6

God did this for us because He loves us, He wants us to be with Him **forever**.

“For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus.” ~ 1 Timothy 2:5

Through Jesus, God has already done His part to restore our relationship to Him. He took the initiative. He has offered us salvation, forgiveness, and eternal life. Now He waits for each of us to individually accept, to choose, what He has done for us.

“Therefore, let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.” When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” 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. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.” With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.” ~ Acts 2:36-41

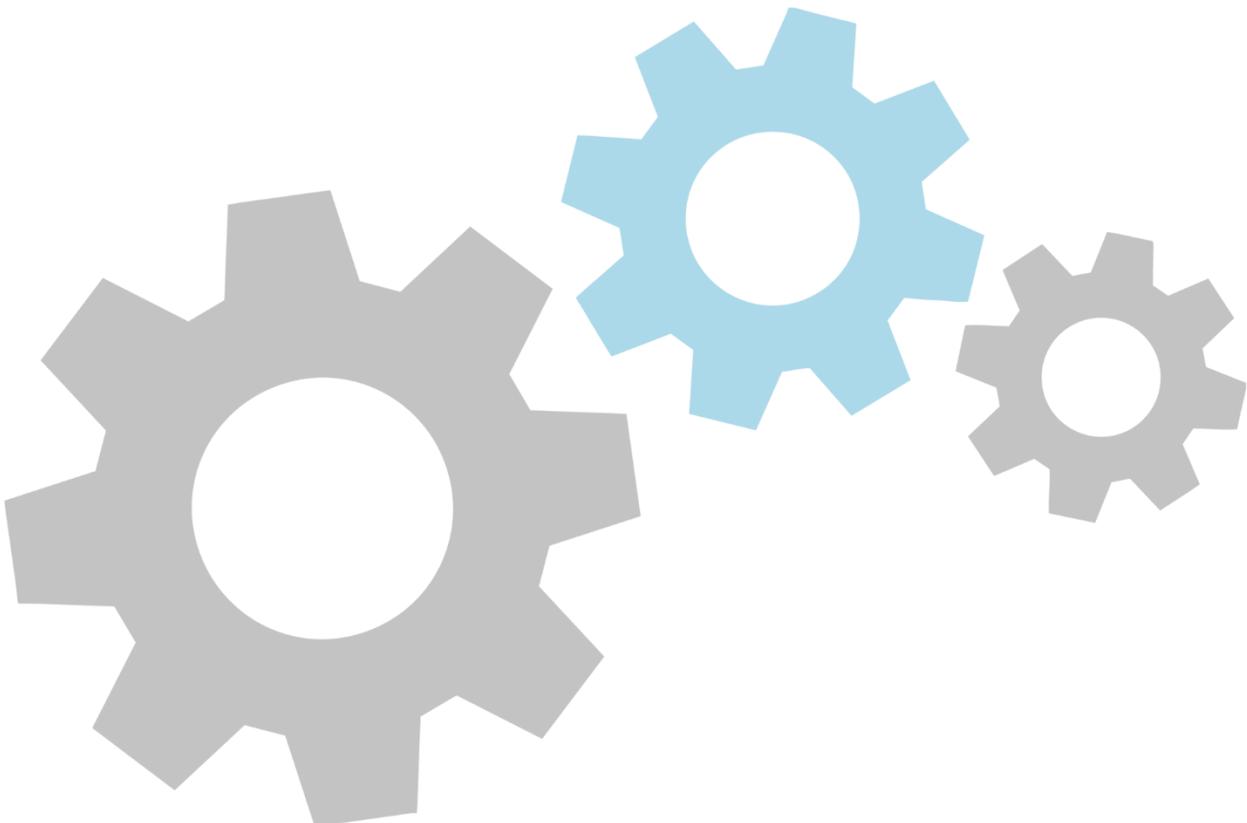


Your notes and questions:

Use this page for notes or write down any questions you might want to ask. You may discuss them in class or later, after the class.

Table Discussion Question:

*What have you thought about God in the past? What kind of God did you think He was?
How have your thoughts changed considering this information presented here?*



What does GOD want ME to do?

The Scripture emphasizes that God saves us by grace through our Faith.

“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

Here is what God wants you to do.

We must each, by believing in Jesus, accept His invitation to be saved.

“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. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.” ~John 3:16, 17

Believe that Jesus died to pay for my sins and that He rose again and is alive today.

“When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” ~ Acts 2:37

“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.” ~ Romans 10:9

Confess with my mouth and my way of life that Jesus is Lord.

“For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.” ~ Romans 10:10

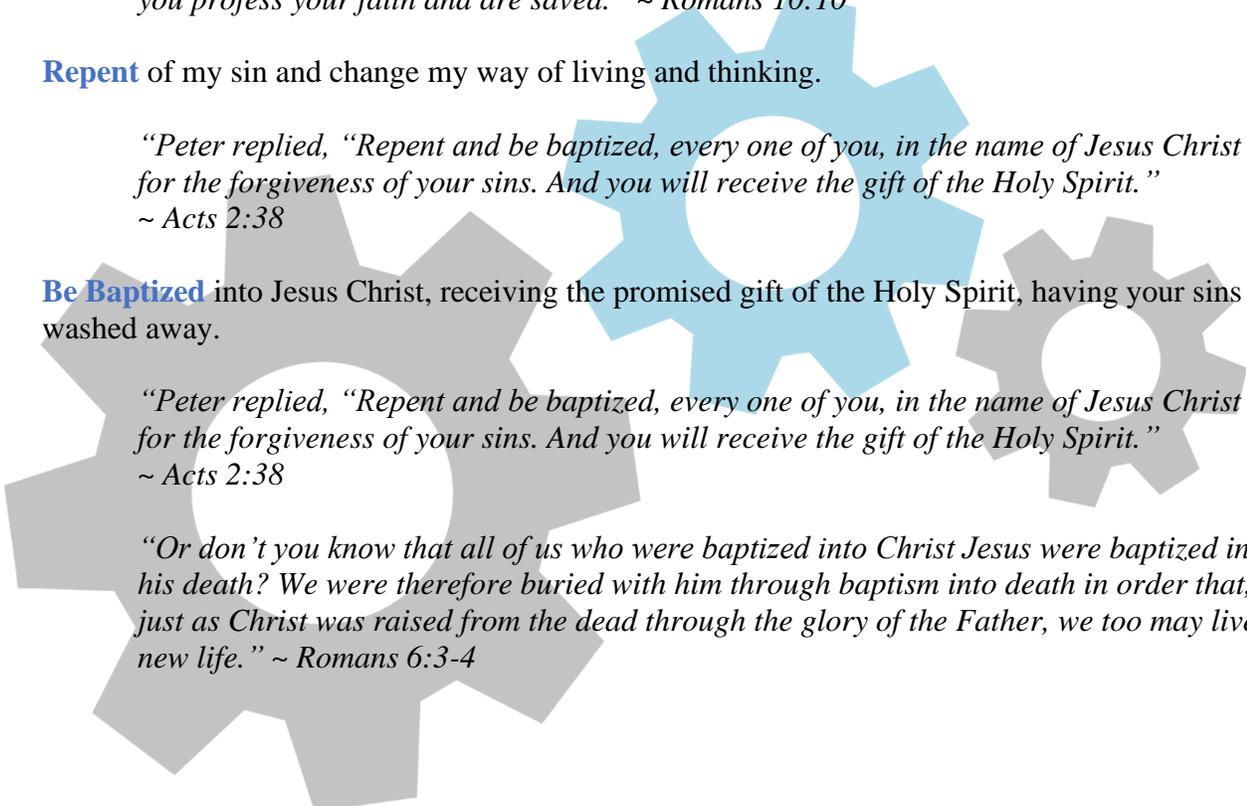
Repent of my sin and change my way of living and thinking.

“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

Be Baptized into Jesus Christ, receiving the promised gift of the Holy Spirit, having your sins washed away.

“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

“Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 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 6:3-4



Why should I be baptized?

To follow the example set by **Jesus**.

“At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.” ~ Mark 1:9

Because Christ **Commanded** it.

“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,” ~ Matthew 28:18-19

To follow the example set by Jesus and the **Earliest Christ-followers**.

“Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.” ~ Acts 2:41

Other examples:

Samaritans ~Acts 8:12

Lydia’s Household ~Acts 8:15

Saul ~Acts 22:1

Ethiopian Eunuch ~Acts 8:36-38

Philippians Jailer ~Acts 16:33

What is the meaning of baptism?

It means **Washing**.

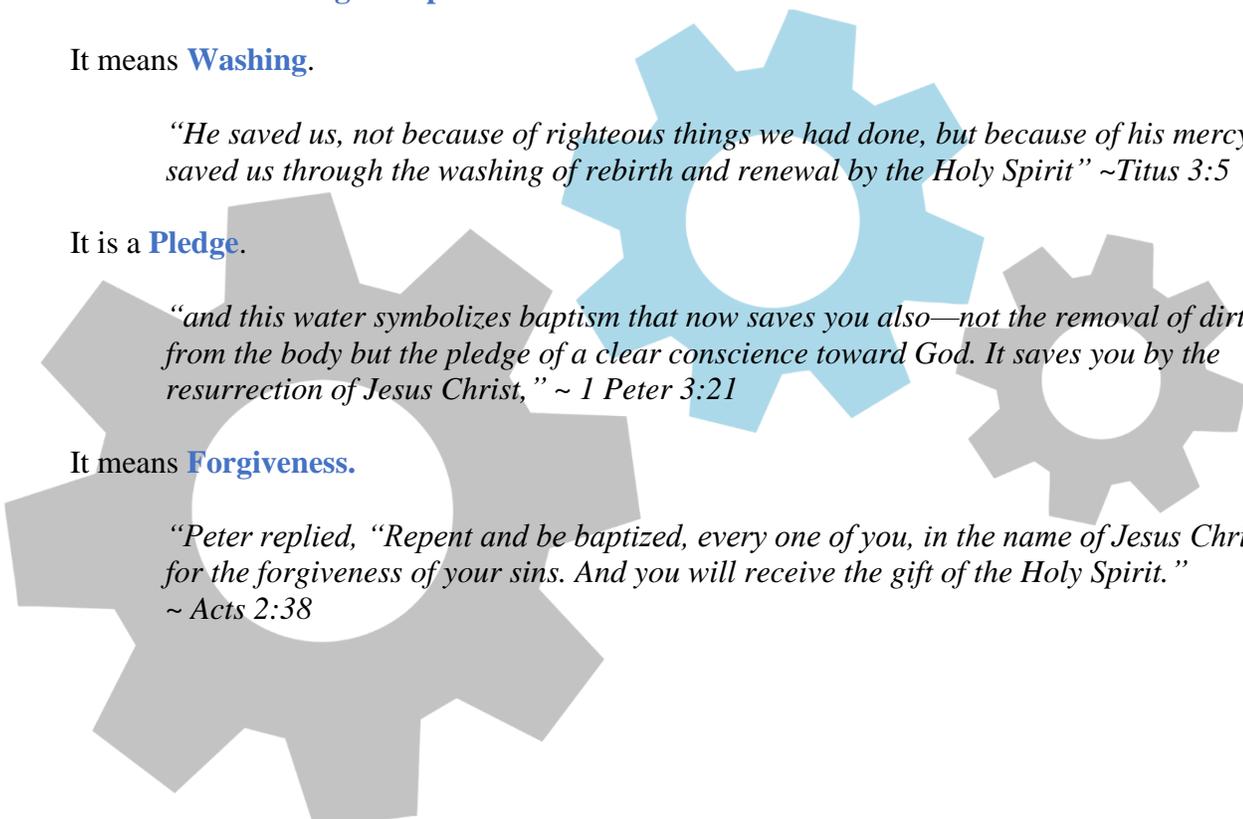
“He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit” ~Titus 3:5

It is a **Pledge**.

“and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ,” ~ 1 Peter 3:21

It means **Forgiveness**.

“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



It means **Dying**.

“having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.”
~ Colossians 2:12

Why be baptized by immersion?

Because Jesus was baptized that way.

“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.”
~Matthew 3:16

Every baptism in the Bible was by immersion.

“And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing.” ~ Acts 8:38-39

The word “baptize” means to **plunge underneath** water.

The Greek word “baptize” means “to immerse or dip under water.”

It best symbolizes a burial and resurrection! (Greek: *Βαπτίζω*: Baptizo)

Who should be baptized, and when?

Every person who has Faith in Christ and wants to be saved...needs to be baptized as soon as possible!

“Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.” ~ Acts 2:41

“But when they believed Philip as he proclaimed the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.” ~ Acts 8:12

“They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.” Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptized.” ~Acts 16:31-33

At **Trinity church of Christ**, we wait until our children are old enough to believe and understand for themselves the true meaning of God’s salvation plan and baptism before we baptize them.

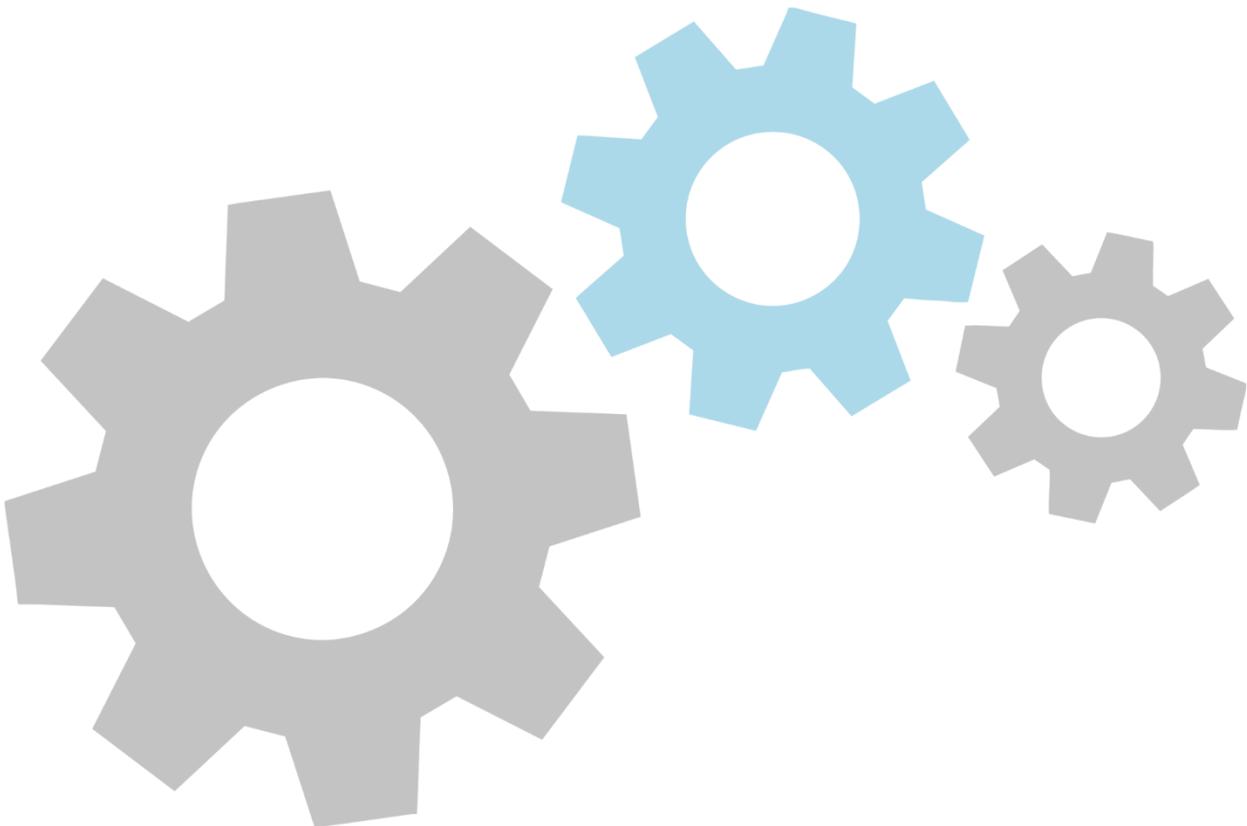
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Table Discussion Question:

Review the Biblical plan of salvation.

Is there anything you might want, or need, to do in response to this teaching?



Further study concerning baptism...

There is only one baptism.

“There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.” ~Ephesians 4:4-6

*“Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.”
~1 Corinthians 12:12-13*

Without faith baptism is meaningless.

“Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.” ~Mark 16:16

“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

Baptism speaks of discipleship.

“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,” ~Matthew 28:19

Baptism speaks of new birth

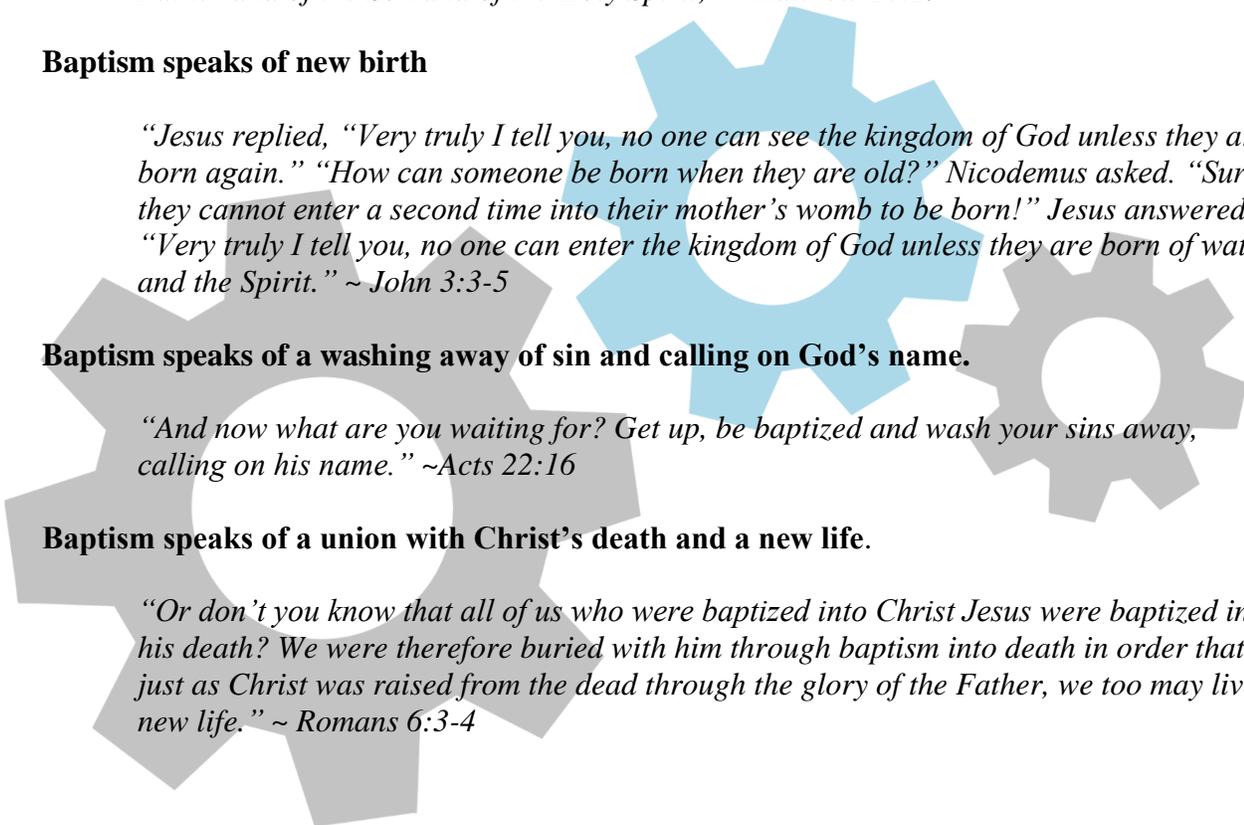
“Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.” “How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!” Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit.” ~John 3:3-5

Baptism speaks of a washing away of sin and calling on God’s name.

“And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.” ~Acts 22:16

Baptism speaks of a union with Christ’s death and a new life.

“Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 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 6:3-4



Baptism speaks of sanctification and justification.

*“And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.”
~1 Corinthians 6:11*

Baptism speaks of putting on new, spiritual, clothing.

“So, in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.” ~ Galatians 3:26-27

Baptism speaks of God being the one performing the baptism.

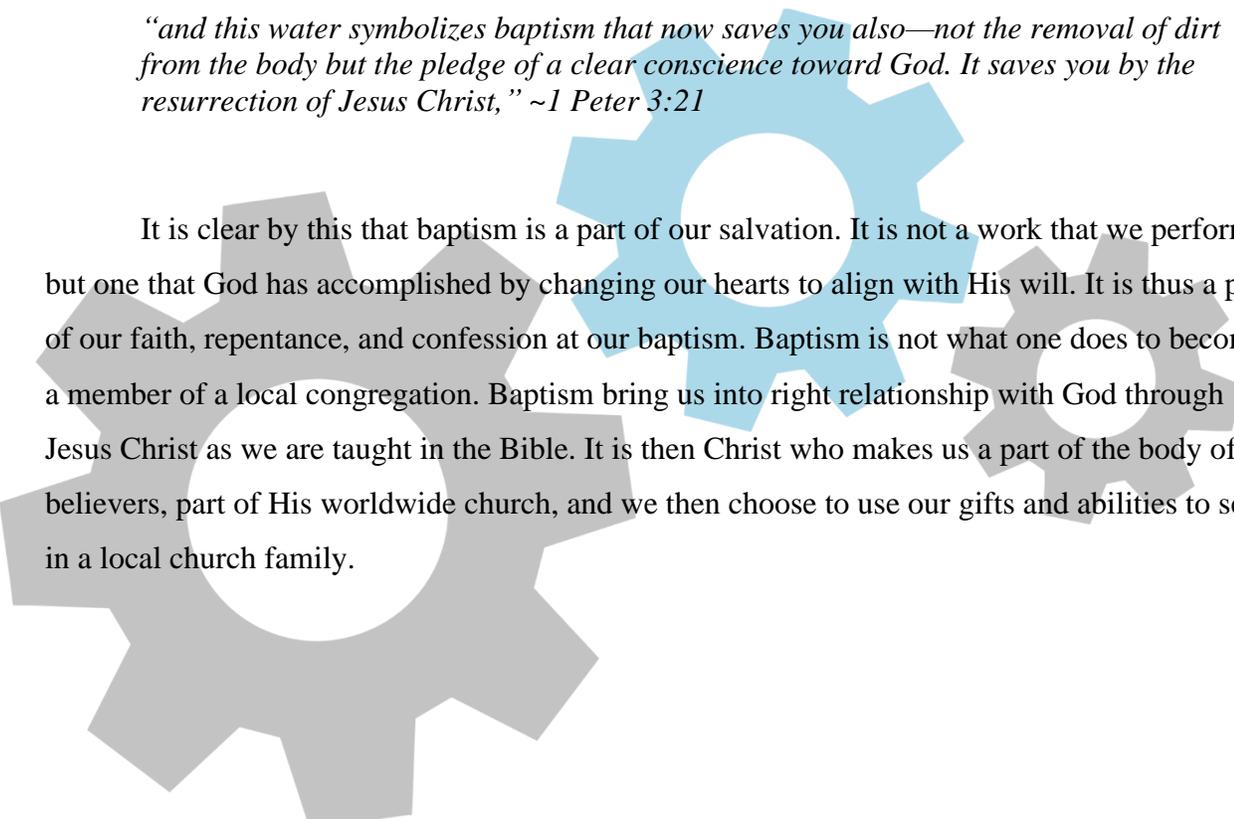
“In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self-ruled by the flesh was put off when you were circumcised by Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.” ~Colossians 2:11-12

Baptism speaks of a washing or rebirth.

“He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,” ~Titus 3:5

Baptism speaks of salvation and the pledge of a good conscience to God.

“and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ,” ~1 Peter 3:21



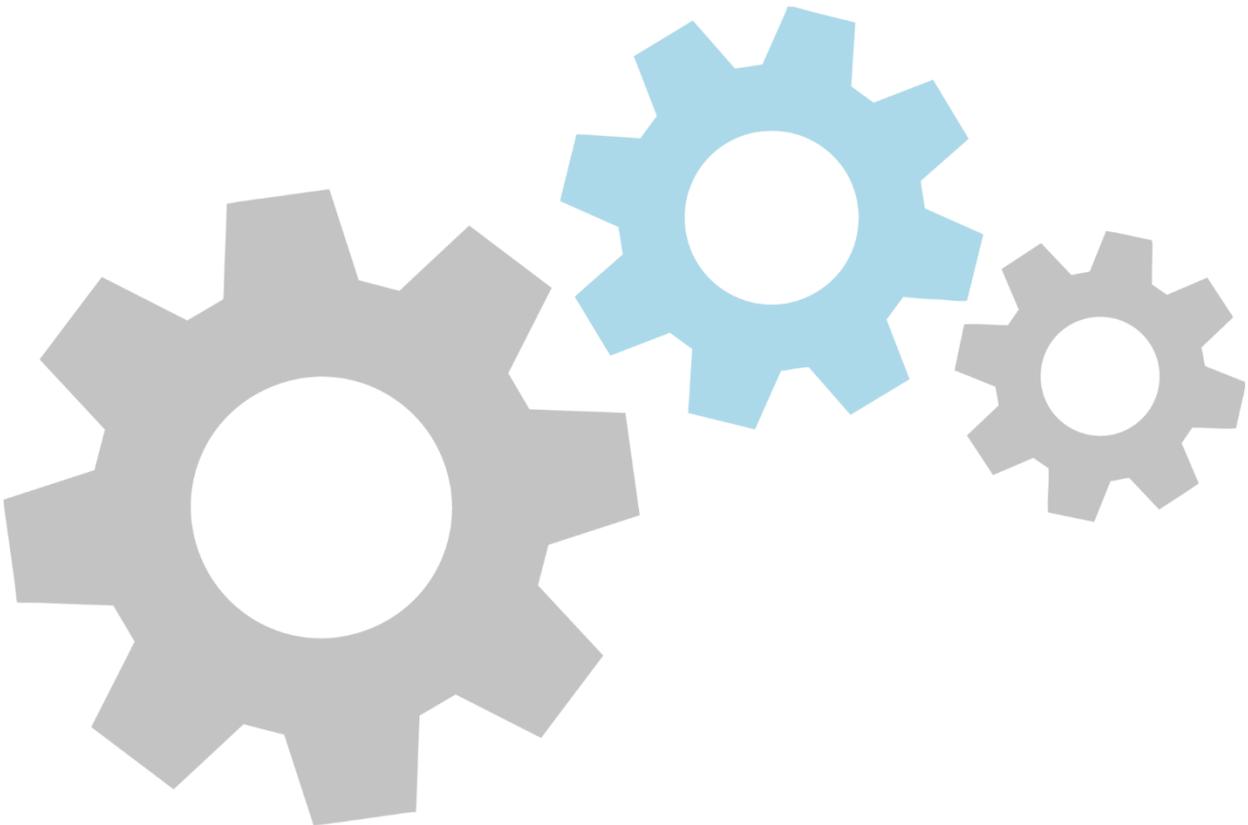
It is clear by this that baptism is a part of our salvation. It is not a work that we perform but one that God has accomplished by changing our hearts to align with His will. It is thus a part of our faith, repentance, and confession at our baptism. Baptism is not what one does to become a member of a local congregation. Baptism bring us into right relationship with God through Jesus Christ as we are taught in the Bible. It is then Christ who makes us a part of the body of believers, part of His worldwide church, and we then choose to use our gifts and abilities to serve in a local church family.

Your notes and questions:

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Table Discussion Question:

Do you have any further questions you would like to have answered or needs that we can look into having fulfilled or addressed for you?



Appendixes

What about Communion (The Lord's Supper)?

Jesus never asked His disciples to remember His birth. But he did instruct them to remember His death and resurrection. In fact, Jesus gave the church a visible reminder of His death. We call it the Lord's Supper. Here are some things we believe about the Lord's Supper.

It is a **Memorial and Remembrance**.

"In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." ~1 Corinthians 11:25

"and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." ~1 Corinthians 11:24

It is a **Proclamation**.

"For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes." ~1 Corinthians 11:26

It is fitting that in this remembrance of His divine sacrifice that we come to communion with a **Right Heart**.

*"So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup."
~1 Corinthians 11:27-28*

It is a **Weekly** part of our worship service.

Jesus never said when or how often believers should observe the Lord's Supper. However, the Apostles, who were taught by Jesus, committed themselves and Christ's followers to regularly share in remembrance.

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." ~Acts 2:42

*"On the first day of the week we came together to break bread. Paul spoke to the people and, because he intended to leave the next day, kept on talking until midnight."
~Acts 20:7*

Whenever or as often as we have the Lord's Supper, it is meant for believers and should be done in a **Worthy Manner**.

“So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord.” ~1 Corinthians 11:27

Children and pre-disciples are not invited to take communion until they have understood the concepts of salvation and accepted Christ as Lord. However, we believe communion is a teaching opportunity to explain these concepts.

