

## Why Baptism?

There is often confusion about what baptism is and what it is not. Hopefully this FAQ will give you some brief answers to commonly asked questions about baptism.

### **What is baptism?**

- *Water baptism is an ordinance appointed by Christ as a sign of the beginning of one's Christian life. Baptism does not make one a Christian nor does baptism wash away a person's sins. However, baptism is an important Christ-appointed ordinance.*

### **Who should be baptized?**

- *Anyone who has made a sincere decision to trust Jesus Christ as his or her personal Savior and Lord*

### **Why should I consider being baptized?**

- *Baptism was exemplified by Jesus*
  - *Jesus Himself was baptized by John the Baptist in the Jordan River. One reason He did this was to set an example for us to follow in His footsteps.*
- *Baptism was commanded by Jesus*
  - *Jesus commanded us, "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."*
- *Baptism is an outward sign of an inward reality*
  - *Baptism symbolizes our union by faith with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection. It symbolizes we have died with Christ and are raised to new life in Him. Baptism is also a visual reminder that our sins are washed away because of what Christ has done for us on the cross. And finally, baptism is a reminder that Christ Himself has baptized us by giving us His Spirit to live within us.*
- *Baptism is a public statement of one's personal commitment to Jesus Christ*
  - *Baptism is a public confession to the church, to the world, to the heavenly hosts, and to God Himself of one's decision to be a true follower of Jesus Christ*
- *Baptism is an encouragement to others in the body of Christ*
  - *People at Hope consider baptism services as one of their favorite services because we get to hear people's stories and what Jesus Christ means to them.*
- *Baptism can be used by God to touch lives*
  - *God often uses these baptisms to reach out to those who do not know Christ. For this reason, we would also encourage you to invite friends and family members. It's a great way to share with others about your faith in Jesus.*
- *Baptism is a prerequisite for Hope church membership*
  - *Because of the above reasons, we believe that all committed followers of Jesus Christ should be baptized. Therefore, here at Hope, we require believer's baptism for official church membership.*

### **Should I be baptized again if I was baptized as an infant?**

- *Yes! Infant baptism is really a decision made by one's parents. Believers' baptism is made by the individual symbolizing his/her personal decision to trust in Jesus Christ and become His follower.*

### **How can I be baptized?**

- *Here at Hope, we give people the opportunity to be baptized outdoors in June and in August. Let Pastor Wayne know of your decision to be baptized. You will attend a brief 1 ½ hr. workshop where you will learn the simple truths about what the Bible teaches about baptism. He will also give you practical instructions about our baptism service.*

To know more about what it means to begin a relationship with God, ask for a free copy of the booklet "How to Know God Personally" at the welcome table in the lobby