

Baptisms: January 17, 2021

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“Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to the promise. Galatians 3: 23-29

“As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.”
Clothed in Christ is a really fancy way of saying we wear Jesus on our hearts. What’s extra wonderful about baptism is that it isn’t about what we do, or what the person performing the baptism does; but it’s what GOD is doing– welcoming us into his family and connecting us to the life and death of Jesus, promising us (the baptized) new life all at the same time. Pretty amazing stuff, huh?

We learned last week that it could be a pastor or a minister or the guy who has been reading the Bible for a really long time and knows God’s word who performs a baptism...as long as there is also water. All we need for a baptism is God’s word + water. We have often placed much weight on the tradition of baptism during church service with an audience and family surrounding the sponsors. If we’ve learned anything this past year; it may be that basics are more valuable than we ever realized. God’s word + Water = Baptism.

Baptisms do come with their own set of promises – depending on if or when you were baptized these promises were made for or by you.

1. To live among God’s faithful people,
2. Bring you to the word of God and the holy supper,

3. Teach you the Lord's prayer, the Creed and the Ten Commandments,
4. Place in your hands the holy scriptures,
5. Nurture you in faith and prayer so that you would learn to trust God,
6. Proclaim Christ through word and deed,
7. Care for others and the world God made,
8. And seek justice and peace in all the world.

"But Miss Jasmine doing all of that sounds really HARD!!!" I know. It sounds like A LOT.

Who were your sponsors? Or, who would you ask to be your sponsors?

What things on this list are you already doing? Do you do every day? What things do you never do?

My hypothesis is that you're all doing these things pretty much all the time anyway! You are all amazing, and regularly feeding your Holy Spirit by keeping your baptismal promises and maybe you don't even realize it! "But Miss Jasmine, how could that be?!"

I'm glad you asked!!

Being in Sunday School, listening to the sermons online, sharing our posts on Facebook or Instagram, singing our hymns are all great ways to live among God's faithful people AND proclaim the good news! Donating to local food banks, Human Solutions, SnowCap, mowing a neighbor's lawn, making phone tree calls, participating in church council or fellowship are all great examples of caring for others and the world. Sitting down to dinner even with your family, praying, thanking God for your blessings and food to sustain you is communing with your family in these COVID days. We continue to study scriptures, the Lord's prayer, creeds, Commandments and we are regularly working to seek justice and peace in this world: I hear it from each of you every week.

When it's hard; start simple. Baptized or not "we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith."

Remember that being here, hearing these words, following Jesus, living among God's people and just being YOU makes you a child of God.