

The Meaning of Baptism Text: **Romans 5:20, 21; 6:1-4**

Believer's baptism is symbolic of:

1. Being buried with Christ
2. Being raised with Christ to newness of life.

I. WHAT BAPTISM PORTRAYS

Understanding what baptism portrays enables us to understand what really happened when we received Jesus Christ as Lord and Master.

Romans 6:4

This text contains a great truth about Believers.

We are all dead. When Christ died, He died our death.

This means at least two things.

- 1st – we are not the same people we used to be. Our old self has died.
- 2nd – our future physical death will not have the same meaning for us that it would have had if Christ had not died.

Since we have died with Christ, and since He died our death for us, our death will not result in the horrible defeat it could have.

1st Corinthians 15:54, 55

II. WE HAVE BEEN BAPTIZED INTO HIS DEATH

When we received Jesus Christ as Lord and Master, we were united to Him spiritually.

His death became our death, and His resurrection life became our life.

How does that happen? It is the work of the Holy Spirit

1st Corinthians 12:13

When we received Jesus Christ as Lord and Master, the Holy Spirit immersed us into Christ.

Spiritually speaking, we became part of the Body of Christ.

This happened through faith, Ephesians says we are saved by grace through faith.

Romans 6:1-4

And so we see that baptism is a symbol of our being dead to sin and buried.

Baptism portrays a burial when we are placed under the water.

But we don't stay under the water! Yes, as a believer, we are dead to sin.

But that's not all!

WE ARE ALIVE TO GOD IN CHRIST JESUS!

III. WE ARE RAISED UP WITH HIM THROUGH FAITH.

Colossians 2:12

Colossians 2 makes explicit what Romans 6 leaves implicit.

Baptism expresses our faith in the work of God to raise Jesus from the dead.

You cannot be a believer unless you believe that God raised Jesus from the dead.

Romans 10:9-10

So what baptism does is publicly declare that

"I believe that Jesus was raised from the dead, and that I am united to Him by faith."

In summary:

Baptism portrays what happened to us when we became a Believer.

We were united to Christ by the Holy Spirit.

His death became our death, and we died with Him.

And in the same instant, His life became our life.

We are now walking in newness of life with Christ in us.

And all of this is because of God's grace, which we experience through faith.