

I'm going to read about 41 verses.

So when the day of Pentecost arrived,
they were all together in one place.

And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like
a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire
house where they were sitting and divided.

Tongues of fire appeared to them
and rested on each of them.

And they were all filled with the Holy
Spirit and began to speak in other tongues
as the spirit gave them utterance.

Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews,
devout men from every nation under heaven.

And at this sound, the multitude came together.

And they were bewildered, because each one was
hearing them speak in his own language.

And they were amazed and astonished, saying, are
not all these who are speaking Galileans?

How is it that we hear each one
of us in his own native language?

Parthians and Medes and Elamites, and residents of
Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia and Pontius and Asia
and Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and parts of
Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome,
both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians.

We hear them telling in our own
tongues the mighty works of God.

And all were amazed and perplexed, saying
one another, what does this mean?

But others, mocking, said, they're
filled with new wine.

But Peter, standing with the eleven,
lifted his voice and addressed them.

Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let
this be known to you, and give ear to my
words, for these people are not drunk as you suppose,
since it's only the third hour of the day.

But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel.

And in the last days it shall be, God declares
that I will pour out my spirit on all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your
young men shall see visions, and your old men shall
dream dreams, even of my male servants and female servants
in those days I will pour out my spirit, and
they shall prophesy, and I shall show wonders in the
heavens above and signs in the earth below.

Blood and fire and vapor of smoke.

The sun shall be turned to darkness and
the moon to blood before the day of
the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day.

And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Men of Israel, hear these words.

Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst.

As you yourselves know, this Jesus delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.

God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.

For David says, concerning him, I saw the Lord always before me.

For he is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken.

Therefore my heart was glad and my tongue rejoiced.

My flesh will also dwell in hope.

For you will not abandon my soul to Hades or let your holy one see corruption.

You have made known to me the paths of life and you will make me full of gladness with your presence.

Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried and his tomb is with us to this day.

Being therefore a prophet and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one

of his descendants on his throne, he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. This Jesus God raised up.

And of that we are all witnesses.

Being therefore exalted to the right hand of God and having received from the father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing.

For David did not ascend into the heavens.

But he himself says, the Lord said to my Lord, sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool.

Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.

Now, when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and they said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, brothers, what shall we do?

And Peter said to them, 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 for the promises for you and your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord calls to himself.

And with many other words, he bore

witness and continued to exhort them, saying,
save yourselves from this crooked generation.
So those who received his word were baptized.
And there were added that day about 3000 souls.
Pentecost is the birthday of the church.
Pentecost is the birthday of the church.
After ten days of prayer, united prayer,
the disciples are receiving the promise filled
with the Holy Spirit in a.
It's a miracle of language.
As they began proclaiming the mighty works of
God in languages they hadn't known seconds earlier.
A reversal of Babel, we often call it now
in this scene, the tongues that we're speaking.
These are known languages, even dialects.
If you look in the Greek, it was
actually, there are even dialects because you speak
differently, different parts, even in the same language.
And this is, I don't know, 2000 years before
Google translate, which ain't got nothing on the Holy
Spirit because it's like instant and perfect, right?
And the reason for this is to spread even there in
that place, begin to spread the message to all the nations
and reap a harvest of souls because it had begun.
And not coincidentally, this is Pentecost, is the festival

of harvest, or weeks, and that's celebrating the covenant given at Sinai after Israel is delivered from Egypt, 50 days after the feast of first fruits.

So here are 50 days, yet the 40, Jesus ascends another 1050 days after Christ, who is the first fruit from the dead.

The ultimate sacrifice.

Here we have the harvest of the nations begin.

And we can see this from the scene dwelling there in Jerusalem, there were Jews and they were devout men from every nation under heaven.

They were dispersed.

So they're coming.

They're coming on this great pilgrimage like probably none of us have ever really seen.

And it is the perfect opportunity, actually, it is the only, you know, perfect opportunity that was set up for this to happen and exactly how the church was birthed because it would have taken a lifetime to learn languages and spread the gospel without a miracle.

And it only took moments.

And weirdly enough, they called them drunk because they were speaking in learned languages.

Usually when you get drunk, you get stupider and they're getting smarter.

But that's all they had.

That's all they could explain.

They had no other explanation for it.

It must be some mystical alcohol, I don't know.

So Peter stands up and preaches.

He uses scripture that they know

to point them to the Messiah.

And out of all the things to say, he

tells them, and you're the ones who killed him.

You're responsible.

What greater sin can any of us imagine than killing

the son of God or just being accused of it?

And instead of retaliating, which

you would have expected, right? Like what?

Who are you to say that we. What? No.

Instead of retaliation because of the

work of the spirit, conviction came.

Conviction came for these devout jewish pilgrims.

Gathered by the thousands.

They were cut to the heart.

And they said to Peter and the rest

of the apostles, in this moment of guilt

and shame, what are we supposed to do?

What can we do?

And Peter, he responds with the same thing that

any of us must do this morning in our lives when the Holy Spirit cuts our hearts, meaning you feel that guilt and that shame.

What we have to do is the same thing.

And that's 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.

So the people who killed Jesus,

I think this is incredible.

They're some of the first to be reached by the grace of God.

That's amazing.

I mean, isn't that an unforgivable sin if you had any part in it, right?

Apparently not.

Obviously not.

And we think we've done bad things in the past.

So what they had to do?

What do we have to do to be saved?

What did they have to do?

Was it that all they had to do was just simply believe that the Messiah was real?

At that point?

They're already believing that the messiah is the messiah.

And the question is, what must we do?
There's this moment happening, and we define it.
We try to make our own ways to
explain it, to answer the question, but the
Bible clearly tells us how this happens.

First of all, we can't do
anything to earn our salvation, right?
Obviously not.

Nothing we can do.

But there are things that we must do.
There are things that we must partake of, enter into,
and express in our hearts in order to respond to
the grace of God that is so abundant, even today.

And the first thing is, I'm going to
use a letter, because I'll use a.

You have an a and b, and then you have three.
Probably some points in there, but hopefully
you only just remember one this morning.

The first one is repented. Repent. Repent.

Oh, we don't like that word.

Such an archaic word.

Makes you think of turn and burn, right?

You better repent or you're going
to hell, that kind of thing.

Well, in a way that's true.

Luke 13 three says, no, I tell you, but
unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.

So I guess Luke saying that softer, right?

You're going to perish if you
don't repent, but it's true.

But what is repentance?

And usually we think of it
as a feeling of remorse, right?

Like feeling you feel bad for your sins,
you feel bad for things that you've done,
but that's not repentance at all.

We can feel remorse all day long.

You can feel bad about doing things all week long,
in fact, your entire life, and you can never repent.

You could still never repent and still feel bad.

So when the Jewish pilgrims hearing that they crucified
the messiah and they're responsible, when they experience that
feeling bad, that remorse as we call it, the
words for cut to the heart, in the Greek,
that's your remorse right there.

So that's going to be separate from
what Peter tells him to do.

Now, it helps lead to repentance,
but it's just a helper.

Here's what repentance means.

Maybe a new definition for you. I don't.

It means a change of allegiance.

Repentance is a change of allegiance.

Feeling sorry, I mean, I don't know about you.

I felt sorry for stuff when I was an unbeliever and I had barely a moral compass.

When we feel bad for doing something, what do we do as humans?

We try to make up for it as humans, we do, right?

Talking about dogs, what is my dogs?

What do they do?

Seems like they experience just shame or fear.

You know, I found the poop.

You know, they know that I found it and they're ashamed, right?

I say, Lucy and my little mini schnauzer, Lucy, she's.

She's like, her head is down.

She knows that she did something wrong, but she doesn't do anything to make up for it.

She's still making the same mistakes.

That's why she's in the kennel right now.

Poor thing is from a puppy mill.

So she's been through trauma, but, you know, we're working on her, but she's not gonna make up for it.

We do this as human beings.

We feel like we can make up.

It's like I eat too many calories. Oh, no big deal.

I can just make up for it by exercising the next day.

And we get in this thing where we think good deeds can make up for where we lack and we're going to become better people if we do enough good stuff and we never make up for it because we're going to continue to fall short in these fallen human bodies.

So it's a battle we're never going to win.

So if you're trying to win that battle with good deeds and works and all that, you're never going to win.

Repentance is going from that side of the battle.

It's basically going from one side of the battle in the life that you're in and fighting the weapons that you've been fighting with your whole life, and you're going to lay down those weapons and you're getting off of that side and you're going to a completely different side and picking up new weapons.

That's the picture of repentance this morning.

Amen.

And those weapons are spiritual weapons.

They're not with your own strength.

In fact, you didn't even make them or you didn't do anything to obtain them.

They were given to you.

So repentance, unlike the world system that we're in, and of course religious law and zeal and all those things, it's not about making bad people good, it's actually about bringing dead people to life. That's what repentance is about.

Now, John the Baptist came preaching this repent, the kingdom of heaven is near. Somebody's coming greater than me.

And he was telling them to repent, and he's baptizing people and a baptism of repentance. But the problem is, out of that, they didn't have the equipment to live up to their repentance.

There was something missing and they baptized in people's names. And that showed your allegiance.

Well, to be baptized into the name of John isn't going to do much John was John.

To be baptized into the name of Jesus is much different because Jesus is God.

So it's way different.

So you go from repent a, and here's the b, be baptized.

So here's your baptism class.

Ephesians four. Four.

There is one body, one spirit, just as you are called to the one hope that belongs to your call.

One lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

It sounds like baptism is pretty important.

I mean, just today, if you came from whatever history, whatever background, just kind of forget everything you know about baptism and just hear what the word of God says this morning, because it sounds like just from those verses between faith, pretty important, I say, and God, we have a little baptism and I'm actually shame to say this and I'm grateful you take care of shame.

I'm ashamed to say we, but for God, how important this is.

This is biblical baptism

It's Immersion.

That's number one.

That means going under the water.

So what I'm saying is it's not sprinkling.

I'm not saying that God anyone who's ever been sprinkled.

He's not going to accept.

He's going to say, oh, no, no, no.

But this is what the Bible says.

So I'm just preaching what the Bible says.

There's no way that it can't be immersion.

So there's no way that biblical baptism cannot be

going under the water and coming out here anytime

anytime

they're baptized, they're going under, they're coming out, of course, because it's a burial and it's resurrection.

You're dying.

Coming alive.

Plus, Jesus models it.

So it's the best argument there is

Matthew 3:16.

And when Jesus was baptized, I blundered there.

Cause I'm thinking Jesus did this.

Why is this so complicated?

And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were open to him, and he saw the spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him.

And behold, a voice from heaven said, this is my beloved son with whom I am well pleased.

So how in the world can we lessen something

Jesus did at the start of his ministry?

Not only that, he commands us to do

it at the end of this ministry.

Matthew 28:19.

Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations,

baptizing them in the name of the Father

and the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

So does baptizing there, is that like
a kind of a figurative baptism?

Are we just saying that we need to go reach the nations
and "immerse" them in the word of God?

No, we're not going to allegorize or make figurative this
what He is saying to do is actually what He's saying
to do, and that is to make disciples.

And part of making disciples is
baptizin them immersion, in water.

But I am going to argue with myself.

I was taught that

This is only symbolic.

Just a symbol don't have to be baptized...

Just a profession, just a public.... Just.

Just a public display of faith.

And as I'm speaking to you, I

had to repent for my way of thinking...

So number one is immersion.

And here we go for number two.

Don't get mad because it's biblical.

It is more than a symbol.

It is more than a symbol.

It's involving an impartation.

These are things that we can't see

it bestowing upon the grace of God.

We do this in other things, in communion.

we say Jesus is present with us in that we

don't, of course, don't we want to believe

in, like, transubstantiation like the catholics typically believe

That it is actually becoming the blood and body of Christ

And you'll have separate drains to

drain the communion trays, you know, thinking

that that's actually Jesus blood.

So I'm not going that far, but

I'm not going to lighten it either and

Say nothing is happening when nothing supernatural

is happening, and I think scripture will prove that for you this morning if you are once were I was....

we anoint the sick with oil.

Yeah, it's symbolic, but it's also sacramental.

This is the God who uses,

like, people's cloths to heal people. I mean ...

who are we to say what He can and can't do??? We just can't do that.

To me

cessationist friends.....

Who are you to say that God can't heal?

I mean, really, or God can't do this...

God can't do that, so it's immersing ...

sacramental its more than a symbol

it has to be because.

Well, the word God proves, it's
immersing our lives in Christ
in the conversion process
And when we are doing that, it's out of repentance, right?
And we're changing allegiances, we're laying
down what we were fighting with, and
we're picking up these new weapons.
And you also, at the
same time, joining a community.
We're entering into a new kingdom community.
It is such a change that the scripture proves.
It's such a change in us ...that the Bible
says in baptism we are putting on Christ.
Galatians 3:26.
For in Christ Jesus we are
all sons of God through faith.
For as many of you as were baptized
into Christ have put on Christ.
There's neither Jew nor Greek,
there's neither slave nor free.
There's neither male nor female for you are all
one, Christ Jesus, there goes your divisions.
And baptism has a place in that.
By grace, of course, through faith.
But in baptism entering into sacramentally we're entering

into identification with Christ's death and His resurrection
and in turn entering into His Body
and you're a family of God that's family
for life, for eternity.

So think of it more like a supernatural initiation.

Not simply.

Yeah, it's just symbolic act.

It's just.

It's just communion.

If it's just communion, why.

Why did Paul say that if you're
not taking it in a worthy manner?

It's just a symbol.

Something changes ladies and gentlemen

And if you are from a Calvinist background,

I understand, but please hear me out.

Not everything Calvin said was wrong, but

I think he was born in like the 1500s

So he's just a man. Okay?

And if you're from that kind of background, you are going to

say, well, this guy, I think he's teaching that

Is saying a work can earn our salvation??

Because I don't agree with that ..

WE ARE NOT SAVED BY WORKS, you're absolutely right.

You're absolutely right.

There's nothing you can do to earn salvation..

So that part, I don't agree with all of it, but

that part, of what Calvin said I understand but people take it too far

Baptism

and I am probably going to say multiple times, just so I am clear...

is not earning your salvation by work ..it is impossible to do that ..it is...

God working in you within the conversion process.

It's God's work in you and

you're participating in it ...physically.

Receiving a gift is never earning...

Anyway, it's a gift your salvation,

but you have to receive it.

You stretch out your hand to

take a gift...oh you're doing something.

That must be work!! No, not at all.

Um What's your dream car Corgan?

Just come on tell us... dream car

70 Chevelle?

Fully restored alright he wants a

70 Chevelle everything original

Mint its probably like worth 100,000 dollars

I go and I find someone to build this car.

I fund it, they build it.

Perfection exactly as it came off

the lot.

What color. probably black

I pay for it. I'm funding everything.

And I go to Corgan and say, hey, this is yours.

I paid for it.

I funded it, I'm giving it to you

heres the keys

The only thing you have to do

Is sign the papers

would you say

um well no one

in their right mind would

no no no no Im not signing the papers

No no no Im not sign ing the papers

No no no Im not signing the papers

If i sign those papers then I actually earn that car

That sounds dumb, right?

Absolutely it does.

Because signing it somehow would make it work?

That would be ridiculous.

I'm the one who not paid for it. not Corgan

I earned it..

I worked for it.

So in this way, baptism does

not earn salvation, but

It is part of the process.

Unless you believe that ...God is just. Here we go.

and this reality of calvinism

God can just save you without you doing anything.

And he's going to pick half of this room to save, force him to be saved, and half of this room to force them to go to hell and there's nothing that you can do about it.

Sounds crazy.

It doesn't sound like the God I serve because

it doesn't sound like the God of the Bible . am I okay?

I guess I don't have to defend myself

He gave us free will.

He gave us a heart to respond to.

Take the key instead of signing papers.

Now, does our response earn?

No, it's not earning the salvation.

But does our response save us?

Well, partly, in a way, actually,

yes, without the earning sense.

Just hear it our. Okay?.

Our problem is we think about earnings so

much when we hear these things, we're.

Oh, wait and wait a minute...

That can't be true.

Well, I'll start with Mark 16:15.

He said to him, go into all the world and

proclaim the gospel to the whole creation whoever believes and is baptized will be saved,

but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

Now, some people, you know, that's....

Just added on part of Mark it's in the parentheses.. That's fine.

Let's just go to the main one.. 1 Peter 3:21

Baptism which corresponds to this...

And he had just been talking about Noah and how

he was saved and through the ark and all that.

Baptism now saves you not as a

removal of dirt from the body.

Did you catch that?

It's not the thing that is actually cleansing

you like, really, but this is what it

is as an appeal to God for a

good conscience through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

And there it is.

That's why our scripture can say

that baptism now saves you.

And he explains it very well.

Or we can just take this out of the

Bible and ignore that because you're just like, no,

I'm not going to say that because you're.

I mean, and that's these crazy divisions that we have

and we will crucify each other over them, you know?

So Peter says this is how we're saved.

Yes, we are saved through baptism. Hear me out.

Not by cleaning our sins, by magical water, our sins being flushed away down with special sin drain..

But it says what it is.

It's an appeal to God, an appeal for a clean conscience.

The word for appeal is it's only found in this verse of scripture and it tells us the reality.

Here's what it means.

To question, to inquire, a pledge, a profession as marking the spiritual character of the baptismal rite in contrast to mere external purification unto God as an inquiry, query or a longing after God.

It's a desire.

It's a desire, a longing for salvation.

Do you know what that sounds like?

It sounds like a prayer because that's what it is.

That's the main thing we need to take out from this this morning.

That's the picture, how we went through the salvation process for us in western Christianity.

I'll say, and many, many times I think it's over.

How do we go about talking

to someone about the salvation process?

Like, what are you going to say? What do we do?

What do we say?

It's usually associated with a certain prayer, right?
the sinner's prayer.

And it's interesting to me, and I've
done it for over a decade.

We say the sinner's prayer on some day and we
mark that that as the day that we got saved.

Now I'm not saying you didn't get saved,
but that's the day that we mark.

And a sinner's prayer is not even in the Bible,
Try to find it .. it is not there

The book of Acts is so clear on what
people did in response to the word of God.

To receive the gift of salvation may they got Baptized.

That's what they did.

But pastor, the Bible says that if
we confess with our mouth that Jesus is
Lord, we're saved right then and there.

Are you adding a work to salvation?

No, I'm not.

I am preaching in the word of God, which
I'm going to be held accountable for.

So if you want to quote Romans 10:9, you

should really go back and read Romans 6:3.

And that's what happens when you

take things out of context.

Because you can make the Bible say whatever

you want according to whatever tradition

you were raised in

from the beginning of the church.

The response to the gospel, the profession of

faith, the enacted prayer, was the baptism.

That is the original sinner's prayer.

And it's an action because God

designed our bodies to do stuff.

And that's something you're really gonna remember.

I remember being baptized in the pool in Florida.

I was re baptized because in the air force in

99, 2000, some one of my baptist roommates took me

to a baptist church and I got baptized and I

had no idea what I was doing.

But my Papou who was has passed on

an ordained minister minister a world war 2 vet.

I remember vividly, going underwater in

the presence of my family.

And being baptized

into, new famil while my whole family was there

Why?

Because God is awesome.

And he wants me to remember probably.

Probably

Baptist is the culmination of conversion.

And we have proof of this.

So at Pentecost, the samaritans in chapter eight.

Eunuch in chapter ten.

Lydia in chapter 16, Paul in chapter nine

Phillipian Jailer in chapter 16

Paul in chapter 9

So from the start of the church, the

enacted acted out plea or sinner's prayer changing

allegiance from the world system to the kingdom

of God is in the baptism act – profession.

Never did someone say, hey, bow your heads.

Then repeat after me.

They didn't say it..

I'm not saying like I said, remember, I'm

not saying there's no validity in your decision.

I am just reading what the Bible says

says they heard the message.

Think about these devout jews.

Think about did they have time for a baptism class?

Ladies and gentlemen, they're on

a pilgrimage on religious pilgrimage.

And now they're guilty of the weight
of their sins, killing Jesus the Messiah.
And they're cut to the heart.
They repent, they change allegiances
like that and they go into the water
And receive the Holy Spirit.
So I'm here to tell you, baptism "saves"
just as much as our evangelistic sinners prayers.
Except the only difference is only
one of them is biblical.
If we want to get technical, Romans 6:3
Here it is.
Do you not know that all of us who have
been baptized Christ Jesus were baptized in His death.
We were buried therefore with
him by baptism into death.
In order that just as Christ was raised
from the dead by the glory of the
father, ready to walk in newness of life.
It's the enacted prayer.
We're initiated into Christ and
into a kingdom community.
We're leaving the old behind.
Are you saying your perfect no.
And I know there's someone in here...

You're going to hesitate because you think you're not perfect yet.

Do you think the murdering religious jews were perfect? When they entered that water?

It's the changing of allegiances that puts you unto perfection, which is maturity.

Do you think I stopped cursing and having lustful thoughts before I entered into a relationship with Christ or was baptized?

I mean, do we have to get perfect before we get in there?

None of us are are going in then..

But we do recieve forgiveness.

And that forgiveness, everything you been doing in your life before that moment you tried to make up for it.

You tried other things to make up for your guilt and the loss of purpose and the loss of identity or the religious ways you developed.

That's just earning anyway.

And, you know, you're like, there has got to be more than this.

because you could very well be religious, and not ever really change allegiances.

every single one of us has broken God's laws.

Every single one.

We've fallen short of his holy standard.

We cannot live up to it.

It's not possible in...

Our fallen nature and the guilt and shame.

It just drives us to do crazy things.

I remember, you know, abusing substances probably.

I mean, a lot of it was just to stop

the pain and the guilt and the things I've done.

I've done or messed up and I put things in my body,

it numbed me to it because that was my only choice.

I didn't know about this freedom.

So we do try to cover it up in our own strength.

And how many of you have really succeeded at that?

make up for it

Adam and Eve did it from the start

And I've said before, God said, no no

your leaves are not gonna do the trick, not the best thing

to cover yourself up with for your shame.

Something's gonna have to die.

Something is going to have to die

to provide a covering for your sin.

Those animal skins are pointing to eventually.

They are pointing to Jesus right from the

start because that's the only .

His sacrifice, guilt shame, removes them man.

That sounds awesome.

Forgiveness in His baptism.

it says FOR the forgiveness in identifying
with Him what He did.

Yeah, yeah.

In that sense, yeah.

Your sins are washed away. That's forgiveness.

Acts 22:16 and now why do you wait?

Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins.

And that's for that young man.

If he's here, I don't even know.

Why are you waiting?

Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins.

Calling on his name, change allegiances.

Then Jesus comes down to the water

and the HOLY SPIRIT comes descends on Him.

So baptism, is also connected to the Spirit -- it there
the spirit of God that is received at salvation. Right.

In that process, opening up gifts or opening up
the way for all the gifts of the spirit.

But right now we're talking about the conversion
process and that spirit that's living with you
for the rest of your lives.

So then the natural question is, so

then, can you be saved without baptism?

Can I be saved without baptism?

Well, I guess if I was going to answer that, rather than answer too hastily, I would say, well can you be saved without a sinner's prayer?

You see what that does?

So, ok, so Baptism

water, I mean, it's like the saving waters through which Noah, you know, the Ark right.

We have this water passing through the Red Sea, being delivered from Egypt in bondage, which.

Yeah, that's what you're doing. Basically.

God's saving power is just using the water is using that process to be born again. Right?

To be born again.

If we're born again, we should know that we're born again.

Your life.

I didn't say your life will be perfect, but your life should reflect that.

I know that I'm born again.

I also know that I'm not perfect.

Struggles happen.

Things happen.

The health and wealth preachers lied.

sorry

never what it was about itit was about being

born again

New birth.

And we see that even in science, in the physical, right,
we were babies in our mother's womb, amniotic sac

I mean. That's.

The majority of that is water from the mom's
body with a whole bunch of supercharged nutrients.

It's awesome, it's water.

When a baby's born, what is the natural way to be born?

Through the birth canal? Right?

I'm not going to go into that, but I'll answer it just
in case this is church after all-- through the birth canal.

Now, can you be born without
going through the birth canal?

You Bethca!

My wife has all of them were C section -- right mom ?
started with an emergency

SO the emergency is not
natural way, but you can be.

So maybe that's a good answer.

Can we be born without going to through the canal ?

Yeah - But a c section is not
normal, and it's not necessarily healthy.

I know medicine has advanced.

Baptism is the heart of the normal

way of Christian conversion

that's it.

Carolynnow's the time.....

The Bible says you must be born again

and I know that people signed up for baptism

I know that you are ready.

Somehow we have gone to the thing where we call

baptismal candidates candidates.. and

What makes you a candidate

is that your a sinner

and it's time for you to change allegiances

this morning

To stop fighting your own battles in the

strength of the world from the influence of

the world is not going to work.

You need a Helper.

You need a new allegiance.

you need to be saved

and the only way to do that is to be born again

and water has a lot to do with that

John Chapter three verse one

Now there was a man name Nicodemus

a ruler of the Jews

This man came to Jesus by night.

He came in shame, and he said to Him,

rabbi, we know that you are a teacher.

Come from God, and no one can do these
signs that you do unless God is with him.

Jesus answered him, truly, truly, I say to you, unless one
is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

Nicodemus said to him, how can a
man be born when he is old?

Can he enter the second time into
his mother's womb and be born?

Jesus answered, truly, truly, I say to you, unless
one is born of water and of spirit, he
cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and
that which is born of the spirit is spirit.

Don't marvel that I said to you
that you must be born again.

Don't marvel at it.

This is it so I'll say this, with every head, every head unbowed
and every eye
eye open

Megan and I were talking about this last week

We were talking about

The things we do in church

don't judge me alright

We're talking about why do we.

WHy do we close our eyes and bow our heads?

Is this a secret thing that you're about to change allegiances from the dark side to the kingdom of God?

Now, remember, don't be offended, I'm not..

I said the sinner's prayer many times

I did, and I've done it from B

BUT WHY?

Why is it a secret?

It was never a secret in the Bible!

They did this in front of each other as a community, as a family and people.

LIVES WERE CHANGED!

The response to the gospel was a public immersion water baptism physical prayer.

It is the acted out sinner's prayer

real change

real repentance

That is real repentance

because let me tell you once your on this side

You do not want to go back..

These weapons are really powerful.

They are powerful enough to lets see I dont know

make a man whos addicted to pornography

never have to look at pornography again

Because he has the weapons in his tool belt

To turn the alcoholic from
craving alcohol every morning
To never craving it again
pretty powerful weapons
the accusing voice of the enemy in your head
and your a bad parent
and that this and that
whatever you learned
they all silence
when they come into contact
with the helmet of salvation
In Acts the book of Acts
3,000
thats like a third of our town I think
umm a lot
added to the rest
never was a single
head bowed or eye closed!
imagine that!
Even if today we're like, that's the Holy Spirit.
And you have been a Christian for ten years.
but you never changed allegiances
not to mess with your theology
let me tell you
You have to change allegiances

you have to repent
And don't let the arrogance of
religious pride
keep you from being baptized today
and surely don't let the fear of being wet
or walking out of here wet
It's not winter anymore
It's like heaven on earth
for Northwest Iowa
you'll dry fast trust me
go ride on the back of one of the motorcycles
I am sure there's one
you'll dry off real quick
Jesus said
Jesus said instead
of hiding in secret I think
I think that He said this
When you light a lamp
do you put a bucket over it?
and hide it?
no you let it shine for the whole world to see!
well think about that with this decision
to stop doing it in secret
I don't know if today is
gonna get me fired

or that we will
somehow I don't know
raise the money
and have a permanent baptismal so that when people
want to get saved
they can go through the process
that Jesus and the apostles prescribed
and declare it publicly so you know
the sinner's prayer
It wasn't just you know this internal thing
I went through this
I came out and saw a family that loved me
of all nations
and all pasts
and all histories
And then we're walking through together.