

- Why do we baptize people?
 - As we read the gospel accounts of Jesus, we see baptism occurring thru the ministry of John the Baptist, and even thru the disciples of Jesus ... But these baptisms could only symbolize something temporary
 - Before Christ ascends into Heaven, He commissions all disciples to go out and make disciples of all people groups ... How – bringing them to faith and baptizing them; teaching them how to live as disciples of Jesus – including, going out and making disciples of all people groups
 - We see the early church practice this from day one ... We baptize people because we're commissioned
- What does our baptism symbolize?
 - Baptism in the gospel accounts served as a temporal symbol of a person being right with God ... It served to symbolize a person being washed clean, turning their life over to God ... But it was only a temporal sign because there was no guarantee behind it ... No perfect and permanent sacrifice had been made
 - Then Christ died on the cross – standing in our place, as our substitute ... He took our sin, and God's wrath for our sin, upon Himself ... For us, He became the perfect and eternal sacrifice for our salvation
 - Then Christ was buried and rose again – His resurrection declares His sacrifice has been accepted ... Our sin, and offense towards God, has been forgiven and removed ... Our His resurrection declares His victory and authority over all things ... Grace alone thru faith alone, Christ alone reconciles us to God ... Cleanses us from guilt and shame ... Gives us eternal life – not just after death but as soon as we accept Him ... We are united to Christ – **vs5-6** ... Standing before God, He declares us forgiven, free, righteous by Jesus
 - Our baptism publicly illustrates this spiritual reality that has taken place ... This is also a guaranteed reality ... The guarantee is grounded in the Name by which we're baptized into – Father, Son, Holy Spirit ... Our entire salvation – beginning to end, is grounded in the work and power of our Eternal God, the Resurrected Christ, and the Holy Spirit who indwells us and lives out the life of Christ thru us
- NT writers talk of baptism as a way of remembrance: temptation arises, doubt creeps in, dry periods, remember our baptism ... What Christ has done and continues to do ... Remember the reality of your new life in Christ ... God works thru your new life to display the immeasurable riches of His grace – **vs7, 3:10-11** ... What He does in us, He wants to do thru us – **vs10**