



**Series: Encountering God**

**Title: Encountering God Through Baptism**

**Scripture: Psalm 23**

**August Verse:** *We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. <sup>2</sup> Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up.*

**(Romans 15:1-2)**

**Parkway Plumbline #9 Members don't just attend. Members contribute!**

a. There are no spectators.

**We don't go to church. We are the church!**

- We gather as the church. Assemble!

**What is church? Church is an assembled group of people saved (called out) by God who:**

1. Hear, read, study, memorize, meditate, proclaim, and do the Word of God.
2. Obey the orders (ordinances) that Jesus gave His church (Baptism-Matt. 28:18-20 & The Lord's Supper-1 Cor: 11:24-25).
3. Are accountable to one another for Holy Living and the Great Commission (getting the gospel to people who have never heard).

**What is the gospel? (Romans 1:16-17) - The gospel is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes that God sent Jesus to die and resurrect to remove sin and confesses Jesus as Lord.**

*<sup>16</sup> For I am not ashamed of the **gospel**, for it is the **power of God** for **salvation** to everyone who **believes**, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. <sup>17</sup> For in it the **righteousness of God** is revealed from **faith** for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."*

*(Romans 1:1-17, ESV)*

- God created us to be with Him;
- Our sins separate us from God;
- Sins cannot be removed by good deeds or human effort;
- Paying the price for sin, Jesus died and rose again;
- Everyone who trusts in Him alone has eternal life;
- Life with Jesus starts now and lasts forever!



## **The Who, What, When, Where, and Why of Baptism**

### **1) Who...**

- **Who gave us Baptism?**
  - Jesus. Baptism is commanded and demonstrated by God Himself. (Matt. 28:18–20)
- **Who should baptize those who believe and confess the gospel?**
  - Gathered confessing baptized believers in Jesus. (Matt. 28:18-20)
- **Who should be baptized?**
  - All who have by their own free will put their faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. (Romans 6:4)

### **2) What...**

- **What is baptism?**
  - The public announcement of faith in Jesus Christ. (Matthew 10:32)
  - The picture of a Christian's buried old life, buried with Christ in His death, and raised to new life with Christ in His resurrection. (Romans 6:4)

### **3) When...**

- **When is baptism done?**
  - As soon as possible. As soon as believers in Christ have trusted Jesus as their Savior and Lord, they follow through with believer's baptism (this is the pattern of the New Testament - Acts 2:41; 8:36; 16:14–15, 33).
  - It is called *believer's baptism* because people are baptized *after* they put their faith in Christ.

### **4) Where...**

- **Where should believers be baptized?**
  - Christians should publicly baptize new believers in front of other followers of Christ wherever they gather. (Matt. 18:18-20)

### **5) Why...**

- **Why should believers be baptized AND baptize?**
  - Matt. 3:13–17 - Jesus was baptized.
  - Matt. 28:16–20 - Jesus commanded that we go and baptize.

## **Why is baptism so important to do as Christians? (Romans 6:3-4)**

- Our baptism is the first sermon we preach as believers. It is our personal picture of the death and resurrection of Jesus.
- Our baptism is our first step of obedience. It is the beginning of our personal practice of following Jesus.
- Our baptism is our first reminder of what is dead in us. It is the beginning of putting away the practice of sin in our lives and living under grace. (Rom. 6:5-14)