

1. In this Foundations series, we have looked at why it's important for us as individuals and as a church to be outward-focused. Pastor Tom stated that "...water baptism is an important part of that foundation." In what ways is the next step of baptism an outward-focused act for a Christ-follower?
2. Pastor Tom reminded us of what the New Testament teaches us about baptism: it means "to immerse," it is "always a symbolic act," it was an act Jesus submitted to as "an example to all His followers," and is practiced very soon after someone says their 'YES!' to following Jesus. Review the baptism examples listed in [Acts 2:29-41](#), [8:4-13](#), [26-39](#), [9:1-19](#), [16:11-15](#), [18:1-8](#), and [19:1-5](#). What excuses/rationalizations have you or others used in delaying this important next step and how did you or could you overcome them?
3. Pastor Tom listed how God used baptism in Paul's life to make his faith known, connect with God's family ([Acts 9:19b](#)), share his story ([Romans 6:4-5](#)), and allowed him to take next steps ([Act 9:20-22](#)). How has or how would baptism do the same for you? Explain.
4. In quoting the teachings of Martin Luther, John Calvin and John Wesley, Pastor Tom explained that these theologians understood that baptism was to be by immersion as it was practiced in the early church. If you have a background with the tradition of infant baptism that was done for you, how would you encourage others (or yourself) to take this next step for themselves (or for yourself)?
5. On Sunday 7/28, we will celebrate those taking their next step of baptism at our summer picnic and baptism service at the Becker Community Center. If you are taking this next step, who are you inviting to share in your story, and if you've already taken this step, who might you encourage to take their next step, or come celebrate/serve with you at this event?

Day One: [John 18](#); [Psalm 86](#)

Day Two: [Exodus 36](#); [Proverbs 24](#)

Day Three: [Romans 8](#); [2 Samuel 6](#)

Day Four: [Titus 3](#); [Jeremiah 20](#)

Day Five: [Job 24](#); [Acts 2](#)

PERSONAL GUIDE

This Personal Guide has been adapted from Professor Grant Horner's Bible Reading System.



RIVERSIDE CHURCH





FOUNDATIONS

"THE MOST IMPORTANT WATER-BASED FOUNDATION"

July 21, 2024 Tom Lundeen



MESSAGE NOTES

“THE MOST IMPORTANT WATER-BASED FOUNDATION”

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Pastor Tom Lundeen

Note **John 20:21**. _____ is outward-focused. Note **Luke 19:10**.

And Jesus calls _____ of His followers to do what He did and still does constantly: be outward-focused and reaching lost people.

Being outward-focused as _____ and a church is the most transforming and life-giving thing we can do.

And water baptism is an important part of that _____.

1. What the New Testament _____ About Water Baptism

A. Meaning of baptism = "Baptizo" = "to dip...to _____"

- *I would have those who are to be baptized to be _____ immersed, as the work imports and the mystery signifies.* (Martin Luther)
- *The word "baptize" signifies to immerse. It is certain that immersion was the _____ of the ancient church.* (John Calvin)
- *Buried with Him, _____ to baptizing by immersion according to the custom of the first church.* (John Wesley)

B. John the Baptist - his ministry shows us that baptism was not a _____ idea invented by Christians, or even by John the Baptist.

- Baptism = always a symbolic _____.
- John the "Baptizer" practiced a baptism that _____ repentance (note **Matthew 3:7-11a**).

C. Baptism of Jesus - His baptism _____:

- It was to "_____ all righteousness" (note **Matthew 3:15**)
- Fulfilled the mission of John the Baptist and _____ the start of Jesus' public ministry.
- Jesus identified Himself with the sinful _____ of humanity which He had come to save.
- It is an _____ to all His followers.

D. Other New Testament Examples - baptism practiced very soon after commitment to Jesus Christ, so much so that often baptism and salvation _____ tied together:

- **Acts 2**, Pentecost
- **Acts 8**, Samaritan converts and Ethiopian government official
- **Acts 9**, Saul of Tarsus
- **Acts 16**, Lydia of Thyatira and Philippian jailer and his household
- **Acts 18**, believers in Corinth
- **Acts 19**, Ephesian disciples

Every example of baptism in the New Testament is believer's baptism (no examples of _____ baptism).

Note **Matthew 28:18-20**.

Baptism is an _____ sign and symbol of what has happened inwardly/ personally and spiritually to a person when they say 'YES!' to Jesus as Lord. The act of baptism does not make anyone a Jesus _____...

Paul - we can see that God used baptism to:

2. Make His Faith _____

For Saul/Paul to be baptized challenged his religious _____ and education, as well as his pride. Note **Acts 9:18**

3. _____ with God's Family (note **Acts 9:19b**)

Baptism was his _____ to also connect with Jesus' followers in Jerusalem (note **Acts 9:26-28**).

Spiritual _____ happens in relationships, not isolation.



4. _____ Your Story (note **Acts 9:20**)

Baptism is both a public declaration of our faith and a sermon without _____ (note **Romans 6:4-5**).

Baptism sets us on a course to be both inviters (*come and sit with me*) and _____ (*here's what Jesus did for me*).

5. Keep Taking Next _____

Note **Acts 9:21, 22**

Baptism sets us on a course to taking next steps and growing stronger in our _____ with Jesus.

Note **Matthew 28:19**

FOUNDATIONS MATTER:

Baptism isn't an optional _____ for Jesus followers.

Here are the 3 qualifications to engage in baptism:

1. You need to be a follower of Jesus.
2. You need to have not be baptized as an adult believer in Christ already.
3. You need to be at least 12 years old.
*(We do baptize children younger than 12 if they have parental support and have talked it through with our Riverside Kids leaders. Riverside Kids also has a discipleship class called **No Limits** for children in 5th grade; they are given a chance to engage in baptism after completing this course; see details at myrc.church/nolimits).*

Don't get baptized:

- If you're not sure about following Jesus.
- If you're trying to impress others.

Take this important step & be baptized at our summer baptism next Sun, July 28!

Baptism coaches are available at the end of the service to help you.



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3. Connect with God's Family (note **Acts 9:19b**)

Baptism was his invitation to also connect with Jesus' followers in Jerusalem (note **Acts 9:26-28**).

Spiritual growth happens in relationships, not isolation.

- 1 Come every Sunday
- 2 Be part of a group
- 3 Serve on a team

4. Share Your Story (note **Acts 9:20**)

Baptism is both a public declaration of our faith and a sermon without words (note **Romans 6:4-5**).

Baptism sets us on a course to be both inviters (*come and sit with me*) and witnesses (*here's what Jesus did for me*).

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