

The Resurrection

Christ died for the forgiveness of our sins. He died so we could be forgiven by God and have a relationship with God, the creator of the universe. But that's not the end of the story, it's the beginning. Three days later, Christ was risen from the dead and given a new life. An eternal life at the right hand of God in Heaven. He showed himself to those who believed.

For us, the water baptism is our symbol of our death and resurrection in Christ. I still remember talking to Ken about wanting to be baptized after I had been coming here for a while. Talking about what it is, and what it isn't. I had technically been baptized as a baby although, obviously, I don't remember it. I don't believe a dunk in a tub is a requirement of being saved and inviting Christ into your life any more than the communion is required to be saved and have Christ in your body. Yet, we read in Romans that there is something important about being baptized.

Romans 6:4-7 - We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.

For me, my baptism was very important. It's a day I can look back at and say, this is when I became a new person. This is when I joined in Christ's death and was born again as a new person. The old me is dead. The sin that I wallowed in is gone and I now belong to Christ and He lives in me. I am a new person and this new me has eternal life with Christ. I have shared in His death and will share in His eternal life with God in Heaven.

You know, there are two significant parts to the baptism. Your death, and your birth. For many people I think the idea of dying to yourself is very foreign and hard to understand. It's probably even a bit scary. For me, I had felt like I was a walking corpse for so long that I didn't fear the death part. It was the living that scared me. Many men are willing to fight and die for a cause, fewer are willing to live for a cause. The baptism gives us a chance not only to die to our own selfish desires and wants, our sin. But it also gives us the chance to look at a day and say, this is when I really started to live. To live for Christ, to start the life that will never end because when my body wears out my spirit will join my Lord Christ in Heaven and I too will look upon the face of God, my Father who loves me more than anything else.

Matthew 28:16-20 - Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and

make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

All authority in heaven and earth has been given to Christ by God. But what does that really mean? What does it look like in our daily life? Perhaps one way you can see it is the power and authority to free you from sin, fear, and greed, so that when you trust his promise to be with you, you are unstoppable in your love. If he is with you to the end, and if he has all authority in the universe, then you can love and serve and sacrifice, and never lose. This is the practical effect of the resurrection of Jesus when you experience it as powerful and personal.