

April 24-25, 2021

Title: "Baptism Shows Our Past, Present and Future" – Colossians 3:1-5

Big Idea: Baptism shows a believer's past, present and future.

What in the message stood out to you?

What questions do you have?

Read Matthew 28:19-20 and Romans 6:3-4. Why do you think Jesus commands His people to be baptized? What is the purpose and meaning of baptism?

Have you been baptized? Why or why not?

Read Colossians 3:1-5. How does baptism pictures the realities described in this passage?

1. Baptism shows your PAST – Christ is your life!

For believers in Jesus, Colossians 3:4 says Christ is our life, 3:3 says we have died, and 3:1 says we have been raised with Christ. In what sense do you think these things are true?

What does this suggest about the way God views your past?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:21. Based on this verse, how would you define the biblical doctrine of "substitution?"

What are some aspects of your past life that you are glad Jesus has substituted with His past life?

What are some practical implications or applications of the doctrine of substitution?

2. Baptism shows your PRESENT – Your life is hidden with Christ in God!

Colossians 3:3 says: "...your life is hidden with Christ in God." What do you think is meant by "life?" How does John 10:10 help your answer?

What do you think is meant by "hidden?" How does the parable of the "hidden" treasure in Matthew 13:44 help your answer?

Where do you go or what do you do to find joy in your life? In other words, what is your hiding place from the trouble and stress of life?

What are some of the healthy places people look for "life?" What are some of the unhealthy places people look for "life?"

What does it mean to look for the “life” that is hidden in Jesus?

Read Psalm 32:7. This is another aspect of our “life” being hidden in Christ. How do you understand this? How does Romans 8:31-39 help your answer?

3. Baptism shows your FUTURE – You will appear with Christ in glory!

Colossians 3:4 says: “When Christ who is your life appears, then you will also appear with Him in glory.” What are some of the things you know and believe about heaven?

Read this sampling of verses about the glory that is coming for us because of Jesus:

- 1 Corinthians 2:9
- Revelation 21:4
- Psalm 16:11
- 2 Corinthians 3:18
- Psalm 36:8
- Jeremiah 32:40-41

What are some things that stand out to you from each of these verses?

Read How should these truths impact how you live here and now?

There are three commands in Colossians 3:1-5:

- Seek the things that are above.
- Set your minds on things that are above.
- Put to death what is earthly in you.

Reflect on these three commands. What do they mean? How do you obey them?

Oneness & Witness Takeaways:

- Seek whatever brings you more into the presence of Jesus.
 - What are some of these things in your life?
- Put to death whatever distracts you or takes you away from the presence of Jesus.
 - What are some of these things in your life?
- Display your past, present and future through baptism and share it with others.
 - If you have not been baptized, are you ready?
 - Who is someone you can share your past, present and future with this week?