

- We have been extremely blessed in the past couple weeks with the decisions of 3 young men to obey the Gospel. These young men recognized the sin in their lives and their need to have them washed away. These young men wanted to be right in the site of God once again, and they wanted to come into a spiritual relationship with Jesus Christ. These young men put their faith in Jesus, they acknowledged Him as the Son of God, and they recognized their need for the washing of regeneration through immersion in water.
- **Romans 6:1-14** speaks to this immersion that we refer to as baptism. There are many things that happen doing our baptism and they are very important for us to know.
 - When we are immersed, we are dying and being buried with Christ. (**vv. 3-7**)
 - When we are raised, we are raised with Christ. (**vv. 8-10**)
 - We now live for God and Christ Jesus (**v.11**)
 - This means we no longer allow sin to control our lives. (**vv. 1,2,12-14**)
- This all simply speaks to the fact that when we decide to commit ourselves to Christ and obey the Gospel, then we are committing to make a big change in our lives. We are no longer living for self and sin, but we are living for God and Christ. The fact that repentance is mentioned **Acts 2:38** means that a change is necessary. Jesus told His apostles to go baptize and make disciples and teach them all that He had commanded them (**Matt. 28:18-20**).
- It seems pretty obvious that baptism is not the finish line of our faith. In reality, baptism is the starting line of a person's walk with God. So what is next after baptism? This is such an important question and it deserves an answer. The simple answer is that it's now time for a big change in the life of a person who has decided to follow Jesus. We need to be teaching our young Christians that baptism is not the end of the line. We need to be teaching them what comes next. So let's spend our time this morning answering this question, "So you've been baptized... now what?" Let's look at 3 area's of life that change once a person obeys the Gospel.

I. Now, it's time to commit.**A. To God**

1. We are now slaves to God and not sin. (**Rom. 6:6,18-23**)
2. God is deserving of our commitment to Him because He has extended mercy to us.
3. We should now live for God and Christ in all that we do. (**Gal. 2:20**)

B. To The Church

1. We were baptized into the body of Christ in the universal sense. (**Heb. 12:22,23**)
2. We have a responsibility to join ourselves to a local work, following the example of Paul (**Acts 9:19,26**)
3. We should not make it a habit of neglecting to assemble with those saints. (**Heb. 10:25**)
4. When we fail to come together then we miss opportunities to stimulate our brethren in service to God (**Heb.10:24,25**)
5. We must be committed to the work of the local church.

C. To The Word

1. God's word not only teaches us how to become a Christian, but it also teaches us how to live as Christians.
2. We must be diligent in our study of God's Word. (**II Tim. 2:15**)
3. We must commit ourselves to the teachings of the Apostles. (**II Thess. 2:15**)
4. We must believe and speak as God has spoken. (**II Cor. 4:13**)
5. We can be confident that we are obeying God if we simply commit to knowing and following His Word.

II. Now, It's time to grow.**A. In Faith**

1. God expects for our faith to grow past the point of baptism.
2. Those who have received faith are to grow that faith. (**II Peter 1:1-11**)
3. We must put forth the effort to strengthen our faith.

B. In Knowledge

1. Our knowledge of God's will for us is not complete at baptism.
2. God expects us to learn and grow in our knowledge and get to the point where we might even be able to teach other people. (**Heb. 5:11**)
3. This knowledge will help us know what things are good and what things are evil. (**Heb. 5:14**)

C. In Self-Control

1. When we learn what is right and wrong we must then have to self-control to stay away from those evil things.
2. Our body of sin was washed away in baptism. **(Rom. 6:6,5)**
3. We must not continue in our past sins. **(Rom. 6:1,2)**
4. We must make the change of heart to deny ourselves of sin and not embarrass the name of Christ. **(Heb. 6:4-6)**

III. Now, it's time to be on guard.

A. Against Satan

1. Before our obedience to the Gospel, satan had us right where he wanted.
2. Upon our obedience, everything changed, and now he is fighting to get us back on his side.
3. He is a lion searching for a soul to devour. **(I Peter 5:8)**
4. Peter's admonish to be of a sober mind means we must be alert and on guard against him.
5. Satan will come at us in many different ways but we must stay strong. **(Eph. 6:10,11)**

B. Against Worldly Influences

1. Satan will attack us through the influences of the world. **(I John 2:15-17)**
2. Satan will use our sinful desires to separate us from God. **(James. 1:14,15)**
3. We must stand strong against satan's attacks and recognize that God will provide a way of escape. **(I Cor. 10:13)**

C. Against False Teachings

1. One of satan's strongest weapons is false teaching.
2. He loves it when a Christian goes after a false gospel. **(Gal. 1:6-8)**
3. False teachers are workers of satan who will lead the faithful away from truth and towards error.
4. We must not be one of those people who are lead away. **(II Peter 2:20-22)**
5. We must not be entangled with satan again. We have escaped the chains of sin and we must stay focused on God and be on guard against anything satan might throw at us.

If you have been baptized, then have you committed yourself to the changes we have talked about this morning? Are you striving day by day to commit yourself to God? Are you striving to grow in your spiritual life? Are you on guard daily against the attacks of satan? These are the changes that must be made after your baptism and obedience to the Gospel. If you are a young Christian in our family then you need to know that we are here for you! We are here to bring you along in your faith. We will not let satan take you back from us. Maybe you're not a young Christian and you realize that you haven't been doing the many things we've talked about this morning. Make it a point to commit yourself to these things. Stand strong against satan and grow in God. It's not too late until this life is over. If you have been baptized then there is still plenty of work to do! Make up your mind for God and live for Him!