

# Baptism is the ceremony that marks entering God's kingdom

# Baptism is imagery of the core message of Christianity

# Core message of Christianity

"All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God" Romans 3:23

[Jesus] himself bore our sins, in his body, on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you are healed."

1 Peter 2:24

"By grace you have been saved, through faith..."
Ephesians 2:8

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."

2 Corinthians 5:17

#### An Appeal to Christ's Grace

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit

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21 Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as **an appeal to God for a good conscience**, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 22 who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

1 Peter 3:18.21-22

#### A Change of Allegiance

4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. 6 We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. 7 For one who has died has been set free from sin.

#### A Change of Allegiance

8 Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. 9 We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. 10 For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. 11 So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. 12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. 13 Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. 14 For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

Romans 6:4-14

#### A New Beginning

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

2 Corinthians 5:17

[You have] been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. 13 And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, 14 by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. 15 He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

Colossians 2:12-15

# My encouragement to you:

If you've placed your faith in Jesus but haven't been baptized, then talk to the elders and get baptized!

Remember the true gospel:
Daily appeal to Christ's grace
Daily declare your allegiance to Christ
Daily leave the old man behind and embrace
the new man Christ is shaping in you