



Word Notes: Sunday 16/09/18

Tony Hodge: Body Builders - Baptism

Key Text: Acts 8:26-39

Baptism features both in Christ's own life and in the life of the new church. Jesus was baptised before setting out into the wilderness and before his main ministry began and Peter speaking in the Spirit, set the tone at Pentecost by urging all to repent and be baptised for the forgiveness of their sins.

Baptism is not: Joining a club or church; getting "saved" or becoming a Christian; an excuse for a party or a new outfit.

Baptism is: An act of obedience; a declaration of faith; an outward sign of an inward change; a "marker; proclaims the gospel; identifies with Jesus' death and resurrection (rom 6:3,4; Col 2:9-12).

As an act of **obedience**, it helps ensure you are walking in God's purpose rather than in disobedience. It strengthens our faith. This IS Spiritual Warfare. If you've decided to follow Jesus then a good step is to do what he did – be baptised.

Questions for discussion.

- Read the passage then discuss the similarities between this and your own experience of baptism.
 - What did your baptism mean for you at the time?
 - What strength do you draw from your baptism today?
 - What would you say or do to encourage an un-baptised believer to get baptised?
- In NCC we baptise confessing believers by full immersion. It's good to know why and the biblical support for this. Find scriptures in the New Testament about baptism and look at what happened, to whom and how. (A concordance or electronic Bible will help here as will different translations etc).
 - What precedes baptism? Make you read around the verses to include context (for instance Acts 10:44 in Cornelius' case, Acts 16:32 in the Jailer's case).
 - Now think about how people belong to God's family – by being born into it. How does that differ between Old and New Testaments?
 - Now look at Jesus' commandment in Matthew 28:19,20 and Peter's words in Acts 2:38,39. Who should be baptised? See Acts 2:41.
 - Is baptism always by full immersion (where the method is mentioned at all)?

Nonetheless let's not judge other Christian's practices by our own understanding.