

"Baptism: Spiritual On-Ramp to a Life-Long Journey of Discipleship"

*"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, teaching them to obey everything that I've commanded you. Look, I myself will be with you every day until the end of this present age." (Matthew 28:19-20)*

Let's take a moment to revisit our mission, the one Jesus gave to us. At the heart of this mission is his instruction to make disciples. We enter the life of discipleship, becoming more and more like Christ. We, in turn, carry out the mission Jesus began to make even more disciples. And all along the way, Jesus will be with us, to make it happen. It's just that simple. Everything we do in the life of a Christian and the church, as a whole, ought to contribute toward these goals.

This past Sunday, we talked about baptism as a "means of grace" which enters us into the life of discipleship. It's like a spiritual "on-ramp" that begins a life-long journey of faith. As you notice in Jesus' command about making disciples, this is a vitally important step we are to take.

I want to follow up from my sermon last Sunday to ask you: **Have you been baptized?** Perhaps some of you reading this have not been baptized yet. If not, is this something you are ready to do as an "outward sign of an inward grace"? In other words, a visible way of expressing what God is doing deep inside you? If you would like to be baptized, please let me know. Let's talk.

If you already have been baptized, then I want to continue to encourage you to **learn how to swim in the waters of your baptism**. I find that to be something I'm working on each and every day.

As we move forward in our sermon series, "Walking in the Ways of God", I will talk about "faith habits" we can practice in order to help us do just that. These include: Searching the Scriptures, Prayer, The Lord's Supper, Fasting, Fellowship, and Works of Mercy. Let's be intentional about doing these things within our community of faith so that our lives will be transformed by God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Looking forward to continuing the journey with you!

Pastor David

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