

## CHOOSE To Declare

Baptism is often misunderstood because it is . . .

- Unique
- Ancient
- Controversial

### DOES IT MATTER?

- It Mattered to Jesus
- It Mattered to God the Father

**“This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”**

Matthew 3:17

- It Mattered to the Disciples

**Now Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that he was gaining and baptizing more disciples than John— although in fact it was not Jesus who baptized, but his disciples.**

John 4:1-2

- It Mattered to Jesus' Mission
- It Mattered to the Early Christians

- There are nine conversion stories in the book of Acts and every one includes baptism

### WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Our English word baptize is a transliteration not a translation of the Greek word *baptizo*.

Why transliterate it rather than translate it?

- It has a variety of meanings depending on its usage
- A literal translation doesn't fit with the beauty of the word
- A literal translation speaks to a specific mode that was different from the practice at that time

The Greek word baptizo . . . means to “*dip, submerge, plunge under, immerse, wash*”. It was used to describe dipping of cloth in dye, or submerging of cucumbers in vinegar to make pickles, sinking of ships, etc.

**I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel.” Then John gave this testimony: “I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. And I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, ‘The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.’ I have seen and I testify that this is God’s Chosen One.”**

Baptism is an act of DECLARATION or of IDENTIFICATION.

It declares who you are.

I am a follower of Jesus.

**Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ.**

Acts 2:38

**So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.**

Acts 10:48

**. . . they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus.**

Acts 19:5

Baptism is a public declaration of a new association. It is a statement of allegiance. It is an act of identification as a follower of Jesus.

### WHAT ABOUT ME?

- Should I be Baptized?

Yes, if you are a follower of Jesus

**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, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”**

Matthew 28:19-20

- I was baptized as an infant. Am I baptized?

Baptism is a personal decision.

- I am a child, How old do I need to be before I can be baptized?

Old enough to understand what baptism means to you personally.

- I was baptized by a mode other than immersion, am I okay?

**Now John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because there was plenty of water, and people were coming and being baptized.**

John 3:23

- I am not good enough. Give me more time and then I'll be ready.

You are not being baptized because you are good enough. You are being baptized because Jesus is good enough.

**CHOOSE . . . to declare**