



Oak Grove Church of Christ Newsletter - 2024.11.24

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Speaker-AM: Josh Vinyard

Title: Church Membership

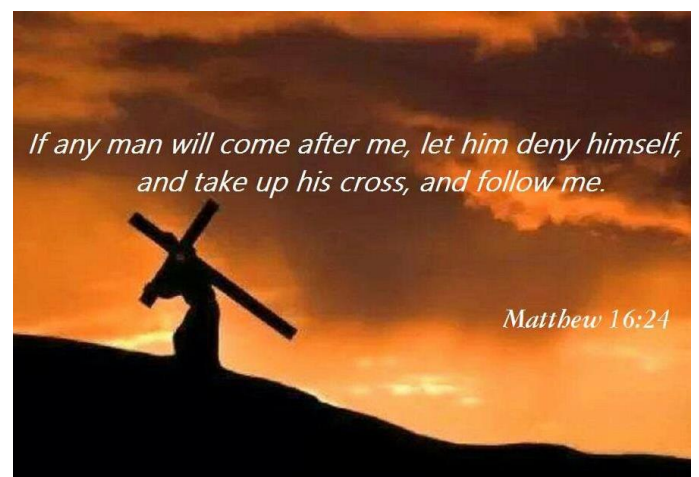
Recording:



Speaker-PM: Brad Bunyard

Title: Take Up Your Cross

Recording:



Baptism 11/23/24 By Patrick Hite

What is baptism?

Baptism is when we are immersed in water in order to make our lives right with God. Baptism mirrors the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. In Luke 12:50 Jesus even referred to His death as a baptism: "But I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how distressed I am till it is accomplished". Baptism mirrors His death in that when we are baptized, we are putting to death the sinful person we used to be just as Christ was put to death (Ephesians 4:22-24). We then bury that old man of sin in the water just as Jesus was buried (Romans 6:3-4). Finally, when we come out of the water, we have new life just as Jesus was raised from the dead (Romans 6:4, II Corinthian 5:17).

Why are we baptized?

We are baptized in order to have our sins washed away and have new life. In Acts 2:38 Peter told those there to "Repent, and let everyone of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins". Baptism is what leads to the remission, or the removal, of our sins so that we can be new creations in Jesus (II Corinthians 5:17).

Is baptism necessary?

Yes, baptism is a necessary part of making our life right with God. There are multiple places throughout the New Testament where it is said that baptism saves or is for salvation (John 3:5, Mark 16:16, Acts 2:38, 22:16, Romans 6:4, Galatians 3:7, Colossians 2:12-13, I Peter 3:21). These verses teach us that it is only through baptism, only by being reborn through the water, that we can have our sins washed away and have newness of life. While it is not the water itself, but the blood of Christ that cleanses us, (I John 1:7), there is no other way that we access His blood than baptism: "Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?" (Romans 6:3). Without baptism, we cannot have our sins washed away and have new life in Jesus. Baptism is a necessary part of our salvation.

How are we baptized?

Baptism is done through immersion in water. The word "baptism" literally means "immersion" or "submersion" in the original language, and the verb form of the word "baptize" also means "to immerse or submerge". Baptism, therefore, is not something that can be done with just a little water, but enough to completely immerse. Romans 6:4 tells us that "we were buried with Him through baptism into death". Just as we cannot be buried in a teacup full of dirt when we die, we cannot be baptized in a teacup full of water when we bury the old man of sin. True baptism is done through immersion in water.

When should we be baptized?

We should be baptized when we realize that we are not in a right relationship with God and that we need to have our sins forgiven. In Acts 2:37 when Peter preached Jesus to those who were there it says that "when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the Apostles, 'Men and brethren, what shall we do?'". We should be baptized when we have this same realization, that each of us has sinned against God (Romans 3:23). When we learn and understand that God loved us so much that He sent Jesus to die for us (I John 4:9-10). When we understand that God commands us to repent and we need to have our sins washed away (Acts 2:38). Once we know these things, and we understand what baptism is, then we must be baptized so we can be redeemed of our sin and have newness of life.