

August 6, 2017
Baptism Daily
Read Luke 9: 23

Roots

Baptism has come up quite a lot lately. I'm teaching it in Confirmation right now; I am addressing facets of it in adult Bible Study on Sunday mornings right now; I've been writing about it in *Roots* and in the *Breeze*. Today we continue that theme in this edition of *Roots*, by tackling the issue of frequency of baptism. Don't laugh, I know what you're all thinking, "That's easy pastor! One baptism. Done!" And, of course you're right. But, as in all things baptism we need to take a closer look at this issue to get to a deeper understanding of what is being done. I asked you not to laugh before, now I ask you not to groan or say things like, "Everything has a deeper issue with you pastor. Why can't this one thing just be simple?" In short, baptism is very simple, but as I've stated before, simple isn't always easy.

Now let's get to it! You're right in thinking that baptism as rite is rightly performed only once in a person's life. But, that moment in history where we can concretely tie the Word of God and the power of the Holy Spirit acting on the individual being baptized is simply a beginning. In other words, the term "one and done" does not apply to baptism even though it is only done once. That famous term does not apply because baptism is lived out daily. You read the Luke verse I asked you to at the beginning of this *Roots* right? Well there Jesus says to take up your cross once right? WRONG! He tells us to follow him we must take up our cross *daily*.

Romans 6 tells us that we were baptized into the death and therefore the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Since,

we have been baptized into his death on the cross and we are to take up our cross *every single day*, we shouldn't be surprised that our baptism didn't end on the day that it was performed. No, the promise given concretely in baptism, that is faith, forgiveness and salvation, is an everlasting promise; it's good *every single day* of your life. This means Christ is yours every single day of your life, and you his. If that is so then Galatians 5:24 also stands, which tells us that those who have Christ have crucified the old sinful self within them and are instead as 2 Corinthians 5: 17 tells us "new creations."

Therefore, every single day of your lives you are a new creation. As new creations you rise each day living in the baptismal grace that God gifted you by His Word and Spirit. In this understanding, your baptism is an everyday thing. The mercy and forgiveness you know by Jesus' sacrifice is new every morning (See Lamentations 3: 23). That same forgiveness was distributed to you by your baptism. So, every single day of your lives you get to live in and out your baptism. That is why Luther taught that every morning you drown the old sinful man (or woman) by contrition and repentance, that the new man (or woman) should rise and live before God in righteousness and purity. So you see your baptism is not just a one and done, it's every day! Go and live it in God's confidence and peace.

Pastor *Carl P. Jh*

