

## Shades Student Devotion-Day 7

...having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.

Colossians 2:12

**Question:** are you a person who has grown up in church or more recently been involved in church? Either way I'm glad you are reading this! Have you ever thought about the fact that several things that we do in church normally are really weird? Put yourself in someone's shoes who has never been in a Christian church before. That someone would more than likely ask a question like, "Why did that man in a white robe just say some words and dunk a child underwater?" Baptism is an important part of our ministry. And even though it seems like a weird concept, it's so important to following Jesus!

**Questions to think about:** Have you been baptized? If so, when? If not, have you made a decision to follow Jesus as your Savior and Lord? Why or why not?

Paul is referencing baptism in Colossians 2 to remind believers that the very power of God that raised Jesus from the dead has made us alive in Christ through faith. We don't believe Paul is saying that baptism is what saves us or allows us to experience transformation. But baptism is a symbol of the powerful transformation that takes place when we choose to trust Jesus. Baptism is a physical representation of what happens when we are saved. Our old self that did not know Jesus and was living for ourselves has passed away, buried with Christ. And God makes us alive, making us a new person through faith.

If you have been baptized, do you remember when that took place? For me, I was 6 years old when I talked to my parents about becoming a Christian. I knew I wanted Jesus and still to this day remember my baptism. Whether you were baptized as a child, a middle school student, or a high school student your baptism is an important step in your spiritual walk! It doesn't save you, but it communicates these very powerful things:

- 1) It shows that we are committed to obey the Lord. Baptism is a step of obedience for a believer that was initiated by Jesus himself at the beginning of his ministry.
- 2) Baptism tells the church and the world that you have decided to follow Jesus.
- 3) Our baptism serves as a major spiritual marker in our lives. When we experience fear and doubt about our salvation, we can remember our baptism and the decision that led us to be baptized. Remembering that experience gives us confidence as we remember why we decided to follow Jesus and why we took that next step of baptism.

**Here are some questions to reflect on as you end your devotion today.**

If you have been baptized do you remember that time in your life? While you have some free time, it could be a helpful step to ask your parents for pictures or videos of your baptism and reflect on your confidence in Jesus at that time.

How can your baptism remind you of how God has moved in your life? How can that give you confidence to keep pursuing him today?

Thinking about baptism is a great time to think about people we know who don't know Jesus yet. The Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) commands us to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

How can the Lord use you to lead others who don't know Christ to this moment of believing in Jesus? How incredible would it be to see them believe and then be baptized!?

If you have not been baptized yet, have you come to a time in your life where you believe in Jesus? If you know that answer is yes, what's holding you back from following through with baptism? If that answer is no, we would love to talk with you about why following Jesus is the most important decision any of us can make!

**Close in prayer.** Thank God for the gift of baptism and the reminder that baptism represents the time in our lives when we truly became alive in Christ! If you haven't been baptized, have an honest conversation with God about why that's the case. See how the Lord leads you in that conversation.