

Sacred Ceremonies

The Sacredness of Baptism (Romans 6.1-6)

It meets our need for an expression of faith (Acts 2.36-38)

1. We're created with emotions that need to have an appropriate _____

2. God ordained baptism as a meaningful way to express our _____

It meets our need for cleansing from sin (1 Peter 3.21)

1. Sin makes us feel _____ inside

2. Only the _____ of Jesus Christ can wipe the slate completely clean

3. Baptism into Jesus is a refreshing experience of cleansing and _____ within (1 Peter 3.21)

1) This is likely why God prescribed a total _____ in water – a cleansing from head to toe

2) The prophet Ananias to Saul, who now believed in Jesus: “Get up and be baptized and _____ your sins away” (Acts 22.16)

It meets our need for a benchmark of commitment (Romans 6.1-6)

1. Benchmarks serve as important reference points that something _____ happened

2. Baptism is the benchmark that we've left the old “country” of _____ behind and entered into the new “country” of _____

3. Remember: _____ is the source of our salvation, not baptism in and of itself

1) But our faith + repentance + confession + immersion _____ us of our salvation by God's promise

2) It's an _____ benchmark that we really do belong to God through Jesus Christ

Additional Scriptures cited: 1 John 5.3; Acts 2.37-38; Hebrews 9.22; Ephesians 2.8; Acts 3.19; Romans 10.9; Mark 16.16