THE IMPORTANCE OF WATER BAPTISM

Water baptism, administered by a church that follows the teachings of Christ, reinforces the desire to be rescued from sin and follow Christ. As a marriage license reinforces the commitment to the sacredness of marriage, water baptism reinforces the commitment to follow Christ outwardly in obedience to His Word.

God desires to rescue born again believers from sin. First, a person must be born again. New spiritual birth results from conviction of the Holy Spirit concerning the seriousness of sin, belief in Jesus for His willingness and ability to rescue from sin and give eternal life, and receiving Jesus through the indwelling Holy Spirit. Cooperation of the person was necessary for the new birth.

In Scripture, salvation refers to the actual rescue of the born again believer from sin in this life. Cooperation of the born again believer is necessary for rescue from sin on a daily basis. The born again believer can never lose his eternal life in Christ, but he can fail to cooperate daily and fail to be rescued from sin and its consequences in this life.

Scripture says to <u>work out your salvation</u> (rescue from sin) with fear and trembling. Philippians 2:12

Referring to salvation Scripturally, as being rescued from sin in this life, makes water baptism extremely important. Water baptism is one of the first public demonstrations of obedience to Christ which has a great impact upon the new believer and the life of the church. Becoming accountable to the church with active ministry in the church produces great opportunity for not yielding to temptation, thus being rescued from sin. The power for living the Christian life is the indwelling Holy Spirit who produces the fruits of the Spirit in the believer's life.

Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus for your release from sin's power and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Acts 2:38

Get up and be baptized. Have your sins washed away by calling on the name of the Lord. Acts 22:16

Water baptism is a first step in obedience to the commands of Christ. Matthew 28:19

Calling on the name of the Lord daily is the way we are rescued from sin throughout our life.

Remember: the word saved and salvation refers to being rescued from sin daily.

Whoever (the believer), calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved (rescued from sin as life progresses now). Romans 10:13