

Digging Deeper into Baptism

This week, as we have the joy of seeing Kerry baptised, we take a break from John's Gospel to think about baptism.



Chat

- Have you been baptised?
 - If yes, was it as a child or an adult?
 - What does your baptism mean to you?

Study

In her sermon, Angeline said that the circumcision was the physical sign of the old covenant and baptism is the physical sign of the new covenant.

Read Genesis 17:1-14

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+17&version=NIV>

- Here we read of God's covenant with Abram. What did God promise him (v.2-8)?
- What did God say the newly named Abraham must do (v.1, 10-14)?
(*'Abraham' means 'father of many'*)

Read Deuteronomy 30:6

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy+30&version=NIV>

- Moses is talking to the nation of Israel, Abraham's descendants. What does he say God will do?
- What do you think that means?

Read Colossians 2:9-12

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians+2&version=NIV>

- How has God circumcised our hearts?
- What does Paul say happened when we were 'circumcised by Christ'?
(*The phrase 'ruled by the flesh' refers to the tendency to sin in human nature; see Gal.6:19-21*)
- What do we put on in place of this tendency to sin (See Gal.3:26-27; Gal.6:22-26; Rom.13:12-14)?
- What has all this got to do with baptism (Col.2:12; see also Rom.6:5)?
- Look at Col.2:13-14. What has God done for us in the new covenant?
- Look at Col.2:6-7. Having been saved by grace through faith, what is our side of the agreement?

Think

- Think back to your own baptism, whatever age you were.
 - Are you living the reality of this sign of grace in your new life with Jesus?
 - Is there an area of your life where you're letting the "old self" tempt you back?
 - What can you do to "clothe" yourself in Christ each day?
- If you've never been baptised, and it's something you feel God is asking you to do, talk to Tom or Larissa. If you were baptised as a baby and would like to confirm the promises for yourself, you can talk to them about being confirmed (a special service where the Bishop lays hands on you and prays for the Holy Spirit to strengthen and equip you.

