



Baptism

BOOKLET

This booklet is for any person wishing to know more about The Church of Eleven22's theological convictions regarding baptism. If you have surrendered your life to Christ and wish to be baptized at The Church of Eleven22 or simply desire to learn more about our beliefs, we invite you to attend a baptism class. You can find out more information at **coe22.com/baptism**.

WHAT IS BAPTISM?

Baptism and Communion (the Lord's Supper) are the two ordinances¹ prescribed by our Lord Jesus Christ as visible symbols of an invisible grace. They are discernible and tangible representations of both the invisible realities of the gospel² and the Spirit's application of this gospel to our lives. With both ordinances, believers have an opportunity to "remember" God's goodness and grace, especially as revealed in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

In baptism, as we enter into the waters or watch another do so, we are reminded that Christ was crucified and raised from the dead and through faith in Him, we too have died to the old self in order to live for Christ. The Church of Eleven22's Statement of Faith describes baptism as a visual and symbolic demonstration of a person's union with Christ in the likeness of His death and resurrection. As an outward symbol, baptism signifies that a person's former way of life has been put to death and depicts a release from the mastery of sin.

As a symbol, baptism illustrates a number of significant realities:

- Christ's death and resurrection.
- The disciple's union with Christ in His death and resurrection.
- The cleansing and washing away of sin.
- The new life in which a disciple walks.

WHAT IS BAPTISM NOT?

Baptism is not "necessary for salvation."

Though grace is mysteriously mediated through baptism, it is not saving grace, but rather sanctifying grace. We are more conformed to the image of Christ as we obey Him in the call to be baptized.³ Without in any way diminishing the duty and delight of baptism for a believer, we warn against any thinking that suggests that salvation is dependent upon baptism. The gospel is one of salvation by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.⁴



WHY SHOULD ONE BE BAPTIZED?

MATTHEW 28:18-20 ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

ACTS 2:37-41 ³⁷ Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” ³⁸ And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” ⁴⁰ And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” ⁴¹ So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

ACTS 22:16 And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.

Based on Scripture, we are baptized to

- 1. Obey the commands of Christ.**
- 2. Demonstrate that we are disciples of Christ.**
- 3. Follow the example of Christ.**

Baptism is not merely a responsibility, but also a privilege. We have the opportunity to demonstrate our trust in and love for our King through obedience in this ordinance. If we think of baptism as a mere burden, we have not properly understood the joy of following Christ in the call to be baptized. We should have a similar response as the Ethiopian eunuch who, when he believed the gospel, proclaimed, "What prevents me from being baptized?" (Acts 8:26-40). It should be our joy and we should eagerly anticipate our participation in the ordinance.

The desire to be baptized should be motivated by a desire to glorify God in faithful obedience. Any other motivation (to join a particular local church, to please a friend or family member, etc.) should not be the ultimate reason for seeking to be baptized.



WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

ACTS 2:41 So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

ACTS 8:12 But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

The Church of Eleven22's Statement of Faith states, *“(Water) baptism is only intended for the individual who has received the saving benefits of Christ’s atoning work and become His disciple.”*

This means we practice what is called “believer’s” or “confessor’s” baptism, meaning we only baptize those who believe and confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Reading through Acts, we find baptism explicitly related to repentance, receiving the Word, believing and receiving the Holy Spirit. There is no explicit evidence to suggest that nonbelievers were baptized.

To view The Church of Eleven22's Statement of Faith, see page 22.



SHOULD A PERSON BE REBAPTIZED?

For those who were baptized at an earlier age, it's important to understand that we only need to be baptized once. If you trusted in Christ at that time, your baptism is valid. If, however, you experienced sprinkling with or immersion in water before trusting fully in Christ, your experience was not baptism and you do need to be baptized. The question is, "Was I truly trusting in Christ when I was baptized?" Another way to ask it is, "Have I been baptized since I made a decision to surrender my life to Christ and follow Him only?" As a believer, there will always be seasons of hardship, joy, growth



and maturity in your life, yet you do not need to be rebaptized each time you experience these seasons. Instead, praise God for His faithfulness and thank Him for His continued work in your life. However, if you believe that your original experience was prior to truly trusting in Christ as Lord and Savior, you should pursue obedience in this area by being baptized now.

WHEN SHOULD A PERSON BE BAPTIZED?

ACTS 22:16 And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.

As soon as a person trusts in Christ, he or she should be baptized. The Scriptures do not speak of a delayed baptism in which a believer refrains from getting baptized. In all the accounts in the Scriptures, baptism is rather immediate. We follow this pattern of somewhat immediate baptism unless there are convincing reasons to delay.

The Practice of The Church of Eleven22

At The Church of Eleven22, we ask believers who wish to be baptized to temporarily delay for a brief season in order to go through baptismal preparation and await a scheduled baptismal celebration. We do this for several reasons. First, this practice allows us to discuss the gospel and the meaning of baptism and to teach our theological convictions regarding both. Second, it allows the church the opportunity to celebrate together as a congregation, sharing in the joy of a person's obedience and agreeing to walk with him or her in the fellowship of believers. Finally, it allows the person being baptized to invite family and friends who will have an opportunity to celebrate and hear the proclamation of the gospel.

Improper motivations for delayed baptism

1. NOT BEING GOOD ENOUGH

There will never be a time where a person will be "good enough" for baptism. Our right to enter the baptismal waters is grounded upon Christ's righteousness, not our own. If we have been united to Him through faith and believe His death and resurrection counted for us

and purchased us a place in heaven, we should confidently draw near in obedience to His command and example of baptism.

2. FEAR

The enemy often uses fear and anxiety in our life to delay obedience to the Lord and stop us from entering into a wonderful next step of faith. God did not give us a spirit of fear but of power, love, and self-discipline (2 Timothy 1:7). If you are fearful of getting baptized, we encourage you to talk with your campus pastor, disciple group leader or a staff member.

3. WANTING A SPECIFIC TIME AND PLACE

Sometimes people want to delay baptism so they can be baptized during a “special” time of the year or at a “special” place like the beach or a specific body of water. We encourage you not to pass up an opportunity to be baptized, but to trust that God has called you to be obedient in the here and now.

WHERE SHOULD A PERSON BE BAPTIZED?

Although there are no prescriptions in the Scriptures to location, we prefer to practice the ordinance within the context of the local church in order to allow the congregation to celebrate together in a person’s act of obedience and submission (by context, we do not simply mean in a church building, but through the ministry of a local church).

That said, we do not want to prescribe what the Scriptures do not and thus we do allow for baptism to occur outside the weekly gathering. Our preference in such cases is that video and/or pictures be taken to record the event so that the church can share in the joy.

HOW SHOULD A PERSON BE BAPTIZED?

Though other denominations and theological traditions baptize by pouring or sprinkling, The Church of Eleven22 practices baptism by immersion.⁷ We do so in light of the following considerations.

1. THE GREEK WORD *βαπτίζω* (BAPTIZO) LITERALLY MEANS TO PLUNGE, SUBMERGE OR IMMERSE

Our English word baptism is a transliteration of the Greek baptizo. Baptizo was used in Greek literature to describe the act of immersing something in water or another liquid. It later became a technical term that referred specifically to the Christian ordinance of baptism.

2. THE REPRESENTATION OF UNION IN CHRIST'S DEATH AND RESURRECTION IS BEST EXPRESSED THROUGH IMMERSION

Whether buried below or above ground, the symbolism of burial is still that of being placed under something. Likewise, resurrection is accomplished by coming out of something (whether grave or tomb). Immersion best symbolizes this reality by actually placing the believer under the water and bringing them out.

COLOSSIANS 2:12 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.

ROMANS 6:3-4³ Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

⁴ We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

3. THE SURROUNDING CONTEXT OF BAPTISMS IN THE SCRIPTURES SUGGESTS BAPTISM BY IMMERSION

MATTHEW 3:16 And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him...

MARK 1:5, 10 ⁵ And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins...¹⁰ And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.⁸

ACTS 8:38-39 ³⁸ And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. ³⁹ And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.⁹



BAPTISM AT THE CHURCH OF ELEVEN22

Prior to the Baptism

1. We ask those wishing to be baptized to participate in a baptism class in which we explain the gospel, core Christian beliefs (articulated in our Statement of Faith found on page 22) and our theology of baptism.
2. After taking the class, we ask participants to share their testimony with us, to share the transformation of their life by the gospel. Following Baptism Class, participants will be sent a link to write their testimony.

Baptism Services

1. We have regularly scheduled baptism opportunities in which the church celebrates baptisms together. We encourage those wishing to be baptized to do so within the context of these gatherings.¹⁰
2. The person performing the baptism will ask, "Who is Jesus Christ?" to which the baptizee will respond, "My Lord and Savior."
3. The baptizer will then say, "I baptize you, my (brother or sister) in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit" and then immerse and raise the baptizee out of the water.¹¹



Helpful Hints

1. Please check your email and text messages the week prior to your baptism to know where to go and for more details about your baptism event.
2. Wear dark, loose fitting, shorts and dark, loose fitting, t-shirt to maintain modesty.
3. Bring a change of clothes, towel and bag to hold your wet clothes after you change.
4. **IN SERVICE:** Seats will be reserved for everyone being baptized and their families.
5. **AT THE BEACH:** A specific location will be provided.



SHARING YOUR TESTIMONY

What is a testimony?

Your testimony is your part of God's bigger story. It reflects the change Christ has done and continues to do in you, as further evidence of His Holy Spirit's power. He has rescued you, is transforming you and will sustain you. Just as He did in the Bible, God will use your story as evidence for more people to understand, believe and receive Him for who He is and what He's done.

Simply put, your testimony is the story of what your life was like before you met Jesus, how you came to surrender to Him as your Lord and Savior and what your life is like now that you are in a personal relationship with Jesus.

Why should one share their testimony?

In Matthew 28, Jesus tells His disciples to "Go and make disciples..." Shortly after, Acts 4:33 tells us that with "great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus." The apostles set the example before us that we are to go and tell of the resurrection of Jesus. God has equipped each believer with two tools to tell the story: one tool is His Word and the second is our word.

HIS WORD

His Word (the Bible) is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart (Hebrews 4:12). The Bible tells us everything we need to know to surrender our lives to Jesus. The Bible is without error and, in its entirety, reveals the redemptive work of Jesus. It needs nothing else.

OUR WORD

So why were we given two tools? It's true His Word is all sufficient. But, to a world that doesn't know His voice, God has equipped each believer with our word. Our word does not save, but often times becomes the bridge God chooses to use to connect the dying world to the life-giving Savior. Our word shows the validity of His Word to our family, friends and those we come in contact with. We share our testimony out of obedience to Jesus so that those around us can know Him as their Savior. Our word engages hearts. His Word changes hearts.

It is the responsibility of the Church to make disciples. Therefore, The Church of Eleven22 requests that all those baptized be willing to share their testimony. We do this in two ways; we write our testimony and we share it via video. Though it may seem intimidating to some and trivial to others, your testimony is a powerful way to share what God has done in your life to people needing your word to connect them to Jesus and His Word.

How does one share their testimony?

Simply put, you tell your story and talk a lot about your relationship with Jesus. You are the expert, but if you need a little help with your word, then turn to His Word. In Acts chapter 26, Paul gives his testimony to King Agrippa. It may be a great idea to pause right now and read this chapter before moving forward.

Paul tells his story with a specific goal: to share the gospel of Jesus Christ. In sharing his testimony, Paul provides us with an outline that is definitely worth repeating.

1. Your life before Jesus.
2. How you surrendered to Jesus.
3. Your life in relationship with Jesus.

Where to Start?

It is helpful to start by writing out your testimony. Ask God to reveal to you the things from your past and present that He wants you to share. Use the template provided to write out your testimony.

TESTIMONY WRITING TOOL

YOUR LIFE BEFORE CHRIST

- “Before I surrendered my life to Christ...”
 - Think about your attitudes, beliefs, values and actions before you became a Christian.
 - Who/what did you worship?
 - Be honest, but don’t glorify your past/sin. Remember, He gets the glory for the transformation He’s done in you.

CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING YOUR SURRENDER

- “Then I surrendered my life to Christ...”
 - Share how you became aware of your need for Christ.
 - How did you receive the gospel?
 - Share how you went from knowing about Him to knowing Him personally.

HOW YOUR LIFE IS DIFFERENT SINCE YOUR SURRENDER

- “Now that I have a relationship with Jesus...”
 - Explain what a relationship with Him means to you now.
 - Compare your beliefs, attitudes, thoughts and actions now to those you had before surrendering to Christ (consider your relationships, work, values, etc.).
 - Be honest and open - your unique testimony can encourage others in their discipleship journey.
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Helpful testimony tips

1. Keep your testimony focused on Jesus and what He has done for you.
2. Be authentic. There is no expectation that you ‘have your life all together’ now that you’re following Jesus.
3. Please avoid saying that you have “always been a Christian.” This gives the impression that faith is something you can inherit. Becoming a Christian is about making the decision to accept Christ’s death on the cross as payment for your sin, not just growing up in a Christian home.
4. Please don’t talk about the sins of someone else.

VIDEO TESTIMONY

When you share your testimony via video, your story will be recorded by highly-trained staff who will patiently walk you through a guided ‘interview’ and coach you through the process. Please write your

testimony down and practice sharing it as you will need to share your story from memory. Remember, you are the expert on your story!

1. Introduce yourself.
2. Talk about what your life was like before Jesus.
3. Share how you came to surrender to Jesus as your Lord and Savior.
4. Describe what life is like now that you are in a relationship with Jesus.
5. Share why you want to get baptized.
6. Close with your public profession of faith in Jesus Christ; i.e., *"I am here today to let you know that Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior."*

WHAT FOLLOWS BAPTISM?

MATTHEW 28:18-20 ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."



Throughout Scripture, individuals are called to “repent and be baptized.” Baptism is the first step of obedience for the believer, but not the last. So what is the believer to do following baptism? Be a disciple. The command of Jesus was not to go and make converts, but to make disciples. As a disciple of Jesus, you are to ultimately be a follower of Jesus in such a way that you become like Him.

How do I grow as a disciple?

1. READ THE WORD AND PRAY DAILY

The Bible is not just a book of stories, but is one true message revealing the character of God so that we can know Him personally. Daily reading of God’s Word is the best way to grow in your relationship with Jesus Christ. Visit coe22.com/discoverjesus to download a 21-day devotional to help you read the Word daily.

While the Bible is a primary way God communicates with us, prayer is a way we can communicate with Him. Prayer is one of the strongest ways to deepen your relationship with Jesus. We pray because it transforms our heart to be more like His. We pray to hear from Him. We pray because Jesus prayed.

2. BE ACTIVE IN CORPORATE WORSHIP (SHOW UP AT WORSHIP GATHERINGS EACH WEEK)

We gather together each week to worship and glorify God through public declaration of the gospel, song, teaching and other elements like communion and baptism.

HEBREWS 10:24-25 ²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

3. GET CONNECTED

You were created to be in community and called to be a disciple-making disciple. There are many ways to deepen your relationship with Jesus and get connected with other believers including serving, going on a mission trip and joining a disciple group. Check out all the opportunities at coe22.com/connect.

4. CONTINUE TO SHARE YOUR STORY

Baptism is the first step of publicly proclaiming Jesus as your Lord and Savior. As a believer, you are called to make known the name of Jesus and His gift of Salvation. Share your story consistently with others who need to hear the good news of Jesus. To learn practical ways to share your story, visit coe22.com/classes to sign up for the next Share Your Faith class.

5. CONNECT WITH A NEW BELIEVER AMBASSADOR

If you are a new believer, we have people ready to walk alongside you as you learn more about what following Jesus means. Your new believer ambassador will help you learn how to read the Bible, pray and be a part of the body of Christ. If you would like to connect with an ambassador, visit coe22.com/discoverjesus and click on the "I WANT AN NBA" button.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

Our prayer for you is that you actively pursue a life of holiness with the Holy Spirit's help.

Surrendering to Jesus is not merely believing He is your Savior, but also living with Him as your Lord. As you prepare to take your next step of obedience in baptism, now is a good time to examine your life and identify any area where you are not actively seeking to live like Christ.

We care about you and are called to walk with one another in community. If you have any questions or concerns about this Statement of Faith, please email baptism@coe22.com.

GOD IS TRIUNE: There is one God: infinite, eternal, almighty and perfect in holiness, truth and love. In the unity of the godhead, there are three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, co-existent, co-equal and co-eternal (Deuteronomy 6:4, Isaiah 45:5-6, 1 Timothy 2:5).

GOD THE FATHER: Creator of heaven and earth. He sustains all, rules over all and His plans and purposes cannot be derailed. He is faithful to every promise, works all things together for the good of those who love Him, gave His Son Jesus Christ for mankind's redemption and intends for us to live in relationship with Him (Genesis 1, John 3:16-17, James 1:17).

JESUS CHRIST: The only begotten Son of God and the eternal Word made flesh. He was supernaturally conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary and is perfect. He is fully God and fully man. He is the only Savior for the sins of the world, having shed His blood and died a substitutionary death on the cross. By His death our guilt is removed and we are reconciled to God. Having redeemed us from sin, He rose from the grave and was victorious over death and the powers of darkness. He ascended into heaven where He intercedes for His people and rules as Lord over all, awaiting His return. He is the Head of the church, and should be adored, loved, served and obeyed by all. He will one day physically return and bring forth the judgment of the just and unjust and the fulfillment of His kingdom (Matthew 1:20, Romans 5:8, Mark 16:1-8, Acts 1:11).

THE HOLY SPIRIT: As God the third person of the Trinity, He convicts and comforts. Through the proclamation of the gospel, He persuades men to repent of their sins and confess Jesus as Lord. He unites believers to Jesus Christ in faith, and dwells within the believer. He will lead the church into a right understanding and rich application of the truth of God's Word (John 14:26, John 16, Romans 8:26, 1 Corinthians 3:16-17).

THE SCRIPTURES: The Bible is the written Word of God. It is the essential and infallible record of God's self-disclosure to mankind. It is free of error in all it teaches and leads us to salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. Each book is to be interpreted according to its context and purpose and revered as the living Word. The Scriptures are the authoritative guide for all Christian life, practice and doctrine. They are sufficient and must not be added to, replaced or changed (2 Timothy 3:16, 2 Peter 1:20-21).

MAN: God made man, male and female, in His own image, that they might glorify Him through enjoying fellowship with Him. Tempted by Satan, man rebelled against God and became subject to divine wrath. Man is depraved and incapable of returning to God on his own. All are spiritually dead and without hope apart from salvation in Christ alone (Jeremiah 17:9, Romans 3:23, Ephesians 2:1-10).

THE GOSPEL: The good news of Jesus's birth, life, death, resurrection and ascension. Christ's death satisfies the demands of God's holy justice and satisfies His holy wrath. It also demonstrates His mysterious love and reveals His amazing grace. Jesus Christ is the only mediator between God and man. There is no other name by which men must be saved (Acts 4:12, John 1:1-14).

MAN'S RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL: Faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ, demonstrated by a life of repentance from sin. Man is to love the Lord with all his heart, soul, mind and strength. This gospel of grace is to be sincerely preached to all people in all nations (Matthew 22:36-40, Romans 10:9, Matthew 28:16-20).

MAN'S INHERITANCE THROUGH THE GOSPEL: Salvation, the free gift of God, is provided by grace alone, through faith alone, because of Christ alone and for the glory of God alone. Anyone turning from sin in repentance and looking to Christ has the righteousness of Christ imputed to him. He is justified, forgiven, fully accepted and adopted by God (2 Corinthians 5:21, Ephesians 1:5).

SANCTIFICATION: The Holy Spirit is the active agent in our sanctification and seeks to produce His fruit in us as our minds are renewed and we are conformed to the image of Christ. All believers are charged to persevere in the faith knowing they will have to give an account to God for their every thought, word and deed (Galatians. 2:20, Philippians 2:12).

MARRIAGE: Our beliefs about marriage and sexuality, as with all topics, are based on Scripture. We are all created in the image of God. We all have sinned and fallen short of God's standards, yet His forgiveness, grace and mercy extend to all who repent. Marriage is a picture of Christ's relationship with His bride - the church. It is defined from the beginning of Scripture as a lifelong commitment between a man and a woman and reaffirmed by Jesus as God's design for sexual expression. God designed sexual intimacy for a marriage relationship and does not endorse or condone it in any other context. Consequently, any sexual expression, whether heterosexual or homosexual, outside of marriage is prohibited by Scripture (Genesis 1:26, Romans 3:23, Ephesians 5:22-23, Genesis 2:24, Matthew 19:4-5, 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5).

Read the complete Statement of Faith at coe22.com/about to find out more about what we believe concerning the church, being empowered by the Holy Spirit, church ordinances and the consummation.

FOOTNOTES

Material adapted from The Village Church in Dallas Texas. Many thanks to The Village Church for the wealth of knowledge and resources (thevillagechurch.net).

¹ Protestant theology has often chosen the term “ordinance” rather than “sacrament” in order to distance itself from the accompanying nuances of the Roman Catholic usage of that term. That said, if understood properly, either term is acceptable.

² Though there are various ways to describe the “good news,” it centers on the provision of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, as a substitute for our sins. He lived a perfect life, was crucified and was raised three days later. Through faith in Him, we are united to Him and thus reconciled to God.

³ While 1 Peter 3 states, “baptism...saves you,” it is important to note the context and particularly Peter’s immediate clarification that it is not the water but the “appeal to God” which saves. This corresponds to passages such as Romans 10:13, which states that “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” We appeal to God and call upon Him as an expression of faith. Baptism is a symbol of this faith which alone saves.

⁴ John 3 states that unless a person is “born of water and the Spirit” he cannot enter the kingdom of heaven. Many point to this as evidence of the necessity of baptism. However, nothing in the context suggests that Jesus is speaking of baptism. Rather, He is alluding to the promise of the New Covenant in Ezekiel 36, which speaks of both “water” and “Spirit.” Therefore, Jesus is saying that “new birth” or “regeneration” is necessary for salvation, not baptism.

⁵ The primary vehicle for baptismal prep is a baptism class. Other types of prep includes sermons prior to spontaneous baptism and mission field one-on-ones. Classes will be regularly scheduled.

⁶ Scheduled baptism celebrations include a variety of options ranging from spontaneous response times, in-service baptism, beach baptism celebrations and mission trip baptisms.

⁷ Except in those rare cases in which immersion is impossible or impractical. By way of examples, baptism by sprinkling is certainly to be practiced in the case of a person who is physically unable to be immersed or in the case of a particularly severe drought in which water is sparse.

⁸ The prepositions here are crucial. Verse 5 has the Greek *en*, not another preposition meaning beside or near. Verse 10 has *ek*, not *apo*, which would have been used for merely going away from the water.

⁹ It is important to note this verse speaks of both Philip and the eunuch going down into and coming up out of the water, but the significance is found in the fact that they actually entered into the water which would have been unnecessary if baptizing by sprinkling or pouring. Surely the caravan would have had sufficient water for those modes had they been a preferable practice.

¹⁰ We should remember from the “Where Should a Person be Baptized?” section that this is a local church preference, not a prescription.

¹¹ Following the formula of Matthew 28:19, we baptize using the Trinitarian confession. In Acts, the apostles typically baptized “in the name of Jesus Christ,” but this should not be viewed as differing in meaning from Matthew’s prescription. The context of Acts is concerned with testifying to the resurrection of Christ, and thus He is distinguished among the persons of the Trinity, but all that is true of the character (“name” often represents character in the Scriptures) of Christ is true of the Father and Spirit as well.

