**Back to Basics of Being a Born-Again Christian:**

**Water Baptism and You (Matthew 28:18-20; Romans 6:1-4; Galatians 2:20)**

***Senior Pastor Chris Kam***

Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.  Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28: 18-20)

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. (Galatians 2:20)

Introduction

If a baby was delivered wrongly, they may suffer bad health their entire lives as a consequence. Likewise, if a new Christian was “delivered” wrongly, they too stand to suffer the consequences in the new life. To avoid living a defeated live in Christ, let us make sure that we are strong in the basics of the Christian faith, and to disciple others of the same.

Basic Principles of the Christian Faith

The five basic principles of the Christian faith can be found in Hebrews 6:1-2 (NIV84);

Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance1 from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God2, instruction about cleansing rites3, the laying on of hands4, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment5.

1. Repentance
Turning away from old life/sin.
2. Faith in God
– Knowing what you believe: Jesus Christ.
3. Instructions about Baptism
The act of dying to your old life and receiving new life through the public act of water baptism.
4. The laying of hands
Praying for the baptism of the Holy Spirit.
5. The resurrection of the dead and eternal judgement

Looking beyond and have the correct perspective of the world to come.

If we don’t have our basics right, there is no way that we will ever become matured in Christ.

So, why do we need to be baptised?

1. It is a command

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, **baptizing** them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19)

1. It is a consistent pattern in the early church

Among the many baptised to profess their newfound faith through water baptism were the 3000 who believed at Pentecost, the Ethiopian eunuch and Saul who became Paul (Acts 2:41; 8:12; 9:18; 10:47-48; 16:14-15a; 16:29-34;18:8; 19:5)

1. It is a public declaration

Water baptism is an act with the Church as witnesses that you chose to be a follower of Jesus.

1. It is a spiritual declaration

Water baptism signifies the washing of sins and being given new life in Jesus. It is saying to the church that you are now part of the body of Christ.

**The BIG idea: I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.**

I am Crucified.

*I have been crucified with Christ… (Galatians 2:20)*

Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death?  We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. (Romans 6:3-4)

1. Water baptism in a way is our funeral service. It is choosing to die to our old self, and claiming new life in Christ.

On hearing it, many of his disciples said, ‘This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?’ …

From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him. (John 6:60,66)

1. The disciples suddenly realised there was a cost in following Christ and immediately backpedalled.
2. Dietrich Bonhoeffer summarised it well through a quote in ‘*The Cost of Discipleship*’

— *“When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die.”*

Then Jesus said to his disciples, ‘Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. (Matthew 16:24-25)

1. Many think that living as a Christian is to reap blessings; but the truth of the full gospel is that though there are blessings, there is also a worldly cost to living in Christ.
2. What will it Cost you? For some, it is sacrificing time and money. For others, it is being thrown out of the house, be struck out of their father’s will, and even denied their rights as a human being.

— An estimate of 90,000 Christians died for their faith in 2016, their deaths nameless and unrecorded.

I am Dead.

*… and I no longer live… (Galatians 2:20)*

We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. (Romans 6:4)

I face death every day – yes, just as surely as I boast about you in Christ Jesus our Lord. (1 Corinthians 15:31)

We live in a world where we are constantly consuming to serve ourselves. However, when we choose to go through the water baptism, it is giving up our rights to God and dying to ourselves. You are dead! Only when we die to ourselves, God can do a new thing in us.

There is a cost to pay when we follow and serve God.

I am Alive!

*…but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me (Galatians 2:20)*

Very truly I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. (John 12:24-25)

We know that something better is in store for us but unless we die and let go of our old lives, we will not experience new life in Christ. Give up your right to be angry, unforgiving, depressed… all the things you did in your old life. Choose to let go and see things in a different, Godly perspective.

Ending Thoughts

Allow God to grow you and use you by getting the basics right. Let us move beyond the elementary level. If you have yet to be baptised, take this chance to equip yourself with the basics - Basic Christianity 101 (May 6, 13), DUMC 101 (May 27) - and attend the Baptism and Encounter Weekend this coming June 10 and 11. You can register at [dumc.my/equip](http://dumc.my/resources/equipping/) or at the Information Counter.

Sermon summary contributed by Adeliyn

Prayer points contributed by Abbey



**SERMON: Back to Basics of Being a Born Again Christian: Water Baptism and you.**

**Pray:**

1. That we always remember the importance of baptism.
2. We are proud to publicly declare our faith in Christ.
3. As we die to our old self during baptism, we are willing to pay the cost of being a disciple of Christ.
4. We are prepared to give our all to Christ and surrender ourselves to Him.
5. We not only accept the good part but embrace the “hard” part of Christianity.

*I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. (Galatians 2:20)*

**MINISTRIES & EVENTS: Missions Prayer Meeting**

*April 1. Members gather together as one body to pray for the ministry, mission teams, missionaries and other mission related bodies.*

**Pray:**

1. God to prepare the hearts of every speaker.
2. Covering for all the organizers and attendees of the event.
3. God will raise the interest for the people on missions.
4. For good time of fellowship and renewed passion for missions during the event.

*“For this is what the Lord has commanded us: “ ‘I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth (Acts 13:47)*

**MALAYSIA MY NATION: The Church in Malaysia**

*KUALA LUMPUR: The sacrifices of the Royal Malaysian Police in maintaining the nation’s safety and security must always be held in high esteem and respect, said Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.The Prime Minister said no one can deny the priceless contributions of the police force over the years in keeping the country safe, especially thousands of police personnel at the front-line, who are willing to forsake their own safety and well-being for the people. (thestar.com)*

**Pray:**

1. For Christians to respect the law and the police in the country.
2. We will not dwell negatively on all the bad news we hear but have respect for all the policemen and women in the country.
3. We will make a stand when tempted to bribe or take the easy way out.
4. All Christians within the police force will be a shining example to the others.

*"How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity!" (Psalm 133:1)*

![C:\Users\TayP\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\RKXBUCNQ\africa-globe[1].jpg]() **A TRANSFORMED WORLD: Hong Kong**

*HONG KONG (Reuters) - A small electoral college began voting for a new Hong Kong leader on Sunday amid accusations that Beijing is meddling and denying the Chinese-ruled financial hub a more populist leader perhaps better suited to defuse political tension. The majority of the city's 7.3 million people have no say in deciding their next leader, with the winner chosen by a 1,200-person "election committee" stacked with pro-Beijing and pro-establishment loyalists.*

**Pray:**

1. Freedom of election in Hong Kong and China.
2. For fairness and justice as the 1200 member committee decides on who is to rule Hong Kong.
3. The Christians in Hong Kong to believe that God reigns in the country.
4. The churches to stand, pray and grow together amidst all the problems in China,

*Follow justice and justice alone, so that you may live and possess the land the LORD your God is giving you. (Deuteronomy 16:20)*