

Ridin' High Cowboy Church

8771 FM 35

Union Valley/Royse City, TX

Pastor: Steve Bishop

July 31, 2016 – Watering Trough

Most of the old west social life centered around the watering hole. Many saloons were named the Watering Hole. The trough at a cowboy church is the focus of what happens here ...that men and women want to publicly show what Jesus has done in their lives...

What about Baptism ...

Definition of baptism from the Greek word, Baptizo (dip, dunk, immerse) ship sunk in battle, drowning, head and shoulders in debt, dipping a cup of wine, dying cloth, people who were swimming or bathing ... I plan on baptizing some chips in cheese dip tonight!

Very common word – Ancient physician Nicanter – recipe for making pickles (dipped in boiling water and then baptized in vinegar), Granny Acker said 5 weeks in vinegar - maybe some people are not being held under long enough!

New Testament community began to use the word in relation to converts turning to Judaism. First you had to be circumcised (imagine THAT conversation) then you baptized yourself (to symbolize you had died to old ways and taken on Judaism).

Something very unusual happened: John the Baptist – said repent for the messiah is coming. People would come to him and he baptized them to this teaching (1st recorded baptisms in history). Since John was the only one who did this, he got the nickname, John the Baptist.

Greek word for sprinkle – Raino – sprinkle with blood by the priest.

Reason we immerse – That's what was modeled for us. Every time someone in the bible was baptized they were immersed in water, not sprinkled. It would be so much easier to sprinkle if you meet in a tent in the winter time at a cowboy church. So why don't we? Cause we are trying to do as close as possible, what they did in the Bible.

Why do entire denominations not do this? It has more to do with church history than the Bible.

What about infant baptism? Baptism is for individuals who have made a personal decision to follow Jesus Christ and want to show outwardly what Jesus has done for them. Infants do not have the ability to make a personal decision to follow Christ.

Three significances of Baptism...

Romans 6:3-4

3 Don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 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.

1. DEATH A sign of identification. Going public with your faith, that Jesus died to pay for your sins and that there is only one way to be right with God and that is by accepting Jesus' work on the cross
 - a. The old person has died
 - b. We don't make you come up front and talk to me in front of everyone when you decide to follow Jesus and become a Christian but when you get baptized there is no option for a private baptism cause you are going public with your decision.
2. Burial – not only did some things need to die, but they need to stay that way...A change has taken place.

Phil 3:13 But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead.

3. Resurrection: A clean start

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

When do you get baptized?

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

Did my baptism Count: The issue is not how you got wet, it's the meaning attached to getting wet. We serve a big God and he is not up in heaven saying Steve, that little girl whose face didn't go under, she needs to be re-baptized... If you meant it to show a picture of the death, burial and resurrection of what Christ did in you, then Yes!

What it does not mean...

It does not mean salvation

Example: Thief on the cross – one of them said “Remember me when you come into your kingdom” and Jesus said, “Too late buddy, you need to be baptized” Just kidding...no, Jesus said, “Today, you will be with me in paradise.”

When you see grown men say I want to show everyone what Christ has done for me, that speaks louder than any sermon ...

We celebrated 11 baptisms this morning! Praise Jesus!