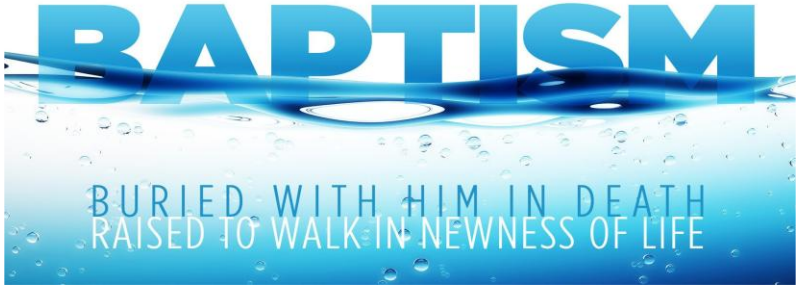
I HAVE DECIDED … TO FOLLOW JESUS
Matthew 3:13-17



The Fellowship of the Unashamed

"I'm part of the fellowship of the unashamed. The die has been cast. I have stepped over the line, the decision has been made. **I am a disciple of Christ.** And I won't look back, let up, slow down, back away or be still. My past is redeemed, my present makes sense, and my future is secure. I'm finished with low living, sight walking, small planning, colorless dreams, tamed vision, mundane talking, cheap giving, and dwarfed goals. I no longer need preeminence, prosperity, position, promotions, or popularity. I don't have to be right, first, tops, recognized, regarded, or rewarded. I now live by faith, lean on His presence, live by prayer, and labor by power. My face is set, my gait is fast, my road is narrow, my way is rough, and my companions few **…** but my guide is reliable and my mission is clear. I cannot be bought, compromised, deluded, detoured, delayed, lured away, or turned back. I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice, hesitate in the presence of the adversary, negotiate at the table of the enemy, ponder at the pool of popularity, or meander in the maze of mediocrity. **I am a follower of Jesus.** And I won't give up, shut up, or let up until I have stayed up, stored up, prayed up, and paid up for the cause of Christ. I must go 'til He comes, give 'til I drop, preach 'til all know, and work 'til He stops me. And when He returns for His own, He will have no problem recognizing me. **For my banner will be clear!"**

Baptism is an outward expression of an inward faith!

Matthew 3:13–17 Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. [14] But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"
[15] Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented.
[16] As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. [17] And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

The example of Christ's baptism …

1. Sets the priority of baptism! – **It** _____ **our ministry!**

2. Fulfills all righteousness! – **The** _____ **act of obedience!**

3. Clarifies the mode! – **Baptism by** _____**!**

4. Ignites the presence of the Holy Spirit! – **Baptism** _____ **His presence!**

Romans 6:4 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.

2 Corinthians 11:3 But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted **from the simplicity that is in Christ**.