

# BORN AGAIN, BURIED, AND RAISED

## Sermon Notes

Two questions that change everything: Have you been saved? Have you been baptised?

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## PART 1 — SALVATION

### What Does It Actually Mean to Be Saved?

#### Why We Need Saving

- God made us for relationship — not religious routine
- Sin entered through Adam and Eve; created a gap between us and God
- We became “our own gods” — the chaos we see in the world is the result
- God’s plan was already in motion from Genesis 3:15 — Jesus would come
- All of the Old Testament (sacrifices, Passover lamb) pointed forward to the cross

#### A. How Does Salvation Happen?

**Key Point:** Salvation isn’t something we earn — it’s something we receive.


##### **Romans 10:9–10 (NLT)**

*Declare that Jesus is Lord + believe He rose from the dead = saved. No checklist. No moral score.*

- Being religious ≠ having God’s Spirit living in you
- Salvation is about relationship, not religion
- Being “born again” (John 3) — a real event, not just a feeling
- It’s good news — tell someone!

#### B. What Does This New Life Get Us?

**Key Point:** A guarantee — forgiveness, righteousness, and eternal life.

- All sin is forgiven; we are seen as righteous in God’s eyes
  - Eternal life and connection with God
  - Saved doesn’t mean perfect — it means forgiven and on a journey
  - God is shaping us to look more like Jesus over time (Romans 8:28–29)
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### C. Can I Lose My Salvation?

- Illustration: full bath vs. washing feet (John 13)
- Faith in Jesus = full bath — completely clean, once and for all
- Daily sin = dirty feet — doesn't require re-saving
- Relationship with God is secure; friendship with God is worth tending daily
- Daily prayer — asking forgiveness when we miss the mark

### D. How Do I Know I'm Saved?

**Key Point:** Three rock-solid foundations — not feelings on a Tuesday.

#### 1. What Jesus Did

Salvation rests on His performance, not ours. When you doubt, remember the cross — it's a gift of grace, not based on good deeds.

##### **Titus 3:5**

*Saved not because of righteous things we've done, but because of His mercy.*

#### 2. What God's Word Says

##### **1 John 5:11–13**

*Eternal life guaranteed for those who believe in the Son*

##### **Colossians 2:13 (MSG)**

*All sins forgiven, slate wiped clean, arrest warrant cancelled and nailed to the cross*

##### **Romans 8:1**

*No condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus*

##### **Romans 5:1**

*Peace with God because of what Jesus Christ has done for us*

##### **Ephesians 2:8–9**

*Saved by grace, not works — a gift, not a reward*

##### **Romans 8:14–17**

*Full status as children of God — co-heirs with Christ*

#### 3. The Holy Spirit Living in Us

- The Holy Spirit's job is to confirm we belong to God (Romans 8:16)
- From Garden → Tabernacle → Temple → living Christ → Spirit dwelling in us
- Inner knowing that we're God's child — not just a feeling, a spiritual reality

## E. What Changes When We Get Saved?

**Key Point:** Everything — starting with freedom (2 Corinthians 3:17).

- Freedom from being controlled by sin
- Freedom from the weight of condemnation
- Freedom to forgive others who have hurt us
- Freedom from the voice saying you're not enough
- God offers an extraordinary life in Christ — but we must die to the old life first

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## PART 2 — BAPTISM

### An Open Acknowledgement of Christ

**Key Point:** Baptism does not save you. Salvation happens in your heart. Baptism is going public with it.


#### A. Why Should I Get Baptised?

- Jesus did it first — not to be saved (He was sinless), but to set an example for us
- Jesus requires it — Great Commission (Matthew 28:18–20): go, make disciples, baptise, teach
- It's your public declaration — like a wedding ring; doesn't make you committed, but tells the world you are

Baptism is the opposite of being embarrassed by Jesus — it's saying it loud and proud

#### B. What's Actually Happening?

**Key Point:** You're acting out the gospel with your whole body — death, burial, and resurrection.

- Going under = the old me, dead and buried
  - Coming up = raised with Jesus, new life, fresh start
  - Romans 6:4 — buried with Christ by baptism, raised to live new lives
  - Baptism doesn't make you a new creation — it announces that you already are one
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### C. Does How It's Done Matter?

- “Baptise” = Greek baptizo / Hebrew mikveh — both mean to immerse or dip under
- Jesus “went up out of the water”; Philip and the Ethiopian went down into and came up out of the water
- Different churches practise it differently — God honours the sincere public declaration
- At MIC, full immersion is preferred — fully expressing death, burial, and new life
- Alternatives (pouring) available for those with sensitivities — both are valid

### D. Who Should Be Baptised?

**Key Point:** Anyone who believes — that's the only qualification.

- Infant baptism/confirmation = a beautiful family promise, but not the same as personal faith
- Biblical baptism = a personal declaration by someone who believes for themselves
- Not about undoing anything — it's about standing up and saying “this is my faith, my choice”

### E. When Should I Be Baptised?

**Key Point:** As soon as you believe — don't overthink it.

- Acts 8 — Ethiopian official: “There's water right here, what's stopping me?” — it happened on the spot
- The water isn't magic — what makes it meaningful is the faith of the person in it
- Can you be baptised more than once? Yes — as a rededication or to live in full authenticity

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### CLOSING CALL TO ACTION

If you've never given your life to Jesus — today can be the day. You don't need to fix anything first. Confess that Jesus is Lord. Believe He rose from the dead. The Bible promises — not maybe, not eventually — you will be saved.