

“Celebrating Your Baptism”

Based on Mark 1:9-11 (NIV) Jan. 22, 2017

Rev. Roger Madden, preaching

Mark 1:9 - At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan (River).

† For about 30 years, Jesus has lived in Nazareth.

† John’s baptism was a baptism of repentance.

† Repentance means those who were sorry for their sins and who wished to be “cleansed”.

† For Jesus, baptism was not for the forgiveness of his sins but as a sign to begin his public ministry.

Mark 1:10 - As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.

† In recent times, the emphasis of baptism has been on our part of it.

† The greater part of baptism is what God does and what God gives to us.

† In each baptism there are really two parts.

† First - The physical baptism done by the pastor with water (representing cleansing).

† Secondly, and more importantly, there is the spiritual part of the Holy Spirit sent to me by God.

Mark 1:11 - And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

† The baptism of Jesus establishes Jesus’ identity as the Son of God.

† In my baptism, God establishes my identity as a child of God.

† God affirms to Jesus that “I claim you, I love you, and I am proud of you.”

† God affirms to me in my baptism that “I claim you, I love you, and I am proud of you.”

Applying Today’s Message to My Life:

† When & where was I baptized?

† Do I view Baptism as a ritual or an experience?

† How have I experienced the Holy Spirit in my life?

† Do I live my life led by God’s Holy Spirit each day or only when I feel the need to be religious?

† How do I affirm God’s message to me when God says “I claim you, I love you, and I am proud of you”?