

# **SALVATION & BAPTISM**



**Passion Creek**  
CHURCH

# Following the Way of Jesus

Thank you for taking time to read this booklet!

No matter how much time you spend with us, we hope your time at Passion Creek Church encourages you to fully adopt the life and lifestyle of Jesus. We believe Jesus is the greatest teacher that ever lived and the greatest Savior that ever loved. We make sure that we make a big deal about Him each and every week.

This short booklet was written to help answer some questions you may have about the initial process of becoming a follower of Jesus. This booklet won't answer all of your questions but we believe it addresses the most foundational aspects of believing in Christ and expressing your faith through baptism.

We encourage you to process any other questions or concerns with one of our pastors or staff members at Passion Creek.

In Christ,

Pastor Trey Van Camp

# SALVATION

“Salvation” is kind of a churchy word that is used to speak of our deliverance from sin and its consequences. We are saved when we believe and trust in the way of Jesus. The good news, or gospel, of Jesus can be summed up in four words: God, Man, Jesus, Response.

## God

Despite our greatest efforts, we aren't the main character of the grand story of Scripture... God is. God is our holy and righteous creator. Holy - set apart from everyone else. Righteous - He cannot sin and thus He cannot tolerate or overlook sin. Creator - He is the master and is above everyone and everything. (Gen. 1:1; Isa. 45:18; Rev. 4:11)

## Man

Mankind is sinful and spiritually dead. We commit sins of commission - doing what God commanded us not to do. We also commit sins of omission - not doing what God has commanded us to do. Our sin has separated us from God because God cannot overlook or tolerate sin. To make matters worse, we are all spiritually dead (Eph. 2:1). Therefore, there is nothing we can do in our own power to get back to God. We are utterly helpless. Our good works will never get us to Heaven. Without a Savior, we all will suffer eternal judgment in Hell (Rom. 3:23, 6:23; Gal. 5:19-21).

## Jesus

By God's grace, He sent His own Son to save us. Jesus was fully God and fully man - this is important because He was able to represent both parties. He lived the perfect life that we all have failed to live. On the cross, He died the death that we deserve by being punished for all of our sins. 3 days later, He rose from death and was living again among the people to prove He is God and secure the victory over sin and death. Now God has exalted Jesus to the right hand of God in Heaven (Jn. 3:16; 1 Tim. 2:5-6; 1 Pet. 3:18).

## Response

Jesus' payment for sin is sufficient for all mankind but only effective for those who believe in Him. The first thing we are to do is to respond to what God did by repenting. Repentance is the Spirit-empowered acknowledgment of sin that results in a change of mind about who and what God is in my life, what is important, and what is good and bad. We then respond by taking the step of faith and trusting that Jesus is the only way, the truth, and the life (Matt. 3:8; Lk. 24:46-47; Jn. 14:6).

Immediately you receive the gift of forgiveness from your sins because Jesus is our propitiation or our atonement (1 Jn. 2:2). God then gives us the Holy Spirit that enables us to live with a new heart, new desires and new life for Christ (2 Cor. 5:17). We now desire to be more like Jesus every day and desire to have community with other followers of Christ (Sunday Gathering, Growth Groups, One-on-One Discipleship & more).

# BAPTISM

Baptism is a public profession of an inward faith. After salvation, our next step with Christ is to walk in obedience by getting baptized. We believe God has not called us to keep our personal with Jesus so personal that nobody else knows about it (Matt. 10:32-33; Lk. 12:8-9).

## **SOME OBJECTIONS YOU MAY HAVE ABOUT BAPTISM**

### **“It is too religious.”**

- Baptism is a great symbol that helps mark a historic moment in your life. In fact, rituals are healthy and helpful - as long as you don't workshop them. For example, all of us enjoy a good wedding ceremony because it is a helpful ritual that celebrates the union of two people.

### **“I was baptized as an infant.”**

- Baptism is supposed to be a symbol of your faith in Jesus Christ. As an infant, you were not able to put your faith in Jesus... You weren't able to do much of anything.

### **“I was baptized at an older age but I just now put my faith in Jesus”**

- We believe that you must be baptized on the right side of the cross. In other words, baptism is an act of obedience after putting your faith and trust in Jesus. Therefore, we encourage you to get baptized again if you were previously baptized before actually believing in the gospel.

# **SOME THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW**

## **Baptism doesn't save you (Lk 23:32-43)**

- Jesus saves you. Throughout Scripture, baptism is always commanded after someone has believed in Jesus. Luke 23:32-43 assures us that baptism doesn't save you. The thief on the cross did not have a chance to be baptized and yet Jesus promised to see him in Paradise (Heaven).

## **Baptism is a picture of our death, burial and resurrection (Rom. 6:1-7).**

- Death - we are now dead to our old self. We are no longer enslaved to sin. The descending into the water symbolizes this.

- Burial - we go completely under just as Jesus was buried. It's a picture of absolute death. The complete immersion in the water symbolizes this.

- Resurrection - we now walk in a new life because Jesus has given us new life. This does not mean, however, that we are sinless. Rather, it means we are no longer enslaved to the power of sin. Our identity is now in Christ. The raising out from the water symbolizes this.

## **We get baptized to follow the example of Jesus. (Matt. 3:13-17)**

## **We get baptized to obey the command of Christ. (Matt. 28:18-20)**

## **We get baptized to be united with the body of Christ. (1 Cor. 12:13)**

Baptism is a huge milestone in the Christian life. Please go to [passioncreek.church/baptism](http://passioncreek.church/baptism) to sign up today.

**Passionately pursuing  
the life & lifestyle of Christ  
in Queen Creek.**



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