

THE SOURCE

St John the Baptist Community Church

**CLOTHED IN
CHRIST**

*SHANE
DOWINTON*

PG1

**BAPTISM: WHAT
AND WHY**

PHIL CALCOTT

PG5

BAPTISM

May 2017

**TESTIMONIES:
SUMME, CHARLES,
WALTER AND
THOMAS**

OBEYING AND ABIDING

Marilyn Cook

baptism



Abiding in His love! Nothing could be more desirable, but it is based on keeping His commandments. In the context of this verse, Jesus is talking about our relationship with Him and our relationship with others.

Shane speaks of our 'putting on Christ' or 'being clothed with Christ' What closer relationship could we have with our Lord than actually being clothed with Him?

In this issue, Phil also speaks of our relationship with the Father and also of our obedience to Him.

In Jesus' own words, we can't abide in Him without obeying Him.

Are we abiding – are we obedient to His commands?

*The theme for this Source is
BAPTISM.*

CLOTHED IN CHRIST

Shane Dowinton



Water baptism is a wonderful thing. My own baptism was on a cold mid-winters day in the chill waters of the Mogol River high in the hills of the Waterberg. Yet weather aside, it was one of the great moments of my spiritual journey. I delighted in being plunged under the water by my friend, Stu Cook, washing myself of the “old man” and rising again as a “new man” clothed in Christ. I had been considering it for weeks, walking a journey of knowledge and understanding about what it was and what it would mean, but finally sure that I must.

Galatians 3:26 says that “in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptised into Christ have put on Christ.”

Romans 6:4 adds to the revelation that “all of us who have been baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into His death. We were buried therefore with Him by baptism unto death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.”

I loved the idea that my sin and its hold over me was now washed away as was my old self. Here was a rebirth, a renewed child of God, saved and justified in Christ. The simplicity of it makes it a birthing process for the Christian life, yet the power of it is in who emerges from the water. I sensed in my Spirit the pleasure of the Father in a new and adopted child.

When the prodigal returned from his wilderness of wasteful living, he was met by his Father running to meet him, embracing him and kissing him. “Without hesitation the Father said to his servants ‘Bring quickly the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this MY SON was dead, and is alive again: he was lost and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.” Luke 15

As I emerged from the Mogol River that day, quickly pulling on warm, dry clothes, I knew that I now wore Christ as a garment around me. I was a new creation in Him, a dearly beloved son.

Isaiah 61:10 had already foretold my emotions;

"I will greatly rejoice in the Lord; my soul shall exult in my God, for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation; He has covered me with the robe of righteousness."

"The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting; it has been found difficult and left untried."

GK Chesterton, What's Wrong with the World, Chapter 5, 1910



**Charles Pheeha
on his recent baptism**

Thanks! Baptism changed my life completely. God uses baptism to encourage us spiritually.

GOING UNDER THE WATER AND COMING UP A NEW MAN

My Testimony - Summe Kampambe

Soon after my baptism, I took into account the fact that I am dead to the power of sin in my life. I'm now under a new management. The presence of sin is not removed, but it is now rendered powerless except by a deliberate act of choosing what I know is wrong.

Baptism helped me to "draw near to God with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having my heart sprinkled from an evil conscience and my body washed with pure water." This was like taking an oath to commit myself to God's ministry - it is actually a fresh start for me. The Alpha course I attended last year made me realise what I had been missing all of my life as a Christian. I was taught the true Gospel of Christ and some few months later I started preparing myself for baptism.

My walk in faith has become a very important part of my life and I want the world to know this. I felt prompted by the Holy Spirit to participate in this baptism.

I'm so excited to take this step in my journey as a believer in Christ. God wanted a personal relationship with me and this has changed everything. I now feel the joy that comes with experiencing His love, I feel completely overwhelmed by His mercy and greatness. I feel gratitude for my salvation and a responsibility to live according to His will, to serve Him, and to bring His kingdom to earth right now, right here and to humble myself before Him. My baptism was or is a personal affirmation of my obedience to the Lord and this helps me to be a good example to my brothers and sisters in Christ.

A verse I find particularly encouraging is Proverbs 3:5; "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding". I can already see this in my life. The more I trust God, spend time studying His word, the more I GROW!

He is calling me not only to grow deeper in my faith, but also to do great!

BAPTISM

Testimony of Walter Dzikamai Jonhera

It was on a Monday morning when I heard about the baptism event scheduled to take place on Wednesday, the 23rd of February 2017. This left me with a big question mark on the state of affairs in my life. I opened my Bible and read many verses, particularly Acts 2:38, 22:16 and John 3:5, 1 Peter 3:21 and Mark 16:16. These scriptures compounded with the gospel from St John's Church, and testimonies from our church elders and members of our church helped me to understand and take action with regard to being baptised.

I have had almost a year of spiritual attacks on my life which required me to get closer to God than I have before. Before the baptisms were conducted that day songs of worship and praise were sung and I could feel that Jesus had healed my heart and a fresh start in my life was

necessary. It was at this moment that Jesus really became a big part of my life.

After my baptism I felt sure that my sins had been taken and washed down the waters of the pool. I am so excited since I have been baptised, I now feel that I belong to God.

I declare that I will fight the evil through Jesus Christ. I will trust and not be afraid, for the Lord is my strength, my song and my salvation.



BAPTISM – WHAT AND WHY

Phil Calcott

One of the most extraordinary statements Jesus ever made was also one of the shortest: “I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.” (John 14:6). He declared Himself to BE the Way, the Truth and the Life. In focusing on the Truth, He did not say, “Here is my statement of what is true”, but rather made the amazing claim that He Himself was truth. Jesus was telling us that truth is fundamentally relational, and we know the truth by knowing Jesus – not by knowing a list of truths. So, it comes as no surprise that, unlike religious leaders, Jesus didn’t give us a detailed manifesto or “statement of faith”. Attempts to create a list of beliefs which make you a Christian are doomed to failure. It is all about a person, not a policy. It’s relationship, not religion.

Once we see Christianity as relationship and not rules, it is no surprise that Jesus’ commands are almost all relationship based – Believe, Love, Forgive, Serve, Abide – to name a few. There are not many cases where Jesus just says – “Do this specific thing”. So, if Jesus does give us a specific thing to do I guess it must be important, right?

At the very end of Matthew, Jesus does exactly that. He tells His disciples to go and make more disciples – and critically He tells them to do two things: teach them to obey all of His commands; and to baptise them. So, this baptism thing is obviously a big deal. But what is it, and why did Jesus think it was so important?

Perhaps the biggest problem in understanding baptism comes from the fact that this word was never translated from the Greek – it was transliterated – just taken over as was. The Greek word is *Baptizo*, so we basically just got that Greek word put in our English Bible with no explanation of what it actually means. Why this happened is a long and sad tale, but for now the key thing is, what does it mean?

Fortunately, it is actually a rather simple word. The Greek poet Nicander gave us a helpful picture of baptism in a recipe he shared for making pickles! In his recipe he first tells the cook to “dip” the vegetable in boiling water (*bapto*) and then to “fully immerse” the vegetable in the pickling vinegar (*baptizo*). A nautical example might help as well. If a boat was floundering, and waves were coming over the side – then the

Greek word one would use to describe the situation would be "bapto". When the boat was fully under the waves – then you would use "baptizo". So, what English words you could use for "baptise"? Plunge, submerge, immerse, overwhelm and saturate; these capture the meaning pretty well.

So, should we, like, get plunged under the water when we get baptised? Yep. If this is what Jesus said we should do, then why do anything less or different?

But why should we be plunged under water? Perhaps the clearest explanation comes in Romans chapter 6. The context here is that Paul is talking about the problem of Sin – and how God rescues us from it. Paul states:

"Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptised into Christ Jesus have been baptised into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection". Romans 6:3-5 NASB

How do we escape the clutches of sin? By dying with Christ (and leaving our old life with its sin there in His death), and by being raised out of death with Him to a new life.

This is what happens in Baptism – we go down into the water of death, and we are raised to new life as we emerge from the water.

So, is this all about symbolism, or is there actual power in baptism? It seems pretty clear that this is an act of faith that releases real power in our lives. As we obey Christ in doing this we are freed from our old sinful life. A cleansing occurs. A freedom results.

So, to sum up: if you have not been baptised yet, and you want to follow Jesus as your Lord, then get plunged – your Master commanded it, and He knows what He is doing.

Buried with Him by baptism into death. *Raised to walk in newness of life!*



April included 2 ½ weeks of school holidays and about most of the children left during that time. The ones who remained were treated to a day out at a neighbouring game farm where they used the pool and had a cookout. Easter weekend was the last weekend of the holiday period, and all of the children were able to return before the weekend. This allowed everyone to attend a great event sponsored by FASA where the children had an awesome weekend. FASA (Fellowship Alliance Southern Africa) had a group of people from the US come and spend their time with the kids. They had lots of bunk rooms and we all spent the night. There were two full days of jam packed fun. Songs, stories, crafts, nice food and of course an Easter egg hunt. The kids slept very well at the end of both days.

Micky's sister Debbie's been here for more than 2 months and has only about a week left. The children are getting daily computer lessons and/or exposure to educational software. About half of the older ones have



already learned all of the letter keys for typing and are now working on accuracy and speed. They've been learning Word these past two weeks and will get an introduction to PowerPoint before Debbie Leaves. They've also learned how to do research on the internet; class assignments now include research and turning in the information in a Word document. Some of the computers are a bit old and are not too stable. We're hoping to find a few more 'not-so-old' second hand laptops (3-5 years), to replace some of the older desktop computers.

Still no word on Micky's visa. But we did get word that she doesn't need to leave every 90 days. But if she doesn't have the visa by the time they leave for their fund raising trip in October, she will be banned again for 5 years and it will need to be fixed again.



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CHANGED!

Thomas Pholoba

This is the testimony of how I felt after being baptised by Phil Calcott in his pool. I thought that being a Christian is just a normal thing that everyone does every Sunday.

Now I realise that Christianity is not going to church, but is to live the life that Christ lived and living according to the Word of the Father who is in Heaven. My baptism made me a new creation as the Word of God says in the book of Romans. After being baptised my life automatically changed and I started living the life that God wanted me to live. Before I was a person that heard the Word of God only on Saturdays and Sundays,

but now the Word is my daily bread and I start my day with the Word of God because God has a new thing for me every day of my life.

Being baptised was an amazing thing to happen in my life and I'm happy to have been baptised and am not ashamed of sharing my testimony. I am not ashamed of preaching the Word of my Saviour.

Matthew 28:19,20 says, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo I am with you always, even to the end of the age."



LETHABO

kid's club



We continue to have 400 to 500 kids come every Wednesday for their songs, a short lesson, and then their peanut butter and jam sandwiches and fresh farm milk. The children are a delight!

The photo is of a Saturday Bible Study. The young ones in the front were the ones answered the questions on the lesson – correctly! The older ones read from the Bible and are learning to read very well. These are our next generation of leaders!



A pic of Godfrey's little one



Marilyn & children

KHOLOFELO: Giving Hope to Youth

Kholofelo is the natural outgrowth of Lethabo Kid's Club, many of the students having attended Kid's club for up to ten years. It is our desire to help youth who have completed high school to prepare themselves for the job market. These are youth whose families cannot give them the support they need to go on for continued studies. Kholofelo is 'Giving hope to youth'.

We need prayer support and regular financial support. Won't you join us in this project? Please contact us if you desire to help with prayer or financially or both! Below are our banking details:

The Kholofelo Association
FNB, Modimolle Branch Code 260249
Account No. 62659880374
SWIFT CODE – FIRN ZA 22 XXX



A SHORT STORY of Ruthanna Metzgar

Ruthanna Metzgar, a professional singer, tells a story that illustrates the importance of having our names written in the book. Several years ago, she was asked to sing at the wedding of a very wealthy man. According to the invitation, the reception would be held on the top two floors of Seattle's Columbia Tower, the Northwest's tallest skyscraper. She and her husband, Roy, were excited about attending.

At the reception, waiters in tuxedos offered luscious hors d'oeuvres and exotic beverages. The bride and groom approached a beautiful glass and brass staircase that led to the top floor. Someone ceremoniously cut a satin ribbon draped across the bottom of the stairs. They announced the wedding feast was about to begin. Bride and groom ascended the stairs, followed by their guests.

At the top of the stairs, a maitre d' with a bound book greeted the guests outside the doors.

"May I have your name please?"

"I am Ruthanna Metzgar and this is my husband, Roy."

He searched the names. "I'm not finding it. Would you spell it please?"

Ruthanna spelled her name slowly. After searching the book, the maitre d' looked up and said,

"I'm sorry, but your name isn't here."

"There must be some mistake," Ruthanna replied. "I'm the singer. I sang for this wedding!"

The gentleman answered, "It doesn't matter who you are or what you did. Without your name in the book you cannot attend the banquet."

He motioned to a waiter and said, "Show these people to the service elevator, please."

The Metzgars followed the waiter past beautifully decorated tables laden with shrimp, whole smoked salmon, and magnificent carved ice sculptures. Adjacent to the banquet area, an orchestra was preparing to perform, the musicians all dressed in dazzling white tuxedos.

The waiter led Ruthanna and Roy to the service elevator, ushered them in, and pushed G for the parking garage.

After locating their car and driving several miles in silence, Roy reached over and put his hand on Ruthanna's arm. "Sweetheart, what happened?"

"When the invitation arrived, I was

busy,” Ruthanna replied. “I never bothered to RSVP. Besides, I was the singer. Surely I could go to the reception without returning the RSVP!”

Ruthanna started to weep—not only because she had missed the most lavish banquet she’d ever been invited to, but also because she suddenly had a small taste of what it will be like someday for people as they stand before Christ and find their names are not written in the Lamb’s Book of Life.

Throughout the ages, countless people have been too busy to respond to Christ’s invitation to his wedding banquet. Many assume that the good they’ve done—perhaps attending church, being baptized, singing in the choir, or helping in a soup kitchen—will be enough to gain entry to Heaven. But people who do not respond to Christ’s invitation to forgive their sins are people whose names aren’t written in the Lamb’s Book of Life.

To be denied entrance to Heaven’s wedding banquet will not just mean going down the service elevator to the garage. It will mean being cast outside into Hell, forever.

In that day, no explanation or excuse will count. All that will matter is whether our names are written in the book. If they’re not, we’ll be turned away.

Have you said yes to Christ’s invitation to join him at the wedding feast and spend eternity with him in his house? If so, you have reason to rejoice—Heaven’s gates will be open to you.

If you have been putting off your response, your RSVP, or if you presume that you can enter Heaven without responding to Christ’s invitation, one day you will deeply regret it.

From a sermon by Randy Alcorn

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“And death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.”

Revelation 20:14,15



ST JOHNS CHURCH SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE

Take the Melkrivier Road to the Twenty-Four Rivers sign. Turn right and travel 10 km. Turn left and left again into the church property.

9:15 Praise and Worship
9:30 Service begins

*“Just as the Father has loved Me,
I have also loved you.*

Abide in My love.

*If you keep My commandments, you will
abide in My love; just as I have kept My
Father’s commandments,
and abide in His love.”*

John 15:9,10

PURPOSE STATEMENT

To bring people to Jesus and membership in His family; to develop them in Christlike maturity and equip them for their ministry in the church and life mission in the world in order to glorify God.

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST COMMUNITY CHURCH

ELDERS:

Alan van Coller	014 755 4549 or 073 179 4313
Joan Baber	014 755 4087 or 078 910 9411
Peter Farrant	079 207 3709
David Baber	014 755 4430 or 083 273 4525
Philip Calcott	014 755 4425 or 078 207 8570
Barend Pretorius	072 414 9986
Craig Pidduck	082 775 8489

OFFICERS:

Chairman of Council – Shane Dowinton	014 755 4009 or 083 419 1929
Church Secretary – Wendy Godfrey	073 380 9444
Treasurer – Simone Baber	014 755 4430 or 083 302 5123

Banking Details: FNB Modimolle, Branch no 260247
Account no 531 746 01684

PLEASE JOIN US:

Men's Bush Breakfast at 'Exciting Times', Joan Baber's
Contact: Shane Dowinton – 074 430 2827

Bible Studies on Wednesday nights at Craig and Trish's.
Present subject is short studies by Andy Stanley
DVD's and discussions.

Light meal at 6:00 followed by studies.
Contact Trish on 083 690 0061

Do you have information for The Source?

Contact: Marilyn Cook, 014 755 4142 or 084 805 2199

marilyn@mission2sa.org