

## E-Series

### Baptism



*What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? **2** By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? **3** Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? **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. **5** If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. **6** For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin-- **7** because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. **8** Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. **9** For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. **10** The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. **11** In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.*

**—Romans 6:1-11**

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Water. It is essential for all life. People can live for a long time without food, but deprived of water, we will not last very long.

What do you think of when you think of water?

Sunday we will be talking about baptism. What are your thoughts about baptism? What is it? What does it do? As United Methodists, how are our beliefs distinctive? What does the Bible say about baptism?

What does baptism have to do with death? Life?

Below are a couple of obscure passages about baptism in the New Testament. What do they have to add?

*God's patience waited in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a clear conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers subject to him. (1 Peter 3:20-22)*

*For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers, that our forefathers were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. They all ate the same spiritual food and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. . . . Now these things occurred as examples . . . (1 Corinthians 10:1-6)*

Looking forward to Sunday,  
*Pastor Michael*