

WEEKLY STUDY

Baptism Sunday

We celebrated over 30 baptisms this week at Providence Church! Many more took the opportunity to remember their baptism in a beautiful service. In your scripture reading and times of prayer, you'll be invited to consider your own calling and your own call to the waters of baptism.

Please note our prayer focus for the week in the box below. Join us in seeing what God will do as we unite in prayer.

Peace of Christ,
Pastor Mark Youngman

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group or Discipleship Group, you can share from your own daily reflections and consider the Group Discussion questions below. If you would like to get connected visit prov.church/smallgroups.

Prayer Focus:

- Pray for a great awakening in your heart, the hearts of others, your family, the community, the nation, and across the globe. May everyone hear the voice of God calling them to a life of discipleship.

DAILY STUDY

MONDAY: JOHN 15.16-17 (NIV)

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. [17] *These things I command you, so that you will love one another.*

- We often think of faith as something that is primarily up to us, and we do have to choose it. But Jesus says that he has also chosen us who would believe. He knew which of us would believe. And he desires that we would bear fruit as we abide in him. When we spend time with others who are abiding with him, we find unity, we find real love. Who are among those whom you share your faith?

_____

_____

_____

_____

- **Prayer Prompt: There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called;** [5] **one Lord, one faith, one baptism;** [6] **one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. (Ephesians 4.4-6)**
- *Heavenly Father, I thank you that my faith in Jesus is shared with so many others. It is a strength to know that you chose me and that I am a part of the community of believers. Amen.*

TUESDAY: JOHN 14.30-31 (NIV)

I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me, [31] *but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us go from here.*

- Pastor Dale shared the importance of this line, “Come, now let us leave”…”let us go from here”. This is a call to action. The story is moving forward…towards the cross…towards the empty tomb…and towards your own resurrection. How do you stay focused on your final destination in the face of the lies and distortion of this world?

_____

_____

_____

_____

- **Prayer Prompt: Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.** [3] **For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.** [4] **When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. (Colossians 3.2-4)**
- *Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me as I wrestle with the ways of this world. Form me in the image of yourself and make me more like you. Amen.*

WEDNESDAY: 1 PETER 2.9-10 (NIV)

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. [10] Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

- Peter's words reflect the words of the prophet Isaiah and others in the Old Testament. The chosen people referred exclusively to Israel, but now it references all believers (Jew or Gentile). In Christ, the definition of who may consider themselves chosen has been opened up. "Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people." That promise is at the heart of the gospel. You belong to God. Do you ever struggle with feeling worthy of this title? How is the mercy you have received from God reflected in your life?

_____

_____

_____

_____

- **Prayer Prompt: Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments (Deuteronomy 7.9)**
- *God, May your mercy that you have given to me be reflected to those I encounter today. May they also receive your mercy. Amen .*

THURSDAY: ROMANS 6.3-4 (NIV)

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? [4] We were buried therefore with him by baptism into 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.

- The sacrament of baptism is an outward sign of an inward grace that we have received through Christ Jesus. We are buried in the waters of baptism and raised with Christ from the dead. As Paul wrote, we too might walk in the newness of life…just like the risen Jesus. Notice the language, it is more than symbolic, it is a sign. Through baptism and the profession of faith, you are able to live a resurrection kind of life right now. If you are a baptized Christian, consider in what ways your life reveals the resurrection. Or as the author Wendel Berry wrote, how do you "practice resurrection"?

_____

_____

_____

_____

- **Prayer Prompt: But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. (1 Corinthians 15.20)**
- *God, through your Son Jesus Christ, I have been offered new life. Help to claim it today and to live a life worthy of the resurrection. Amen.*

FRIDAY: 1 CORINTHIANS 12.13 (NIV)

For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

- It's amazing how in baptism we are given a new identity. We are called children of God. We are sons and daughters of a loving Heavenly Father. We are a new creation. While we still carry our uniqueness' (national identity, giftedness, personality traits), these are not the things that make us who we truly are in Christ Jesus. We are a part of the one body. Do you ever find yourself struggling to live into that higher calling and identity?

_____

_____

_____

_____

- **Prayer Prompt: How good and pleasant it is**
  when God's people live together in unity! (Psalm 133.1)
- Merciful God, I long for unity that seems so elusive in this world. Let your church band together despite our differences to bring you glory. Amen.

SATURDAY: COLOSSIANS 2.12-13 (NIV)

having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. [13] And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses,

- Baptism is a sign of forgiveness that we walk around with for the rest of our lives. It is humbling to know that we were once dead in our own sin, but have been made alive (not of our own doing—we have been made alive). The God who gave us life to begin with, has given us new life having forgiven all our trespasses. How do you respond to such a gift?

_____

_____

_____

_____

- **Prayer Prompt: Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, [20] and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28.19-20)**
- *Forgiving God, thank you for forgiving my sins and for raising me to new life in Christ. Amen.*

GROUP DISCUSSION

Use the questions below to guide your conversation.

1. Colossians 2:12–13 reminds us that God has made us alive with Christ. What stands out to you about this passage? How does recognizing that new life is God's gift change the way we approach our relationship with him?

2. When you think about baptism, whether your own or someone else's, what does it remind you about God's grace, forgiveness, and the promise of new life?

3. In 1 Peter 2:9–10, we are reminded that we belong to God and have received his mercy. How does understanding our identity as God's people change the way we see ourselves? What makes it difficult to remember that identity in everyday life?

4. Where do you see God continuing to shape or renew your life today? Is there an area where you want to trust him more fully as you continue following Jesus? How can we pray for you this week?