

New Hope UMC 200th Anniversary Year



Mark 1:4, 7, 8, 10, 11

Baptism Of Jesus

1:4 John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. 1:7 And preached, saying, "There cometh one mightier than I after me, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose." 1:8 "I indeed have baptized you with water: but he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost." 1:9 And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan. 1:10 And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him: 1:11 And there came a voice from heaven, saying, "Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

In The Wilderness Of Life We Stand In Need Of Repentance And Redemption

It was thought that evil spirits lurked in the midst of the wilderness. We know for sure that the wilderness was a place of testing for John, Jesus and it is for us today. **John came preaching repentance.**

A Person Can Only Repent As A Result Of Their Own Heart

Repentance is not something that we decide to have. **It is God given.** Repentance is regret and turning toward a new life.

John the Baptist had people coming to him just to go through the motions, and be a part of the crowd. That is a fearful thought. Many folks may come to church to be entertained initially, but leave church having received and believed the word of God unto salvation. Amen!

In The Wilderness Of Life We Stand In Need Of Being Cleansed

John is saying, that what he is doing does not compare to what the Mighty One has come to do. John is preparing their hearts for the work that Jesus will do. John came preaching repentance, and here comes Jesus identifying himself with John's baptism of repentance and adding to it, by showing the means by which forgiveness will come.

Baptism Represents The Work That Christ Has Done On Our Behalf, And That Work Is Received Through Faith

It does not stop at wiping the slate clean. In the wilderness of our life, we stand in need of being filled with the Spirit.

The Fullness Of The Old Testament Promise Is Not Just Cleansing, But Newness

Look at the Old Testament promise in **Ezekiel: 36:25**. *Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. 36:26 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh. 36:27 And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.*

Just as repentance comes from the hand of God, so does cleansing, and so does the Spirit and the new life that He brings. The fullness of the Old Testament promise is fulfilled in Jesus.

Jesus' baptism is a statement of what He is about to do. **Our baptism is a statement about what Jesus has done for us. *It is an outward and physical sign of an inward and spiritual grace.***

Through Jesus' work, not only is the slate wiped clean, **but we are also made new creatures in Christ.** This baby that we celebrated on Christmas was the Savior, who washed away our sins, and who also brings change and newness of life to all who will believe in Him. His baptism was a statement of what He was about to do to enable our salvation and the new birth that comes with it.