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- That the contractors and subs will be safe and well.
- That we will be a light to those who do not know Jesus.
- That God will continue to provide financially for the project.
- That God's kingdom will remain our focus.

"Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him."

Matthew 3:13

"John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"

Matthew 3:14

"But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.' Then he consented."

Matthew 3:15

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Matthew 3:15

"righteousness" = doing God's will

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness ..." (5:6)

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"For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees ..." (5:20)

"This shall never happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

Matthew 16:22b-23

"If I do not wash you, you have no share with me."

John 13:8b

"And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him;

"and behold, a voice from heaven said, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

Matthew 3:16-17

• Perspective from the <u>earth</u> ...

- Perspective from the <u>earth</u> ...
  - O Who saw and heard?

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  - The trinitarian godhead appears together.

- Perspective from the <u>earth</u> ...
- Perspective from <u>God</u> ...

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- Perspective from <u>God</u> ...

"You are my Son; today I have begotten you."

Psalm 2:7b

- Perspective from the <u>earth</u> ...
- Perspective from <u>God</u> ...

"Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him."

Psalm 2:11-12

- Perspective from the <u>earth</u> ...
- Perspective from God ...

"Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations."

Isaiah 42:1

1. **Substitution** - Christ identifies with us.

- 1. Substitution Christ identifies with us.
  - God identified Jesus as the **substitute**.

"Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. "But he was pierced for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought
us peace,
and with his wounds we are healed.

"All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned - every one - to his own way;
and the Lord has laid on him
the iniquity of us all."

Isaiah 53:4-6

- 1. Substitution Christ identifies with us.
  - God identified Jesus as the substitute.
  - Jesus identifies with us **first**.

- 1. Substitution Christ identifies with us.
  - God identified Jesus as the <u>substitute</u>.
  - Jesus identifies with us <u>first</u>.

"God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Rom. 5:8

• Jesus identifies with us still.

Jesus identifies with us <u>still</u>.

"And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me." Matt. 25:40

• Jesus identifies with us still.

"Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?"

Acts 9:4b

• Jesus identifies with us **still**.

"Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?"

Acts 9:4b

"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting."

Acts 9:5b

- 1. Substitution Christ identifies with us.
- 2. **Baptism** We identify with Christ.

 Physical connection isn't our identification with the New Covenant.  Physical connection isn't our identification with the New Covenant.

"Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?"

Matthew 12:48b

 Physical connection isn't our identification with the New Covenant.

"Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham."

Galatians 3:7

- Physical connection isn't our identification with the New Covenant.
- <u>Baptism</u> is our identification with the New Covenant.

"Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, 'Brothers, what shall we do?' "And Peter said to them, 'Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Acts 2:37-38



- 1. Substitution Christ identifies with us.
- 2. Baptism We identify with Christ.
- 3. Affliction Christ walks with us.

The story of the water helps us in the wilderness because it reminds us of **God's faithful delight in us**, regardless of our circumstances.

"For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

2 Corinthians 5:21

"But now thus says the LORD,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
'Fear not, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.

"When you pass through the waters,
I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not

overwhelm you;

when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. "For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior."

Isaiah 43:1-3a