



Easter Sunday
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April 1, 2018

NO April Fools

At Home Study Guide

Easter Sunday

For the week of April 1, 2018

“Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 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.”

(Romans 6:3–4)

We witnessed many baptisms today. The Bible explains the new life that is found in Christ, demonstrated by the baptism ceremony. Baptism is an analogy, a window into the new life that can be found in Jesus Christ, by grace through faith.

The first part of the baptism ceremony, being lowered under the water, symbolizes the death that Jesus died. We have all disobeyed God and gone our own way, and God the Father laid all those sins on Jesus (*Isaiah 53:6*). Sin deserves the penalty of death (*Romans 3:23; 6:23*), and Jesus bore that penalty for those who would trust him by faith.

When you trust Jesus by faith (*Ephesians 2:8-9*), you are united with Jesus in such a close and personal way that you were right there with him in his death, your sin being paid for by his death. The lowering under the water symbolizes his death, and it symbolizes the death of your sins with Jesus (*Romans 5:8*).

When you are raised out of the water in baptism, you are symbolizing Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday. He was raised to life! By the resurrection power and glory of God you walk in new life as well, freed from the penalty of sin that was upon you, because of the resurrection of Jesus (*Romans 10:9-10*)!

What a wonderful and glorious picture! It is the good news of what God offers you through Jesus! You can participate in this new life in Jesus as well. Read through the verses above, talk with a pastor or elder at Bethel, and trust in Jesus by faith today!