

Things I Wish Were on Baptismal Certificates

— by Chris Blake

1. I believe that the church is not principally a building or an organization. The church is people.
2. I will not be totally stunned and dejected when church members let me down. I know that God is divine, that His church is human. When I see flaws in my church, I will look to Jesus, who died for all of us while we were yet flawed. I will also persevere in looking for and working toward good in my church.
3. I will learn from people who don't believe exactly the same way I do. No matter how much I learn, I will remain teachable.
4. Because I have been covered and refreshed by God's grace, I will be gracious – accepting, giving, and forgiving – even to those who seem undeserving.
5. In a world of decay, fear, lies, rigidity, and hopelessness, I will continue to prize beauty, courage, truth, creativity, and hope.
6. I will strive to develop godly friendships with people who are inside and also with those who are outside my church. Especially will I strive to develop a forever trusting, loyal, no-matter-what friendship with my God.
7. I will resist all efforts to make me believe that I can earn my salvation, or that God cannot enable me to overcome sinful ways. In doing so I will escape the twin pitfalls of pride and discouragement.
8. I will involve myself in risky, godly sharing. I will at times step outside my “comfort zone” to spread the good news. If necessary, I'll use words.
9. I believe that the church should enable us to be honest about our problems and to find the solutions – together – in God. Committing to the church is to grow and watch how God works through challenges and failures.
10. I believe that my body is the temple of God. Therefore I will abstain from polluting His temple with gossip and negative talk.
11. Believing my church has been granted a distinctive, ennobling message, I will be grateful and humble.
12. I believe that the Bible, baptism, faith, obedience, and love are wonderful, but these cannot save me. Only Jesus, God's Son, saves me.
13. I believe that baptism is not the end. Baptism is the beginning. I will never let go of my Saviour. Never, never, never.

GOD BLESS ON YOUR SPIRITUAL JOURNEY.



Lesson 10.

Putting it all together & the vow.

Name: _____

It Really is all about Jesus

This is the last of our study time together. In this study we want to review what we have looked at and remind you that it is all about Jesus.

THE BIBLE

How much of the Bible is inspired by God and what is it useful for? **2 Tim 3:16** (p846) _____



Why was the gospel of John (and the rest of the Bible) written? **John 20:31** (p767) _____

John declares that it is all about Jesus and by believing in him we can have eternal life in his name. How is this possible?

THE GOSPEL.

When God created the world it was perfect in every way. Yet Adam and Eve sinned, and sin entered the world. How many people sinned?

Rom 5: 12 (p796) _____ All have sinned. And the problem is that sin separates us from God ,the one who gives us life.

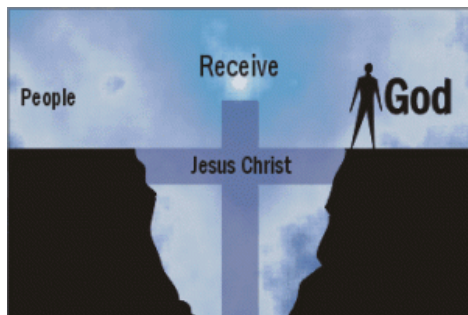
What is the wages of sin? **Romans 6:23a.** _____

Yet the Bible tells us that there was someone who lived on this earth who was without sin. Who do you think this was? _____.

Jesus lived a sinless life (see Heb 4:15) so he didn't deserve the wages of sin or death. Yet here is the thing. He died in our place. He was treated as we deserve, that we might be treated as He deserves. He suffered the death which was ours, that we might receive the life which was his.

What is the gift of God mentioned in **Romans 6:23b?**

Wow! Ephesians tells us that it is by Grace that we have been saved through faith or believing in God. We can't earn salvation—it is a free gift given to those who believe in Jesus.



SUMMARY OF BAPTISMAL VOWS.

(The following is a simplified version of the 13 Baptismal vows as found in Steve Case's *It's my Choice* Junior Baptismal guide. With input from many pastors, these set out "to be true to the meaning of the original Baptismal vows, while making them understandable to young people" Tick the following boxes).

- 1. I believe in God the Father, in His Son, Jesus Christ; and in the Holy Spirit
- 2. I accept the death of Jesus to pay for my sins.
- 3. I accept the new heart Jesus gives me in place of my sinful heart.
- 4. I believe Jesus is in heaven as my best friend and that He gives me the Holy Spirit so I can obey Him.
- 5. I believe God gave me the Bible as my most important guidebook
- 6. By God living in me, I want to obey the Ten Commandments, which include the observance of the seventh day of the week as the Sabbath.
- 7. I want to help as many people as possible to be ready for the soon coming of Jesus.
- 8. I believe God gives us special abilities to His people, and that the Spirit of prophecy is given to His chosen people.
- 9. I want to help God's church with my influence, effort and money.
- 10. I want to take good care of my body because the Holy Spirit lives there now.
- 11. With God's power , I want to obey the basic principles of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.
- 12. I want to be baptized to show people I am a Christian
- 13. I want to be a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and I believe this church has a special message to give to the world.

SIGNED _____ DATED _____

LORD OF ME.

Will you make Jesus Lord of All? That's what it comes down to. These lessons have been called ITS MY CHOICE. You have a choice to make. If you choose to walk with the LORD, there are some things you should do.

What are some of these things?

1 Thess 5:17 (p838) _____ To have a great relationship with Jesus you need to pray to him. Pray for forgiveness, for him to come into your heart, and continue to pray about all things

Psalms 119:15 (p433) _____

This is another way of saying we need to meditate and read the Bible on a daily basis. Why not challenge yourself to read a verse or more a day.

Mark 5:19 (p709) _____

In other words we are to tell others what Jesus is doing in our lives and in our hearts. This is the most exciting adventure.

These three things help us with our relationship with Jesus. So now its up to you. You have a choice to make. Read **Joshua 24:14-15. (p172)**

Who did Joshua decide to follow? _____.

Who will you follow? _____

I hope that you decide and choose to follow Jesus. He is the Lord of all.

Thank you for being a part of these studies, I hope they have brought you closer to Jesus.

For those who want to go on to baptism, you will find the baptismal vows on the following page.

Until we meet again —
Keep your eyes on Jesus and follow him.



Lord of Life—Sabbath

It is with thankful and glad hearts that we accept what Jesus has done for us. And because of this we want to follow him. What did Jesus say we should do if we love him? **John 14:15.** (page 762) _____

Keeping his commandments is so important that God's end-times people are described as those who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus. (See Rev 12:17 and 14:12).

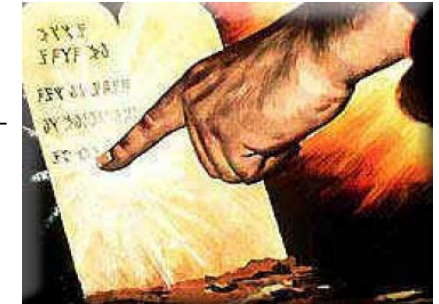
We do this because we love Jesus and because He is Lord.

What is one important area that Jesus is Lord over.

Mark 2:28 (p 707) _____

Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath and so he wants us to keep the Sabbath day holy, to make it a special time to connect with others and connect with God.

The Bible is very clear that the Sabbath is the seventh-day of the week! And the fourth commandment tells us to Remember and Keep this special day holy.



Having looked at this before, do you keep the Sabbath? (Why / Why not)

Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath he is also Lord in other areas of our lives. He is Lord of our talents. What spiritual gift are you using to serve him?

He is Lord of our treasure, are you giving to him (including your tithe) out of a grateful heart. And he is Lord of our time, how much time are you spending in building a relationship with Jesus? Remember it is all about Jesus.



Lord of power who defeated death.

As we have seen before in these guides, one day Jesus' friend Lazarus was sick, in fact the news got worse. What did Jesus say to his disciples about Lazarus? **John 11:11-14.** _____



Time and time again the Bible refers to death as like being a sleep, but one day and one day soon Jesus is going to come to wake those who have fallen asleep in him up.

Jesus rose Lazarus from the dead, because Jesus has the power over death. After Jesus was crucified and buried, what did the angels say to the women who came to the tomb?

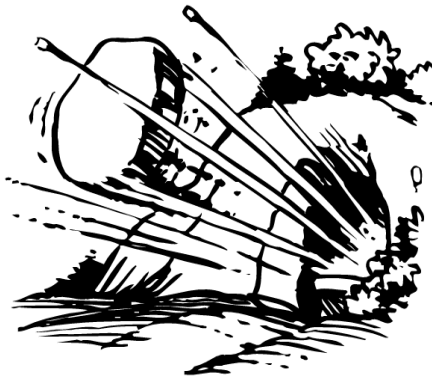
Luke 24:5-6. (p 746) _____

Jesus is alive! He defeated death. The Bible says in Romans 8:11 that "The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you." No wonder people call him Lord.

How important is the resurrection of Jesus. **1 Corinthians 15:14,17 (p 813)**

But Jesus did rise from the grave. Again we see that it is all about Jesus. He can raise the dead to life, he himself defeated death, and the same spirit that rose him now lives in us!

We don't have to be downhearted or discouraged because of Jesus and the spirit we have within us. In fact what does the Bible say that we can now do through Christ. **Phil 4:13 (p 832)**



The Lord who is returning.

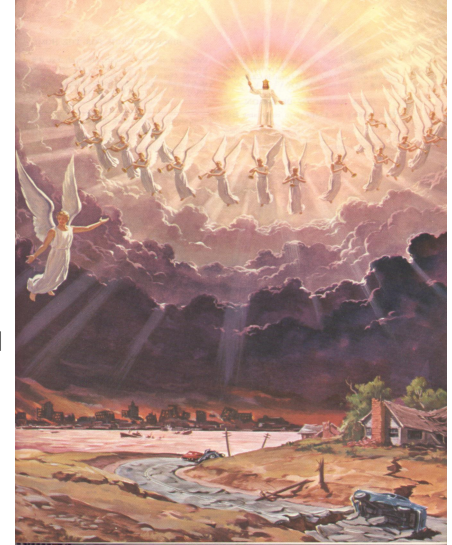
We need these words of encouragement because things are not going very well in this world. We hear of wars and earthquakes and of pain suffering and death. But Jesus said that this is a sign that he is about to come back.

Who does the Bible say will come down from heaven?

1st Thess 4:16 (p838) _____

It's the Lord Jesus himself. He is coming back, and when he does those who have fallen asleep in him, will rise to meet him in the air, then we who are alive will follow suit. We will get to see our loved ones again, we will be with Jesus. Revelation tells us that there will be no more crying, sorrow or pain, we will be with the Lord.

What does the Bible call that day **Titus 2:13? (p 848).** _____



Notice that it says that we are waiting for this blessed hope. What are we to do while we are waiting for him?

Matthews 24:42,44 (p 699) . _____

Keep watch and be ready for Him.

Are you ready for Jesus to come?
Why / why not? _____

When you make Jesus Lord of your life, put him in control, you will always be ready for him to come.

