



# BAPTISM Milestone

"How do I share my story?"

***Publicly Proclaiming Faith in Christ & Walking with Him in New Life***

*"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. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his."*

**Romans 6:4-5**

\*Information in this packet is drawn primarily from two resources: *Growing in Christ* (J.I. Packer) and *Believer's Baptism: Sign of the New Covenant in Christ* (Thomas R. Schreiner & Shawn D. Wright)

## What is this Baptism Packet for?

This packet is organized with three purposes in mind regarding baptism and you:

### Part 1. Understanding (pg. 3-9)



As believers in Jesus Christ, we believe that baptism marks one of the most important times for public declaration of faith in a person's life. As a direct command during His final instructions to His disciples, during His "Great Commission", Jesus commanded His followers to "go and make disciples of all nations, *baptizing* them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Spirit" (Matt. 28:19). We hope this packet helps you understand more truly what Biblical baptism is and is not.

### Part 2. Dialogue (pg. 10-12)



Baptism marks out Jesus' true followers in a beautiful, powerful, and public way and, therefore, at HFFBC we see this as one of the major, primary "Milestones" in the life of a believer that can play a life changing role in the spiritual journey of a young believer. Therefore, another major hope from this packet is that parents and students will talk this through together and that open channels of dialogue emerge.

### Part 3. Next Steps (pg. 13-15)



Lastly, we *encourage* believing and maturing young people then to be progressing towards baptism intentionally as they grow older, as we encourage the child's parents and the church to be walking with the student intentionally during their spiritual growth and maturation. This packet lays out next steps to continue progressing towards baptism.

This packet therefore was created for parents and their teenage children to walk through together so that they together can *understand* what baptism is, *discern* where they are on their faith journey, and then *prayerfully consider* when to take the step of faith and enter the waters of baptism.

## How is This Packet Designed to Be Used?

This packet is designed so that you (parents and children) can read the information in this packet together and talk about it as you go. It is also meant to be used as a springboard for deeper conversations within your family and then with the church. Part 2 of the packet has a few example dialogue questions for your family, but you are encouraged to come up with your own as you read together. Lastly, this packet is meant to be read and considered *carefully & slowly*. The intention here is *not* to "accomplish" baptism or "check a box", so please read and dialogue at your own pace, though still with the goal of finishing it and hopefully progressing towards baptism in step with the Spirit.



# Part 1: Understanding Baptism

## What is Baptism?\*

*\*Please note, we recognize that there are different interpretations of Baptism and have been different ways of being baptized throughout church history and in churches today. We view these issues as “disputable matters” (Romans 14) from Scripture. We do not wish to coerce our stances on these matters on you or others in a way that communicates that we have the only right way. But below are the interpretations that we at HFFBC think align best with Scripture and that we choose to practice here in our local church.*

Baptism is a holy ordinance established by Jesus Himself as a way for believers to **celebrate** their relationship with God, to **physically signify** the spiritual cleansing that Jesus has won and brought about for His people, and to **publicly proclaim** as testimony to the world of the believer’s faith in Christ alone for eternity. As Stephen Wellum, Professor of Christian Theology at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary states,

“Baptism signifies a believer’s union with Christ, by grace through faith, and all the benefits that result from that union. It testifies and announces that one has entered into the realities of the new covenant and as such, has experienced regeneration, the gift and down-payment of the Spirit, and the forgiveness of sin. It graphically signifies that a believer is now a member of the body of Christ (Eph. 4:22-25). It is our defining mark of belonging as well as a demarcation from the world. It signifies entry into the eschatological order of the new creation—that which our Lord Jesus Christ has ushered in. In all of these ways, baptism is a beautiful God-given rite which displays, proclaims, and testifies to the reality of the **gospel**.”

But before we go any further, that last word must be clearly understood before we approach baptism any deeper. Why? Because baptism can only be understood and then participated in when a clear, robust understanding of the Gospel is clear.

**What is the Gospel?** The New City Catechism helps us understand a few key questions before we can dive deeper. See *next page*.



*\*Go to [www.newcitycatechism.com](http://www.newcitycatechism.com) to learn more about the 52 questions from this great new resource. It's also available as a free app for your smartphone.*

**Question 29: How can we be saved?**

A: Only by faith in Jesus Christ and in his substitutionary atoning death on the cross; so even though we are guilty of having disobeyed God and are still inclined to all evil, nevertheless, God, without any merit of our own but only by pure grace, imputes to us the perfect righteousness of Christ when we repent and believe in him.

Then, the Catechism puts it simply and beautifully as to what this faith actually is...

**Question 30: What is faith in Jesus Christ?**

A: Faith in Jesus Christ is acknowledging the truth of everything that God has revealed in his Word, trusting in him, and also receiving and resting on him alone for salvation as he is offered to us in the **gospel**.

And then finally...

**Question 31: What do we believe by true faith?**

A: Everything taught to us in the gospel. The Apostles' Creed expresses what we believe in these words: We believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

**Question 45: Is baptism with water the washing away of sin itself?**

A: No, only the blood of Christ and the renewal of the Holy Spirit can cleanse us from sin.

## The Gospel ("good news") then is understanding that...

*\*The information below is taken from the packet given to those attending HFFBC New Member classes.*

### A. Heaven is a free gift.

- It is not earned.
- It is not deserved
- Romans 6:23 & Ephesians 2:8-9



### B. Man

- Is a sinner.
- He cannot save himself.
- Romans 3:23 & Proverbs 14:12



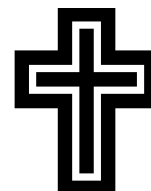
### C. God

- Is just and must punish sin.
- Is loving and wants us to be forgiven
- Jeremiah 31:36 & Exodus 34:7



### D. Jesus Christ

- Is God
- Paid the penalty of death for our sin so that we might be forgiven.
- John 1:1, 14 & Isaiah 53:6



### E. This free gift is received through \*faith.

- Not merely temporal
- Not merely intellectual
- \*Saving faith is faith that trusts in Christ alone for salvation.  
Obedience is the result of saving faith.
- Ephesians 2:8; Acts 16:31



### F. Your testimony (see Part 3 of this packet)

#### Clarification of what it means to commit to Jesus & believe the Gospel:

- *transfer trust*
- *receive the Resurrected and Living Christ*
- *receive Christ as Savior and Lord*
- *repent of your sin*
- *desire to be a responsible member in God's family*





## Going deeper now, baptism is...

**the church's initiation-rite:** The Greek word *baptizo* means literally “dip” and so the action of baptism suggests both a *washing* and a *new start*. And the Bible teaches that this washing and new start comes from the Triune God, which is why the Scriptures command that true baptism is done “in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit” (Matt. 28:19). Baptism announces a relationship in which the candidate for baptism “is both claimed by and committed to the Triune God” (J.I. Packer). Therefore, God’s people are marked and initiated into God’s covenant community of believers by baptism.

*“There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.” (Eph. 4:4-6)*

**a sign, not a seal, of salvation:** Why then is baptism the initiation-rite for the church? Simply, baptism is the outward, holy act specially reserved for believers in Jesus Christ. While it serves as just a *sign* of salvation, and not a *seal* of salvation (meaning baptism itself bears no spiritual weight on one’s salvation), baptism does powerfully symbolize *outwardly* what has already occurred in a believing person’s life *inwardly*. The inward change needed for faith is what counts before God, and, cannot be achieved by the ritual act of baptism. But, the power of baptism is that in this physical and public ritual the faith testimony of the believer in Jesus Christ alone for salvation is proclaimed to the church (and the watching world).

*“Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 3:21)*

**to please Jesus Christ:** As mentioned already, baptism is a command from the Lord Jesus (Matt. 28:18-20). So for a church to not require baptism and for an unbaptized Christian to not desire and ask for baptism would be contradictory to our call as Christians to please Christ. Baptism is deeply pleasing to Christ, as the following point will show.

*“we make it our aim to please him.” (2 Cor. 5:9)*

**to live in conscious solidarity with the Living God:** To be baptized means to be a *Christ-ian* in the most literal sense - to be so unified with Christ that our life begins to fully signify His life - His crucifixion is our crucifixion, His resurrection is our resurrection, and our ongoing work of repenting is to allow us to live the new kind of life that Jesus lived. Baptism then teaches believers what sort of lives we are called, committed, privileged, and enabled to live. Baptism does not bring salvation, but is a symbol of our salvation that carries a lifelong message with it. (See also Romans 6:1-14)

*“If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have*

*died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.” (Col. 3:1-4)*

**the reflected glory of the Gospel:** Baptism is a visible confirmation of the solemn promise of God of salvation to those who believe. When we see baptism, we see a visual aid to understanding the good news of the Gospel and a visible incentive to trusting Him who gave us salvation.

*“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.” (Rom. 6:4)*

**preceded by conversion:** A credibly professed conversion, a response to the grace of God through repenting and believing in Jesus Christ alone for salvation (Mark 1:15), alone qualifies people for baptism and is required for baptism.

*“Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins... So those who received his word were baptized” (Acts 2:38, 41)*

**a shaper & tester of conversion:** Becoming a Christian means accepting death with Christ (entire separation from the world), being washed through Christ (entire forgiveness for the past), and identifying with the risen life of Christ (entire consecrated for the future); and that genuine conversion has to be a real response to God at all three points.

*“And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.” (1 Cor. 6:11)*

**in the Name of Jesus:** Jesus’ name carries Jesus’ claim, and undergoing baptism is a sign that the claim is being accepted. In baptism, we are committing our full life and self to Jesus, to shepherd us and to guide us as King and Shepherd. So everyone who is baptized in Jesus’ name must become Jesus’ follower. By being baptized into Jesus, we affirm identification with Him, and also His flock, the Church. We become brothers and sisters and family with other baptized believers in Jesus name. You are not baptized into isolation, but baptized into the family of God.

*“Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins...” (Acts 2:38)*

*“For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” (Gal. 3:27-28)*

**a heavenly washing:** Without a heavenly washing, our holy Creator will not accept us. Our sin and filth before God is evident. Baptism symbolically pictures this heavenly washing that takes place at conversion, when we commit our lives to Christ. Baptism also visibly promises that whoever has faith in Christ will in fact receive this cleansing. And finally, baptism formally presents this heavenly cleansing and so assures the believing recipient that he really has it, just as a presentation of a diploma at a graduation assures a student that he has really secured his degree.

*“the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin” (1 John 1:7)*

*"If I do not wash you, you are not in fellowship with me" (John 13:8)*

*"Rise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on Jesus' name." (Acts 22:16)*

**a sign of the Holy Spirit's indwelling:** The seal of salvation is the indwelling of or "baptism of the Holy Spirit", which comes at conversion. Therefore, behind the outward work of water baptism then lies the true baptism - the new start that comes for a person because of the shed blood of Christ and the inward operation of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38), who becomes present in the believer's life upon confessing Jesus Christ as Lord (Acts 10:43-45; Eph. 1:13-14). Water baptism simply shows the world outwardly that the baptism of the Holy Spirit has sealed your life for God inwardly.

*"he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior." (Titus 3:5-6)*

**a witness of ongoing grace:** Baptism, as such, then becomes a definitive proclamation act of the believer to display to the world, as an initial sign that they have been saved by grace through faith in Christ alone, and not by their own works (Eph. 2:8-9). While baptism does not make one perfect or sinless, it serves as a public display of the *spiritually* cleansing and purifying that Christ has done in that believer. Baptism then directs us to daily prayers for cleansing and repentance, though the assurance of it from God is there through faith and trusting in Jesus' shed blood. It, further, marks a believer's spiritual journey as being *justified*, now on the lifelong path of *sanctification*, and moving ultimately towards eternal *glorification* upon Christ's Second Coming (Gal. 3:27-29; Rev. 22:14).

*"Foul, I to the fountain fly; Wash me, Savior, or I die." (Rock of Ages hymn)*

*"Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water." (Heb. 10:22)*

**a sign of hope:** Finally, the rite of baptism (going under the water signifying dying with Jesus, and emerging from the water signifying continuing with Jesus after death into physical resurrection), is an acted promise from God that death will not end my existence or my joy, for a new gift of life will override the death sentence. Just as when we are baptized we passively are put under the water by another and are dependent on them to bring us up out of the water, so too, more deeply, we are dependent on God's grace to bring us out of our sins and ultimately bring us home to Himself. Ultimately, the sign of hope signified in baptism is that the Lord Jesus will bring us up ultimately to Himself in glory for eternity.

*"Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?" I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb... Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates." (Revelation 7:13-14; 22:14)*

*"In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also." (John 14:2-3)*



## 4 Implications for the Christian Understanding of Baptism\*

\*Taken from Andreas J. Köstenberger in *Believer's Baptism: Sign of the New Covenant in Christ*, pg. 33-34.

1. The rite of baptism is *designed for believers who have repented of their sin and have put their faith in God and in his Christ.*
2. Baptism is an *essential part of Christian discipleship.*
3. The *mode* of John's and Jesus' baptism was most likely that of *immersion.*
4. Theologically, *water baptism presupposes spiritual regeneration* as a prevenient and primary work of God in and through the person of the Holy Spirit.

## 7 Ways for Believers to View Their Baptism

\* from *Growing in Christ* (by J.I. Packer)

1. A Gospel Service



5. A birthday Celebration



2. A Marriage Service



6. An Admission Ceremony



3. A Burial Service



7. A Commissioning Service



4. An Easter Festival



## Part 2: Dialogue About Baptism (with your family)



### Discussion questions for your family to have from above info:

- What is the relationship between faith and the ritual act of baptism?
- As a Christian, why should I be baptized?
- What does baptism show Christians about themselves?
- Why is a converted lifestyle more important than a conversion experience?
- In what way is baptism the end of one way of life and the beginning of another?
- What does our baptism tell us about our death?
- After reading about what baptism is, how is your baptism as a believer seen as each of those 7 services listed just above?
- Why are you considering baptism?
- Are both parents/student on same page and in agreement with progressing ahead or not with baptism? Why or why not?

## Part 2: Dialogue About Baptism (with our church)



### Baptism at HFFBC:

#### The Ordinance of Baptism\*

*\*Taken and adapted with a few variations from Children Desiring God's "Preparing Young People for Baptism" (pg. 6-7) booklet, which matches with HFFBC's understanding of the ordinance of baptism. This booklet is also included for you as part of your "Baptism Milestone" packet!*

Jesus established two ordinances, baptism and the Lord's Supper, which are to be practiced by the church. The church leadership is charged with overseeing and conducting these ordinances in a manner that is biblical and pleasing to the Lord. As a Baptist church, we practice "believer's baptism," which means that candidates must have a publicly credible faith before they are baptized and admitted into membership. Recognizing that only God can perfectly discern the affections of the heart, at HFFBC we have adopted the process below (see Part 3 of this packet) to aid in the discernment of baptism. We recognize the insight parents have concerning the spiritual conditions of their children's hearts. This process is an effort to draw upon that insight and also honor the rightful place of parents in the spiritual instruction of their children.

#### When is baptism offered at HFFBC & how is it celebrated?

At HFFBC, we hold two special, public Baptism Services yearly for the church (one in early June and one in early December) that we invite the whole congregation to gather together for. They are special services, centered around the worship of God, an explanation of the significance of believer's baptism, a special homily, and culminating in the public rite of baptism by immersion for confessing believers of Jesus. The special service concludes with a special celebration in the Fellowship Hall where we give thanks and glory to God for His grace that has been displayed in those believers who were baptized.

At HFFBC, we also have started to regularly schedule a parent and child (usually for 11<sup>th</sup> graders) baptism class to help explain the significance and meaning of baptism and to promote intentional conversation between parents, children, and the church.



## Basic Baptism Positions Here at HFFBC:

*\*The below info on this page is taken from the HFFBC New Member classes packet.*

### BAPTISM IS A SIGN, NOT A SEAL OF SALVATION

#### **A. Baptism is a sign of what has already taken place in your life because of the grace of God experienced by faith.**

1. Baptism is a symbol of what Spirit Baptism is the reality (Titus 3:5-6)
2. You can't be a Christian without being baptized by the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:9-14)

#### **B. Is water baptism essential to salvation?**

*Acts 2:38; John 3:5; Mark 16:16; Ephesians 2:8-9*

1. Consider the cultural context and note that baptism was synonymous with commitment to Christ.
2. Consider the Scriptural context that clearly shows baptism to be the result of God's saving work, not ours!

#### **C. Why then should a person be water baptized?**

1. Command (Matt. 28:19)
2. Following the example of Christ (Matt. 3:13-17)
3. Testimony to yourself and to the world that you are with Christ

#### **D. Why do some churches baptize infants and others, like us, only baptize adults?**

1. The idea that infants should be baptized comes from the idea of Old Testament circumcision.
  - a. Circumcision was a covenant sign, but never intended to be a seal (Gen. 17:11; Deut. 30:6; Jer. 4:4; Rom. 2:28-29)
  - b. Circumcision was applied to male babies who were part of Israel.
  - c. Conclusion - If circumcision is the sign of the community of faith of the Old Testament and it was applied to infants, so also should the sign of the New Testament community of faith, baptism, be applied to infants.
2. Why is baptizing only adults a stance we choose to distinctively make as a church?
  - a. Circumcision was a sign of God's covenant with Abraham. No direct relationship between that covenant and the new covenant.
  - b. No record of infant baptism in the New Testament.

## Part 3: Next Steps Towards Baptism



### Student Baptism Process Preparation at HFFBC:

1. **Attend "Baptism Milestone" class.** As part of the Milestones path established by the Student Ministries at HFFBC, all 11th graders and their parents are invited to this annual "Baptism Milestone" class to begin the process of understanding, discerning, and dialoguing about baptism by immersion as a mature believer in Christ.
2. **Review and accept the materials and resources provided in the "Baptism Milestone" packet provided.** Then, as part of attending the class above, parents and students receive a packet for them to begin talking through together. Students and parents should read through this packet carefully and slowly, asking questions along the way and making sure all information and understanding is clear regarding baptism - what the Scriptures say, what we at HFFBC believe, and how we baptize believers here. After completing this, students and parents must agree with the core of the information about baptism provided before moving forward.
3. **Obtain consent.** After reading through the packet and materials together and agreeing with it, students under the age of 18 must receive consent from their parents before moving forward with the baptism process. It is of utmost importance that students and parents are on the same page and in full agreement with moving forward.
4. **Attend "Baptism Overview" session of the "HFFBC New Members Class."** Students (and parents) then are invited to join the second week of the 4-week "HFFBC New Members Class" offered twice a year. The second week of this class focuses again on baptism, what believer's baptism is, and how we do it at HFFBC. This gives the student and parent a chance to hear from and dialogue about baptism with the Lead Pastor before moving forward.
5. **Walk through Baptism Preparation material with approved Mentor or Pastor.** Finally, the student is required to meet with either their approved mentor (whom they hopefully have been meeting with since 10th grade) or a Pastor at HFFBC for 4-6 sessions to review the important materials of baptism and confirm the Lord's desire for them to be baptized.
6. **Prepare written testimony.** As part of #5, student will work with mentor or pastor to prepare their written testimony to be reviewed and clarified with the leadership of HFFBC. This is an encouraging process as that testimony then will be shared at the baptism service!
7. **Baptism Service & Celebration!** Offered in both June and December each year.

## Ways to Assess Readiness for Baptism:

*For parents, witnessing your child being baptized when they are ready is pure joy!*

*For students, being baptized when you are ready is pure joy!*

Determining genuine and credible faith in Jesus as Lord and Savior is imperative. As even the apostle Paul says, "Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? —unless indeed you fail to meet the test!" (2 Corinthians 13:5).

So below are some good questions to test ourselves with:

- Are you able to articulate who Jesus Christ is and what His sacrifice on the cross means?
- Can you identify yourself as an individual who is forgiven in spite of sinful ways?
- Do you truly realize you need a Savior?
- Can you articulate what the "Gospel" is?
- Can you tell others what Jesus has done for you and why that is "good news"?

## The Right Time?

So the question arises, when is the right time for a young person to be baptized? There is disagreement about this, but there are at least three important factors to keep in mind:

- **Factor 1: The Young Person's Desire** - This first factor emphasizes the desire of the student as a sign of the Holy Spirit's work in them. When a student desires to be baptized and is drawn to it, that is a sign that the Holy Spirit is working in their life and prompting them.
- **Factor 2: The Young Person's Understanding** - This second factor emphasizes the young person's understanding of baptism, but note that understanding will vary. It is not a pre-requisite to be a seminary-trained Bible scholar to be baptized. Growth in biblical knowledge and understanding will continue throughout each of our lives. And, therefore, what is required at the time of baptism is simply a depth of understanding that reveals a genuine conversion to Jesus, and an understanding of what true baptism is, what it's symbolizing, and what lifelong faith will require.
- **Factor 3: The Agreement of Believing Parents** - While the Scriptures do say that we must be willing to leave our families for Christ (Matt. 19:29), this does not mean our believing parents who have discerning wisdom into a child's decision about baptism! The aim of this packet is to bring about rich dialogue and communication between parent and child so that full agreement is found. And what a beautiful thing that is!

## Faith Story/Testimony

Lastly, the step that every believer can be working on (especially young people considering baptism) is articulating and writing out their testimony. There is no more important task or calling for a Christian than to “declare what Christ has done for you” (Luke 8:39). Below is an outline for beginning this process:

### Questions to consider while preparing your faith story/testimony

*Use these questions as a filter, not as an outline necessarily. What themes are emerging in your story that you could use to share how much Christ has done for you?*

1. What was your childhood like? Key moments?
2. In general, what was your life like before knowing Christ?
3. How did Jesus make Himself known to you? What happened?
4. What is the Gospel, clearly articulated?
5. What has your life been like since knowing Jesus?
6. What challenges do you still face even after becoming a follower of Christ?
7. Where do you sense God is leading you and why?





"Lord, in humble, sweet submission,  
 Here we meet follow thee;  
 Trusting in thy great salvation,  
 Which alone can make us free.  
 Nought have we to claim as merit;  
 All duties we can do  
 Can no crown of life inherit;  
 All duties we can do  
 Can no crown of life inherit:  
 All the praise to thee is due.  
 Yet we come in Christian duty,  
 Down beneath the wave to go;  
 O the bliss! The heavenly beauty!  
 Christ the Lord was buried so.  
 Come ye children of the kingdom,  
 Follow him beneath the wave;  
 Rise, and show his resurrection,  
 And proclaim his power to save."

***"Lord in Humble Sweet, Submission" by Robert T. Daniel***

*"Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?" I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have **washed** their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb... Blessed are those who **wash** their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates."*

**Revelation 7:13-14; 22:14**