

• **introduction**

Now is a very special time in our meeting... for we're going to baptise BB .

As we come to baptism tonight ... because Christian baptism is so important ... its very important that we are clear about what is happening.

What we are NOT doing is
naming BB...
we're not doing that... cos she all ready has a name... BB!

Neither are we securing a place in heaven for BB.
We're not doing that when we baptise her.

By baptising BB we're not making her a Christian
That's clear when we appreciate just what a Christian is...

A Christian is a person who recognises that they have offended the true & living God their maker... by following their own path & not his...
A Christian is a person who recognises that they have dishonoured God by treasuring more than him ... people & things that are in fact less than God.
A Christian is a person who relies solely on the death & resurrection of Jesus to make things right between them & God.
A Christian is a person who submits wholeheartedly to the loving authority of Jesus.
A Christian is a person who has been washed clean of their sin by the Spirit of God through faith in Jesus.

By baptising BB we are not making her Christian... for that is God's work.
God makes people who are dead in their sin, alive in Jesus, through faith in him.
It's God's work.

But its because it is God's work... that this baptism of BB is so important.

Whenever a child is born into a Christian family...
even before the child is born...
its parents... and relatives.... and friends... and church family...
will be at prayer for that child... asking God to give to them what they most desperately need...
forgiveness of sins & a new heart... new birth through faith in Jesus by his Spirit.

That has been Dad & Mum's prayer for BB...
I hope it has all ready been our prayer.

And tonight as we baptise this precious little girl
the water is a symbol of the content of our prayers...
that God might choose to spiritually wash her..

BAPTISM of BB

And as we pray... and as we baptise... our hope rests confidently in the sovereign goodness of God.

We look to him in faith to answer our prayers for BB.

Let's pray together now...

- prayer

- interview

Let's hear now from Dad & Mum...

•Dad:-why is it so important to you that BB grow up knowing & serving Jesus as her king?

•Mum:- Why is it important to make these promises before evening church?

- questions & promises

•Do you believe that as the Son of God... Christ Jesus died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures?

•Do you look to Jesus in trust & obedience as your Saviour & your King?

•Is it the chief aim of your life to serve the true & living God & to wait for his Son from heaven?

•Do you declare that you bring BB to baptism as part of your deep desire & prayer that their sins might be forgiven through faith in Jesus?

•Do you promise to pray for the salvation of BB without ceasing?

•Do you promise to teach BB the message of God in the Bible?

•Is it your determination to live a godly life before BB.... a life of faith & love & obedience?

•As part of your godly life, is it your determination to be committed to the body of Christ, his church, and in particular.. his church?

•Do you promise all these things relying on God's good & sovereign grace?

BAPTISM of BB

- questions & promises to God-parents Shane & Bev ??

•Shane and Bev, Do you promise to pray for BB's salvation?

•Do you promise to teach BB the message of God in the Bible, and to seek her growth in the knowledge of Christ?

•Do you promise to encourage & support Dad & Mum as the parents of BB?

- questions to the church family

As the church family we too have a responsibility to love this family... to encourage them & to point them to Jesus with our words & lives.

So I ask that as a church family we might stand and answer these questions...

• Do you, the members of this church family, promise to receive BB with Christian love & care, to pray for her, and to seek her growth in the knowledge of Christ?

•Do you promise to pray for Dad & Mum, to encourage them & support them as the parents of BB?....

- baptism

BB.... I baptise you in the name of the Father, the Son & the Holy Spirit.

- prayer