

"Baptism—What Is It? Why Is It Important" (Acts 8:26-40)

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/Coolum Beach Baptist Church

"Anyone who believes and is baptized will be saved. But anyone who refuses to believe will be condemned." (Mark 16:16)



January

9AM Pastor John

"Baptism - "What Is It? Why Is It Important?"
(Acts 8:26-40)

Thought for the Week

FIVE EXTRAORDINARY FAITH LESSONS FROM THREE AMAZING MEN

In Daniel chapter 3 we read the story of three young men who encountered strong opposition to their faith. Their response to this challenging situation was to put their faith in God. As we look at their story, we learn some important lessons about living the Christian life. **They were fully convinced.** Nothing could make them bow to Nebuchadnezzar's statue – no threats, consequence or punishment (3:16–18). They were fully convinced of the power and goodness of God. **They were under pressure.** When Nebuchadnezzar heard Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego's words of defiance, he turned up the pressure and made things a lot hotter for them. God promises us that we will face trials and opposition when we live for him. Things may be heating up in your life – relationship struggles, sickness, rejection. You may have even taken a stand for God and now find yourself staring at a fire like none you've seen before. You thought God would save you from the fire. You prayed God would save you from the fire. But it remains. Don't despair! Because when the enemy turns up the heat, God is always there with you. **They believed God's promises.** "Do not be afraid, for I have ransomed you. I have called you by name; you are mine.... I will be with you...When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you." (Isaiah 43:1–2) God doesn't promise to keep you from the fires and pressures of life, but He does promise to bring you through them. Nebuchadnezzar made the fire so hot it killed some of his strongest soldiers (3:22) Fire is deadly – for some. But you will not be burned and destroyed if you are fully convinced of the promises of God. Too often we expect God to save us from the fire but the real miracle for us is in the fire – just as it was for Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. **They received His salvation.** When Nebuchadnezzar threw Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego into the fire, their chains broke, Jesus walked with them, and they did not smell of smoke (3:24–27). When Satan threatens you, he tries to enslave and destroy you. But Christ is with you. He will reveal himself in the fire, break the chains and bring you through. **They were blessed with promotion.** When the three men exited the fire, they received a promotion. King Nebuchadnezzar saw the favour of God on their lives and promoted them in his worldly kingdom (3:30) Your fiery ordeals that you face will test you, but on the other side you will see greater blessing. The fire that Christ allows in our life always refines us. You may also gain greater favour with those you know as they recognize the goodness of God through your faith. If the fires of life are threatening, take heart. The miracle of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego is a miracle for you too. Always be fully convinced and believe God's promises, so when the pressure increases, you will receive His protection and blessing. God bless, Pastor John.

BBQ AND MOVIE NIGHT

It all starts at 6pm at the church this Friday 19th January. Cost is a gold coin donation per person. If you are intending to come, we would ask that you put your name down on the sheet in the foyer, as this will help with catering. Everyone is invited and encouraged to bring a friend. After dinner, we will be watching a movie called Greater (rated PG). It is the powerful, and emotional, true story of Brandon Bulsworth, a young, Christian American football player who became the greatest walk on college player in the history of American Football.



GENESIS 1-11 - CREATION, SIN AND THE NATURE OF GOD

This is our new preaching and Bible study series for 2024. It all starts on Sunday 4th February. We are hoping to have the study books available for collection on Sunday 28th January.

2024 SOCCER SEASON IS COMING

Registrations have opened and we already have over 60 players registered for this year. With Pastor John leaving, we will be needing some new volunteers to help at our 8 home games and to help our Club committee (registrar, secretary, field set up, match controller...). Please give prayerful consideration as to how you may be able to help out this season.

Prayer Points

- For safety and security for Abbey Penglase and all other missionaries and churches in Ecuador.
- For Pastor John and Shauna as they wait for the Lord's leading in their ministry.
- For Pastor Harrison, Jess, Elijah and Ewan as they enjoy a week's holiday before they start a 'big' new year.
- For the leadership as they plan and prepare for this season of transition—that all they do will be in God's will.
- For the soccer season preparations and for new volunteers to step up.
- For peace in the Middle East and Ukraine.
- For the defeat of the private bill put forward by Minister for Health, Shannon Fentiman, seeking to empower nurses and midwives as abortion practitioners.



Greg Modlin 9th Jan, Keith Robinson 10th Jan, Judy Hampton 10th Jan