



## **RAISED TO LIFE – “Baptism – the Pledge”**

PREACHER – JON TALBOTT

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE – 1 Peter 3:18-21

### PRIMARY OUTCOME

- That we would understand the pledges that go along with baptism.

### GOD’S PLEDGE

From the beginning of time God has demonstrated His love for us. That’s his pledge, to love us in spite of our sin. In His holiness He cannot tolerate the sin in our lives and out of His love for us has provided ways for us to be in relationship with him. In the Old Testament God set up the sacrificial system where the sacrifice of animals would roll the sins of the people forward, but that was always intended to be a temporary fix. As you read through the Old Testament you can begin to see glimpses, promises of a Messiah to come. We see those promises come to fruition in His Son Jesus Christ whose death, burial and resurrection took care of sin once and for all.

### OUR PLEDGE (APPEAL)

The waters of baptism do not wash the physical dirt from our bodies, but there is a washing that takes place. There is a cleansing that takes place in our lives and spirits. (See Acts 22:16, Titus 3:5) That is the appeal of a clear conscience.

Baptism according to our text does save us. This is one of the most direct passages of scripture that declares this truth, along with Mark 16:16.

The Power of baptism comes from the resurrection of Jesus Christ. No resurrection? No power. All we do is useless! (See 1 Corinthians 15:7-20)

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Ice Breaker – Share with your group a time when you started something thinking it was a good idea at the time, but later had second thoughts.
2. Share a time with the group when you made a “pledge”.
3. Allow time for some from the group to share their thoughts on what it might have been like to live under the Old Testament sacrificial system.
4. Share what it means to you to know that God has pledged to love us, and out of that pledge of loving us, it cost Him His one and only Son, Jesus.
5. Share a time with the group when you were so dirty, filthy, that you weren’t sure you would ever be clean. What’s your response once you are clean?
6. What does it mean to you to have the “pledge” or “appeal” of a clear conscience? Have you ever been guilty of not allowing God to remove those sins from your mind? If so, why? Especially when He’s promised to do so.
7. Discuss what it means to have our salvation hinge on the resurrection of Jesus. Is that a comfort to you? Or does that bring confusion for you?
8. Jon shared the thought from Dr. Cottrell’s book, The Faith Once for All, that God has tied His promise of baptism to a concrete, objective event that we can always go back to if we ever begin to doubt our faith or salvation. So what’s your day? Do you remember?

