**Queens Chapel U.M. Church**

**Beltsville, MD**

Rev. Dr. Will Butler, Pastor

**“The Power of Becoming the Church” (Part 1)**

**Acts 2:38**

“Peter replied, “Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

1. When we hear the word church
2. Church is much more than a physical building.
3. Ecclesiology--Greek word: “ekklesia,” the assembly of believers who belong to, who worship and follow Jesus Christ.
4. Acts 2:38 (NLT)

 “Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

1. Salvation just don’t happen
2. One must repent
* Change one’s mind about sin and be willing to move in a new direction.

**1 Thessalonians 1:8-9**

 8 And now the word of the Lord is ringing out from you to people everywhere, even beyond Macedonia and Achaia, for wherever we go we find people telling us about your faith in God. We don’t need to tell them about it,

 9 for they keep talking about the wonderful welcome you gave us and how you turned away from idols to serve the living and true God.

1. Be Baptized in the Name of Jesus
* Peter was obeying Christ command Matthew 28:19

 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”

1. In the name of Jesus
* For them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ was an expression of their belief and complete trust in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
1. Forgiveness of your sins”
* The act of Baptism does forgive you of your sins not cleans you from your sins

**1 Peter 3:20-21 NLT**

 20 those who disobeyed God long ago when God waited patiently while Noah was building his boat. Only eight people were saved from drowning in that terrible flood.

 21 And that water is a picture of baptism, which now saves you, not by removing dirt from your body, but as a response to God from a clean conscience. It is effective because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

**Ephesians 1:7 NLT**

 “He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins”

1. You will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit
* The Holy Spirit is a gift because Jesus Christ promised to give it to every believer.

**Luke 11:13 NLT**

  “So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him.”

 **Ezekiel 36:26-27**

 26 And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart.

 27 And I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow my decrees and be careful to obey my regulations

**We’re standing on solid ground**

**1 Cor 3:11**

 “For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”

**We’re a royal diadem in the Hand of God**

**Isaiah 62:3**

 “You shall also be a crown of glory In the hand of the LORD, And a royal diadem In the hand of your God.”

**We’re the apple of God’s eye**

**Zec 2:8**

 “For thus says the LORD of hosts: "He sent Me after glory, to the nations which plunder you; for he who touches you touches the apple of His eye.”