



So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

Galatians 3:26-27

Encountering Jesus: Defining moment

At the end of each year and into the new year, a lot of evaluation happens. We look at the defining moments of the past year—the good, bad, ugly, and the best. Each year has them. The future is shaped by those moments. We are defined by them.

Imagine standing at the free throw line with the game on the line. Your team is counting on you. Your fans are cheering for you with bated breath. Miss it—you're a dunce. Make it—you're a hero.

We face moments like this nearly every day. We face decisions about where we will go to school. We face the choice of whether or not to take that underage drink. We face moments with a boyfriend or girlfriend that can alter our future. Make the wrong choice and you're done. Make the right choice and your life is on the right track.

But that's not even the point, is it?

In these moments, whether we make the godly choice or the sinful one, there is a greater defining moment than any of these. It's your baptism. There, your Savior clothed you with his righteousness and cleansed you with his blood. There your Father adopted you as his child, making you an heir of heaven and a citizen of eternity. This is the biggest defining moment in your life.

Keep going back to it. When you stumble and sin by bad choices and decisions, run back to the baptismal font for forgiveness. When you thrive and God blesses what you do, run back to the font for affirmation from God alone—you are his beloved child. This is one defining moment that didn't depend on you. It depended on Jesus, and it happened at your baptism.

You may not remember the day of your baptism, but it was one of the most important days of your life. Mark it! And keep returning to it.

Prayer: Father, today I will be faced with choices and decisions both big and small. Keep me from sinning. Help me to honor you. And, above all, help me remember whose I am—I am yours! You made me your child at my baptism. What a special day that was. Amen.