



Key Notes

In his delightful allegory of the Christian life entitled *The Pilgrim's Regress*, C. S. Lewis paints an unforgettable picture of baptism. The main character, John, is seeking the meaning of life. His journey takes him through a landscape filled with philosophical, political and religious options of one kind and another. He carefully avoids all that smacks of traditional Christianity. Finally, after exhausting himself on numerous dead-end ventures, he surrenders to the Truth and comes back to the church (Mother Kirk).

"I have come to give myself up," he said.

"It is well," said Mother Kirk. "You have come a long way round to reach this place, whither I would have carried you in a few moments. But it is very well."

"What must I do?" said John.

"You must take off your rags," said she, "...and then you must dive into this water."

"Alas," said he, "I have never learned to dive."

"There is nothing to learn," said she. "The art of diving is not to do anything new but simply to cease doing something. You have only to let yourself go."

This thought terrifies John. So he asks if he can jump feet first rather than dive. Mother Kirk explains why this won't work.

"If you jump, you will be trying to save yourself and you may be hurt. As well, you would not go deep enough. You must dive so that you can go right down to the bottom of the pool: for you are not to come up again on this side. There is a tunnel...far beneath the surface of the water, and it is through that that you must pass so that you may come up on the far side" (p. 214).

This morning, Baptism Sunday, we have the privilege of watching as men and women "dive" in the pool. Like John in Lewis' fantasy, they are nervous.: *Will I have the courage to let go? Will I survive the fall? Will the person that emerges on the other side be any different from the one who jumped?*

These courageous brothers and sisters are discovering that the secret of going deep into God is not so much *doing something* as it is *ceasing* to do something! The secret to diving is to *let yourself go*.

Most dives of this kind are far from perfect. The form is awkward, the splash is big. But it really doesn't matter. What matters is the leap of faith. These men and women are doing what most only dream of. Bravo! We clap and cheer because you're falling into the ocean of His grace.

What about you? Come on in, the water's fine.

Pastor Stan
Acts 2:37-39