

## **BIRTHDAY**

-Ryan Parsons-

A few days ago, I celebrated my 44th birthday. It is hard to believe that I have survived this long. It was a low-key celebration, and since I can't eat cake, I just had a steak instead. On the other end of the spectrum, I once marveled at a television show where a parent spent a quarter of a million dollars on a 16th birthday for his daughter. Call me old fashioned or a stick-in-the-mud, but that seems a little excessive for anyone's birthday. Regardless of party size, the best things about the anniversary of our birth is not only the celebration, but the opportunity for reflection that it provides.

Did you know that you have a second birthday? The New Testament speaks of this event in a celebratory way. Moreover, it is mentioned repeatedly to create an opportunity for reflection in a Christian's life. Even more important than your birthday is the day of your baptism. Strangely, it is not often spoken of on an annual basis. There are no balloons, cards, gifts, cake, or candles. Yet, its eternal significance cannot be downplayed. No doubt, it is a reason to rejoice and celebrate.

### **1 Peter 1:3**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

### **2 Corinthians 5:17**

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

### **Romans 6:4**

We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

### **1 Corinthians 6:11**

And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

### **Galatians 3**

26 for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. 27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

What day were you baptized? If you don't know, I would challenge you to find out. Maybe you want to celebrate that date each year with a special time of thanksgiving. Regardless of how you treat that specific date, there is a gathering that takes place each week that affords us the opportunity to not only reflect on our "newness of life," but to also celebrate with the Lord who made it possible. See you there!