Baptism is required for salvation:

Mark 16:15, 16: "And he (Jesus) said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved."

What is it? The word comes from the Greek “baptizo” and means to dip, to immerse, cover. It was used in the dyeing trade; - to immerse a garment in a bath of dye was to baptize it. It was a most appropriate word to use, as the believer was totally immersed in water.

Matt. 3:16: "And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water..."

Acts 8:38: "...And they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him."

What does it signify? A burial of our old way of life, and a resurrection to a new way.

Rom. 6:3-6: "Know ye not that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ, were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death; that like as Christ was raised up from the dead...even so, we also should walk in newness of life."

Col. 2:12: "Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him..."

The “old man” dies that the “new man” might live. We are now in a new status, “in Christ”, and members of the household of God.

2Cor. 5:17: "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature;..."

1Pet 2:2: "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby."
Gal. 3:27-29: “For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ...then are ye Abraham’s seed and heirs according to the promise.”

Baptism is also the means of having all past sins of the “old man” forgiven.

Acts 2:38: “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins...”

Acts 22:16: “...arise and be baptized, and wash away thy sins...”

Baptized believers then become part of God’s Family and are enrolled as citizens of the Kingdom of God, and have embarked on a “race” or a journey which continues throughout the life of the disciple, walking with God, and keeping His commandments.

Eph. 2:19: “Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God...”

Heb. 12:1: “...and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.”

Col. 1:10: “That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God.”

Then, by God’s grace and mercy, the following words may be heard:

Matt. 25:34: “Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.”