

The Gospel of Christ and the Problem of Sin

The Gospel Addresses The State Of Sin

TEXT: Rom. 3:23; 6:23; 7:24; 6:3-4

INTRODUCTION:

- A. PREVIOUS LESSONS DEALT WITH THE PROBLEM, LOVE AND PRACTICE OF SIN AND HOW THE GOSPEL DEALS WITH EACH..
- B. THIS LESSON EXAMINES HOW THE COMMAND TO BE BAPTIZED IS THE GOSPEL'S ANSWER TO THE STATE OF SIN.
 - 1. Beginning with the "Great Commission"(**Mark 16:15-16**).
 - 2. As the apostle and others went out preaching Christ, they taught the necessity of baptism(**Acts 2:36-38; 8:35-39; 10:48; 22:16**).
- C. THE IMPORTANCE OF BAPTISM CAN BE SEEN IN HOW IT CHANGES THE STATE OF SIN.

I. BEFORE BAPTISM INTO CHRIST, ONE IS "DEAD IN SIN."

- A. **Eph. 2:1-3**. BECAUSE OF SIN, **DEAD IN SIN, DEAD TO GOD!**
- B. WHAT HAS GOD DONE ABOUT IT?(**Eph. 2:4-9**).
 - 1. By the mercy, love and grace of God, and not through works of merit.
 - 2. **Made alive together with Christ, raised together with him!**

II. IN BAPTISM WE DIES TO SIN AND BECOME ALIVE TO GOD!"(Rom. 6:1-8, 11).

- A. PLEASE NOTICE THAT PAUL IS **NOT** SAYING...
 - 1. Baptism is a symbolic demonstration of the death, burial and resurrection of Christ engaged in by those who have already died to sin.
 - 2. Baptism is to be a public profession of one's faith in the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ (**Acts 8:35-38; Acts 16:30-34**). Who was there?
- B. WHEN AND HOW DO WE DIE TO SIN?
 - 1. **Before Baptism**, Dead in sin and Dead to God(**Eph. 2:1**).
 - 2. **In Baptism**
 - a. Buried with Christ into his death(**Rom. 6:3-4**).
 - b. United with him in the likeness of his death, Crucified with him, Thus we die to sin and are Freed from Sin(**vs. 6-7**).
 - c. Raised with Christ(**Col. 2:12**) to Newness of Life(**Rom. 6:4-5**).
 - 3. **After Baptism**, Dead to sin, Alive to God(**Rom. 6:11; Gal. 3:26-27**).
 - 5. Note that our **State** in regards to Sin and God has **changed**(**Rom. 6:11**).
 - a. Before baptism into Christ, we were **dead in sin**.
 - b. But after baptism we are **dead to sin, and alive to God!**

III. PAUL USES THE FIGURE OF CIRCUMCISION(Col. 2:11-13).

- A. **WHAT?** "PUTTING OFF THE BODY OF THE FLESH."
- B. **WHEN?** "HAVING BEEN BURIED WITH HIM IN BAPTISM."
- C. **THEN WHAT?** WE WERE RAISED TOGETHER WITH HIM.
 - 1. Through **faith** (man's part, expressed by obedience in baptism).
 - 2. In the **working of God**(God's part, who cleanses us by the blood of Christ(**1 Pet. 3:18-19; Rom. 6:23-25**).

3. **When does God do his work of cutting off sin?**
- D. SO WHEN A PERSON IS BAPTIZED:
1. God performs a "spiritual operation" (the "circumcision of Christ")!
 2. He is being raised together with Christ (**Col. 2:12**).
 3. The cause of sin is done away, therefore we are alive(**vs. 13-14**).
 4. In baptism we "put on" Christ(**Gal. 3:27**).
 5. This is how one REALLY receives Jesus Christ into their life; **not by saying "the sinner's prayer"**, but by submitting to the command of Christ to be baptized into His death for the remission of sins!

CONCLUSION:

- A. BAPTISM IS WHERE THE STATE OF SIN CHANGES.
- B. THIS EXPLAINS THE EMPHASIS ON BAPTISM IN EARLY PREACHING.
(**Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:36-38**)
- C. WHAT IS YOUR STATE?
 1. Have you been baptized?
 2. Have you died to sin?