

WHAT FOLLOWS BAPTISM?

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TEXT:

“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. We who died to sin, how shall we any longer live therein? Or are ye ignorant that all we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him through baptism unto death: that like as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with him in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection; knowing this, that our old man was crucified with him, that the body of sin might be done away, that so we should no longer be in bondage to sin;” (Romans 6:1-6).

PURPOSE: To help us see what follows our baptism into Christ.

INTRODUCTION:

1) We all remember certain events in our life.

(1) Birthday, Wedding anniversary, etc.

(2) Baptism into Christ is an important day of our life (Spiritual birth, “Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God” (John 3:5).

(3) Marriage to Christ, “Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God” (Romans 7:4).

2) Certain things should be noticed - because we have been baptized - certain things should follow.

3) Scripture plainly teaches in baptism that the penitent believer receives forgiveness of sins, “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost”, (Acts 2:38) “And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord” (Acts 22:16).

I. WALK IN NEWNESS OF LIFE.

1) We have a new relationship with Christ.

(1) “buried with him”, “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 by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life” (Romans 6:3-4).

(2) Walk in newness of life.

2) Newness of life shows that we should not continue in sin.

(1) “What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. We who died to sin, how shall we any longer live therein?”

(Romans 6:1-2).

(2) "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2Corinthians 5:17).

3) We are to put off certain things.

(1) "That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;" (Ephesians 4:22).

(2) "Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another" (Ephesians 4:25).

(3) "But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;" (Colossians 3:8-9).

4) Put on certain things.

(1) "And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness" (Ephesians 4:24).

(2) "And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all. Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;" (Colossians 3:10-12).

5) We have a new name.

(1) "And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the LORD shall name" (Isaiah 62:2).

(2) "And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch" (Acts 11:26).

II. RECOGNIZE THAT YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE BODY OF CHRIST - A MEMBER OF GOD'S FAMILY.

1) Were born into God's family, "Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God" (John 3:5).

2) God the Father: "After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name" (Matthew 6:9).

3) Brother to Christ: "For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren" (Hebrews 2:11).

4) We have an inheritance - heirs of God: "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together" (Romans 8:16-17).

5) 1Corinthians - importance of member - "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;" (Ephesians 4:4).

III. SHOULD WORSHIP GOD FAITHFULLY.

1) In Acts 2 when they obeyed - note: "And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and the prayers" (Acts 2:42).

2) Satan will try to draw you away from God.

(1) "And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection" (Luke 8:14).

(2) Determine right now - not to forsake, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33).

(3) Later when sports events, family reunions, company comes, you won't have to decide.

IV. SEEK THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE ABOVE.

_____ 1) "If then ye were raised together with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated on the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things that are above, not on the things that are upon the earth" Colossians 3:1-2).

2) Notice - "risen with him" When? "Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead" (Colossians 2:12).

3) Now, why seek things above?

(1) Answer: "For ye died, and your life is hid with Christ in God" (Colossians 3:3).

(2) Our affections are to be on things above.

3) The reward - "When Christ, who is our life, shall be manifested, then shall ye also with him be manifested in glory" (Colossians 3:4).

4) You have made a reservation (illustration - you must make a reservation in order to have a room in a motel), "To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you" (1 Peter 1:4).

CONCLUSION:

1) When we are scripturally baptized we are delivered from the power of darkness and translated into the kingdom of God's dear Son, "Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:" (Colossians 1:13).

2) We should fix our eyes on Christ, "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:2).

3) Resolve not to break that vow.