

The Gateway to a new life!

Subject: Baptism
 Objective: To compare and contrast Christ death, burial and resurrection and baptism and to show the importance of being dead to sin before one is baptized.
 Main Text: Romans 6:3-4)

ATTENTION

ILLUSTRATION

A boy and his father had an argument about baptism. The boy told the father that he learnt in school that baptism is a burial. It is immersing, going under the water. The father told his son that baptism is not immersing it is sprinkling and that he was certain that the teacher doesn't know what she is talking about. The argument went back and forth until the father said, "Don't argue with me, immersing and sprinkling is the same thing."

During that week, one of the yard fowls died and the boy was instructed by his father to go and bury the fowl. The boy placed the fowl in the back yard away from human sight and sprinkled the dirt on the fowl, washed his hands and went along his merry way.

A few days later the father called out to his son, "Boy, what smells behind the house?" The son replied, "I don't know daddy." "Did you bury the fowl that I told you to bury", the father shouted. "Yes daddy," the boy replied.

The father decided to check the back yard to see if the boy buried the fowl. When he got there he saw the dead, rotten fowl with about two handful of sand thrown on it. He called out, "Boy how you say you bury the fowl!" The boy replied, "Dad you told me that immersing and sprinkling are the same thing."

APPLICATION

It is against the law to place a dead person on top to the earth and sprinkle some dirt on that person. A person who is dead must be placed beneath earth. It is also against the law to bury a person who is alive! A burial signifies that someone has died.

NEED

- I. Bible baptism is a burial and death must precede a burial. (Colossians 2:12)

- II. The person who plans to be baptized must be dead “unto sin” but “alive unto God.” (Romans 6:11)

Happens when a person is dead?

1. The don't feel the rain
2. Can't see the sunset
3. Can't hear the wind
4. Can't touch the rose

- III. *“A man that is dead is uninfluenced and unaffected by the affairs of this life. He is insensible to sounds, and tastes, and pleasures; to the hum of business, to the voice of friendship, and to all the scenes of commerce, gaiety, and ambition.”* **Barnes**

PUNCH: Therefore, when it is said that a Christian is dead to sin, the sense is, that sin has lost its influence over him. (Romans 6:2)

- IV. One of the reasons why the highway to heaven is so densely strewn with those who have made wreck of their faith is that many have been buried “alive to sin” instead of being “dead to sin.”

SATISFACTION

Five Essential Steps Preceding Baptism

- I. These five steps are absolutely necessary if we are to avoid being buried to sin.
 1. The person must be taught. (Matthew 28:19)
 2. The person must believe. (Mark 16:16)
 3. Genuine belief leads to repentance. (Acts 2:38)
 4. True repentance leads immediately to the confession of sins. (Proverbs 28:13) (1 John 1:9)
 5. The final step is faith and acceptance. (Hebrews 11:6) (Acts 16:30, 31)
- II. The final step is the hardest to grasp because this is the place where the devil takes his last stand between us and Christ.
- III. It is at this point we need to know the promises of God. (Matthew 11:28) (Isaiah 1:18)

ILLUSTRATION:

The story of the prodigal son plainly portrays the willingness of our Father in heaven to forgive us and receive us unto Himself.

APPLICATION

Do not allow the devil to keep you in the pig pen of sin. You can rise up out of the mess and when you do God will come running to meet you. HALLELUJAH

VISUALIZATION

- I. The Bible equates the death, burial and resurrection of Christ to Baptism. (Romans 6:3, 4)
 - i. Christ died.
 - ii. We must be dead to sin.
 - iii. He was buried in the tomb not outside.
 - iv. We must be buried under the water not with the water.
 - v. Christ rose up from the dead.
 - vi. We must come up out of the water to walk in newness of life.

- II. The Bible equates baptism to Christ's sacrifice but He was also baptized. (Matthew 3:16, 17)
- III. There is no text in the bible that supports sprinkling or confirmation.****
- IV. We are saved by grace through faith but we become followers of Christ and His Church when we are baptized. (Galatians 3:27) (1 Corinthians 12:12)

ILLUSTRATION

Some year ago there was a great deal of opposition to the gospel in a certain Balkan country. It was against the law to baptize a person into the church. Consequently all baptismal services had to be held in secret.

One day a baptism had to be arranged and a goodly number of believers assembled at the spot. But despite all their efforts to keep the appointment secret, soldiers appear just as the minister was taking one of the candidates down into the water.

“What’s going on here?” one of the officers demanded.

The minister had to think quickly. “Oh sir,” he replied, “this man I have here in the water with me has been very sick. He drank liquor, and the more he drank the worse he got; and his family have carried a very heavy burden. I have a cure for his illness, and I am going to perform this cure. When I pray and put him down under the water, the evil spirit and his illness will leave him. He will become well, and his family will be happy again.”

The officer appeared to understand. “By all means,” he said, “If you can cure his drunkenness and his illness with your treatment, go ahead and give him the treatment. We wish many more in this area could take the same cure.”

APPLICATION

Baptism is a special occasion and it is not just cure for the body but for the mind. It is extra special when the person who is being baptized is dead to sin. And only when you are dead to sin can you be alive unto God thru Jesus Christ.

APPEAL

It is not only essential to believe, but one must both believe “and be baptized” if this person expects to be saved. It is very important, that the person who plans to be baptized gives up worldliness before baptism. Baptism begins your journey with Christ but it also ends your journey with Satan. “The things I use to do I will do them no more.”

My friend this subject is of such great importance that I must give you the opportunity to respond.

1. Is it your desire to surrender to Christ tonight?
2. Is it your desire to do what he requires of you to do?
3. The Bible says he that believes and is baptized will be saved. Is it your desire to be saved?