

#534 – THE BAPTISM STUDY

The Essential Nature Of Baptism

The Laws of Baptism.

The Seven Foundations For the Christian Life.

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So much confusion has arisen over baptism and what part it plays in the Christian life. Many feel that baptism does nothing toward our salvation. Some even testify that nothing really happened when they were baptized. In many cases, that is true. There is a great difference between what the scriptures says takes place in Baptism and what the “churched” believer actually experiences. This is what we wish to speak into to establish what is REALLY supposed to happen in Baptism?.

In order to evaluate the many benefits of water baptism it is essential that we clearly see how God evaluates baptism and forget what man has done to it in unbelief and ignorance. Like all experiences in God, it is necessary that we enter into each experience with a clear understanding and faith. If we tell people baptism will do nothing for them, how will they exercise faith. If we tell them baptism is just a public testimony and nothing more, how will they exercise faith and how will it help them. Since faith comes by hearing and hearing comes by the word of God, our only method of building up the person’s faith is by carefully using the scripture.

My thesis is this: BOTH faith and understanding are necessary to experience all that God says baptism does. Faith is generally connected to the NEW spirit and SPIRITUAL understanding is connected to the NEW MAN /soul. Most preaching is to the “old man.” Therefore man must be born again with the new spirit functioning before man can exercise faith in his baptism. Baptism before the born again experience is nothing, because no faith can be exercised. Baptism before there is any understanding of God’s Word can produce very little because faith is based upon God’s Word, not just upon a ritual of getting wet.

One reason some people testify that even proper baptism does nothing is simply because the power released in baptism is not manifested immediately. **Baptism is a birth** and the full benefit is only experienced in growth and that over time. For continual growth we must exercise continual faith. Therefore we must begin in a full assurance of faith in God’s Word and then hold to that faith until the maturity of our baptism is realized. Paul says it this way: Reckon yourself dead (until your experiential death in Christ is an actual reality by experience).

Some churches have taught a doctrine that salvation is complete when we accept Christ as personal Savior! Then we receive forgiveness of sins through the blood of Calvary and are born again and nothing more is needed. Why? Because, this IS full salvation! If this were true, baptism would be redundant and unessential. Maybe, just a testimony as an outward sign of an inward change. Some incorrectly teach that we baptize into the church. We find nothing about this in scripture.

One of the errors of the liberal church is they have not understood that “the blood of Calvary” must be received experientially by each believer by faith. It is true that Jesus died for ALL but

all are not saved. Why? Because they haven't participated by faith. Therefore, to experience baptism we each MUST have a real forgiveness of our sins, personally, before baptism.

One error of the evangelical church is they have only seen the personal application of the blood for forgiveness of sins but nothing more.

The error of the fundamental church is they have declared baptism to be something less than what God's word says it is.

Some Pentecostal churches have declared baptism to be some sort of testimony.

Some very orthodox churches feel if we place any emphasis upon water baptism, we are depreciating the blood of Jesus Christ.

If we just understood that man needs more than the basic forgiveness of his sins it would put baptism in the proper perspective.

Our hope is that this outline will show that baptism is not an option, it is not a testimony, it is not an outward sign of an inward change. It is not entrance into church membership! Rather baptism provides for the believer, who has faith, several very essential and very definite experiences. At the conclusion of this study we will list at least 20 spiritual and essential provisions the believer should receive in water baptism. There are several places in scriptures that we could begin to present Baptism as an essential experience. Today, we will begin in Romans 6.

ROM 6:1 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace might increase? 2 May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? 3 Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have become united with {Him} in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall be also {in the likeness} of His resurrection, 6 knowing this, that our old self was crucified with {Him,} that our body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin; 7 for he who has died is freed from sin. 8 Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, 9 knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him. 10 For the death that He died, He died to sin, once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. 11 Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Outlining the book of Romans is helpful to see how baptism is related to other basic experiences. From Rom.1 to chapter 5:11 we see the whole **problem of "sins" plural** and how God handles the "sins", plural, problem through the blood of Jesus Christ. From Rom. 5:11 to chapter 8:39 we see the problem of **Sin**, singular, which is a problem with **the sinner himself**. Thank God we can be forgiven of "SINS" through faith in the blood of Jesus, but the person himself is still a "sin factory." This is the root cause of recurring sins. Even though the person has been forgiven, he is still participating in what he has inherited from the first Adam. Even though his sins are forgiven his personal problems are NOT solved because **his nature is still wrong**. The next step in our

deliverance is to get entirely free from the first Adam, his attitudes, his nature and his fallen characteristics. Otherwise, as a “Christian” he will look like a hypocrite.

But how to escape from all the fallen nature of the first Adam is the next question. It should be clear that changing our clothes or wearing a tie is not the solution. Joining the church and reforming our life style will not release us from this sin factory we inherited from the first man. God’s solution is we (the old I) must die, be buried, and be resurrected into a whole new life AND a new lifestyle in Jesus Christ.

Because of man’s fallen state, he must be **first redeemed and then REGENERATED**. That means “bought back” through the blood and then begin in a **New Species with a NEW GENESIS**. We must be granted the innocence and cleanness of the first Adam before he fell in the book of Genesis. However, God’s design is to begin with a whole NEW SPECIES or TOTALLY NEW PERSON. In other words, man must be more than forgiven, he must literally start over again as a whole NEW SPECIES. Even though he is forgiven he is still attached to the first Adam. Immediately following repentance and the born-again experience this attachment to the first Adam and his fallen life must be severed from having dominion. Then a whole new Resurrected Life must begin.

The first Adam was not all that God designed him to be. Since Adam was created to be like God he was given a moral choice or some call this “free will”. Adam was told by God what he could eat of and what he could not eat. It was up to Adam to decide whether to obey God or to determine what he, himself, wanted to do. **From this we understand that Adam would be involved in his own development by making certain moral choices**. When Adam made his first moral choice to disobey God and decide his own path, his development towards God’s eternal purpose ceased. Not only that but he died and lost his connection to God who is Life.

True development into God’s Eternal Purpose can only be realized when we give ourselves to do the whole will of God and to bring honor, glory and joy to God’s heart. Only as we rightly discern the purpose of God and live our lives with one goal of fulfilling God’s eternal purpose can we rightly relate to the present world, to our family, to our jobs and to our salvation. **ONLY** when the church adopts these Eternal Goals can we properly relate to the church.

One of the identifying marks of the first Adam was that he chose to do his own will and to live for himself. Even though Adam was sinless, innocent, pure and created in God’s own likeness and given God’s own image, he chose to live in God’s creation, use God’s provision, enjoy God’s sunshine but live unto himself. This is the same curse that plagues much of the church today. They have never escaped from the selfishness, the ego centric focus and self-centered interest of the first Adam. We take the power of the cross, the cleansing of the blood, the forgiveness of our sins and receive our reconciliation to God and then live just for ourselves and do our own will. It should be obvious that this influence and nature of the first Adam must be finally dealt with in the believer or the church will suffer. I won’t say this necessity is seen “in the new believer” because we see this same selfish nature in OLD believers everywhere. We recite the verse that old things have passed away and all things have become new but then live in the same old way. The scriptures then just become cliches or maybe proverbs without life.

It is easy to see the error of “no preparation” because of the pressing demand for more workers “to send to the harvest fields.” However, to send out laborers into the harvest that have not made the transition from the first Adam to the Last Adam is a terrible mistake. We are not speaking about not being born again or not receiving the Holy Spirit or not knowing the doctrines. We are speaking about making the transition from living to satisfy ourselves and attain to a position of leadership with a title and position and to fulfil our goals or to do the will of God! A transformation is required before we can begin living wholly to bring joy to God’s heart by fulfilling His purpose. The characteristic of the first Adam, that we are emphasizing, is

“doing his own will” and living his own life, just for himself. This is VERY popular in the visible church! Why? Because of a less than a genuine salvation and trusting in a counterfeit grace to excuse our selfishness and egocentric motives!

Because God’s goal is much more than man’s redemption, he must make a provision to sever man’s connection with the first Adam. The first Adam is called the “old man”. (old species) The last Adam is called “the new man” (the New Species). Since we cannot participate in both the first Adam and the Last Adam, we must die in the first Adam, be buried and be resurrected into the Last Adam. God is only dealing with two men. The first Adam and the Last Adam. Jesus Christ has purchased the redemption of all who are in the first Adam. All were predestined to this redemption. How? By participating through His shed blood, all who are in the first Adam can be forgiven of their sins by faith alone. This is NOT a doctrine but a life changing experience. We MUST receive forgiveness of sins that was provided by the sacrifice of calvary. Following that we must receive a NEW SPIRIT and be born again. How does this happen? We MUST receive (As Experience) the Living and Abiding Word of God (the Sperma) which “if conceived” a NEW CREATION. This Sperma coming into us causes us to be born again. We are once again a New Creation (New Species) with a NEW spirit, NEW soul but still in an OLD body.

2Cor 5:17 Therefore if any man is in Christ, *he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. 18 Now all *these* things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ, and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, 19 namely, **that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.**

We are once again sinless, clean, pure and innocent. We stand righteous before God in the same way the first Adam was while in the garden. We have become a new creation and are, in effect, back in the garden state of innocence. However Romans 7 reveals that even in this state we are subject to the desires of the flesh that were inherited from the first Adam. There is now a definite desire to please God but something is pulling the other way and presses us to do our own will and live for ourselves. This is modern curse of “continuing in sin” after sin is forgiven.

Rom 6:1 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace might increase? 2 May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? 3 Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?

To say that Paul is speaking of himself before he was “saved” is to miss the whole context of

Romans 5 to Romans 8. Paul is relating the plan of salvation in a more complete form than just Romans 5. The Evangelical Church has taken a few verses from Romans 5 and Romans 10 to present a “gospel of salvation”. Some have ignored Romans 6 and others have ignored Romans 6, 7 and 8 as they relate to God’s plan of redemption just to forgiveness of sins. If everything was complete in Romans 5, what purpose is there in Romans 8. Romans 7 shows us the problem facing those who are born again. Romans 6 shows us God’s provision and Romans 8 shows us God’s solution.

If we understand the personal experience of Romans 7, we should see the need of Romans 8. If we see God’s goal is not just forgiveness of sins but being led by the Holy Spirit we should see the foundation of Romans 6 is essential. If we understand the problem of getting a church to participate in Romans 12:1 & 2, we should see how Romans 1 through Romans 11 is fundamental to Romans 12. Romans 12:1-2 is just as much a part of God’s plan of salvation as Romans 5. Romans 5 has been presented as “the plan of salvation” and Romans 12: 1-2 as just for those who are after seeking after the “rewards” in heaven. In some groups this is discouraged.

If we shared just one plan of eternal salvation from Romans 1 to Romans 15, there would be a lot of people disappointed in what they have accepted as FULL salvation.. It is certainly true that forgiveness of sins is through faith only because that is all man is capable of doing in his fallen state. However it is also true that every true believer is expected to do the will of God in the same way the first Adam was expected to do the will of God. Why should God require the first Adam to do his will and fulfill His purpose and not require us to do at least the same?

The standard answer given is that now we are living under “grace” and are not required to do anything but believe something about Jesus! Then, we can do our own will, please ourselves and try to get God to do what we want Him to do. “Grace” has come to mean that God is here to serve us. Now we can pray to instruct God what He needs to do next. Even the first Adam had a better revelation than that!

Many people testify to the present reality of the fullness of Christ but few ever personally experience the reality of fullness. Many testify to the finished work of Christ on the cross but few know the personal experience of the cross in daily life. Many testify to a past experience of “salvation” but know very little about the daily experience of that salvation coming to full maturity within them. When it comes to crisis events and problems, there are fewer true believers who have been fully prepared to continue in faith. “My righteous ones shall live by faith” surely means continuously and daily and not a past experience of “one time faith”.

Was the only purpose of Jesus Christ being born into this world as a man to provide fallen man with forgiveness of sins or was it to restore man to completely fulfill God’s eternal purpose? My thesis is that forgiveness of sins had to be provided so that man could fulfill God’s eternal purpose. Forgiveness of sins was not the goal but a means to the ultimate goal which is wholly God Centered.

ROM 14:7 For not one of us lives for himself, and not one dies for himself; 8 **for if we live, we live for the Lord**, or if we die, we die for the Lord; therefore whether we live or die, we are the

Lord's. 9 For to this end Christ died and lived {again}, that He might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

2COR 5:14 For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; 15 **and He died for all, that they who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him** who died and rose again on their behalf.

Until the whole church is no longer living for themselves but radically lives wholly for Christ and to do His will, the purpose of Calvary has not been fulfilled. This has nothing to do with rewards but has to do with God's original purpose.

Because of taking a few verses out of the context of the whole counsel of God, the old Man / Adam, in the pulpit, has insisted he was right all the time. Just say the right words and believe our doctrine and you are as "saved" as you will ever be. The message is that "forgiven man" should take his "salvation" and do his own thing, by grace! Of course, you may then seek some optional rewards. Once you have become a child of God, like the first Adam, you can't lose that status. Once saved always saved!

The old Adam still thinks he did the right thing in the garden. The Tree of knowledge is still the right opportunity to eat and be like God. With this "tree" life is assured. However, there is NO LIFE in the Tree of Knowledge but only death. The Devil is inspiring that same lie again. "You shall not surely die"! The preacher, who is living in Romans 7, is still looking for an excuse to live according to the the flesh. God has given the solution in Romans 8 by "walking in the Spirit" but the flesh is still hostile to the Spirit. Most men of the flesh refuse to admit their necessity of the Holy Spirit in His full capacity.

If this is all true, then Romans 6 is a crucial chapter in fulfilling God's purpose. Of course the shed Blood and the Redemption of Calvary must be a reality before Romans 6 has any power to deliver. Also, our original faith must still be actively working to experience these other foundations. We must point out here, very clearly, that Romans 6, in itself, is not the solution to all of man's problems outside of the actual experience of God's other provisions. Why? Because, all these Seven Outer Court preparations are interlaced together with one another so that each one is adding to the other.

These several chapters in Romans are speaking of the same goal and should be seen together. Romans 6 is the preparation for Romans 8. The Romans 7 experience is the result of stopping short and not going on to the Romans 8 experience in its fulness.

Romans 6 is not the **whole revelation of water baptism** but is that section that deals with the old Adam and his sin factory that remains after forgiveness of sins and the new birth is a reality. We must remember that God's eternal purpose was established before man was created and preceded the fall of man. God's purpose was in His heart and in His foreknowledge before the foundation of the world. The fall of man never changed His Eternal Purpose! Man's original creation and was set into motion at the original creation of earth. Man was created to fulfill God's purpose. God's plan will not be complete until man fulfills His purpose. The first Adam did not grow into it, and now, because of the fall, cannot fulfill it. That limitation includes all

those born of the first Adam or who continue to participate in his nature or character.

Forgiveness of sins is the first step in the restoration of man but certainly not the final step. The old Adam in each one of us must be dealt with and destroyed or done away with. Why? For the forgiveness of sins? No! So we can fulfill God's eternal purpose! This old Adam, with his old nature and fallen character, is the road block that keeps us from fulfilling God's purpose. Those who hold to the doctrine that "all things are made new" when we receive Jesus Christ as personal savior, have not objectively observed the church in its present pitiful experience.

ROM 6:1 What shall we say then? **Are we to continue in sin** that grace might increase? Paul's teaching here is focused upon those who are born again but continue in sin. God's abundance of grace was even used as an excuse to live in continuing sin in those days. Go ahead and do it because God will forgive you out of His grace and mercy. God knows my heart is another excuse that is rejected by God. Why? Because, God has given a greater provision in the New Covenant. Paul refuted this error by saying;

Shall we continue in sin? May it never be! How shall **we who died to sin** still live in it?

But, if this is true "when did we die to sin?" Isn't that "death" when we leave this earth?

ROM 6:3 Or do you not know that all of us who have been **baptized into Christ Jesus** have been **baptized into His death?**

2CO 5:14 For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, **that one died for all, therefore all died;**

When Jesus Christ died on Calvary, He died for the whole human race. He was God's acceptable sacrifice for sins of all men. His blood cleanses the sins of all those who believe. Our own experiential faith is required to be forgiven of our past sins. Now, in Romans 6 **forgiveness of past sins** is not in view but **freedom from present sin.**

Freedom from "SIN" comes through death. Once we are dead, we are freed from sin. God's method is to include us in Christ and His death. Therefore, we are baptized **INTO CHRIST JESUS** and at the same time we are **BAPTIZED INTO HIS DEATH AND HIS BURIAL.**

ROM 6:7 for he who **has died is freed from sin.**

To say that baptism does nothing for man is gross ignorance. Following Paul's revelation of baptism, he sums its experiential reality contained in the teaching in Romans 6 with the obvious purpose.

ROM 6:12 Therefore do not let "sin" reign in your mortal body that you should obey its lusts, 13 and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin {as} instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members {as} instruments of righteousness to God.

From this we see that the properly baptized believer must take a continuous and effective part in his baptism by a daily presenting ourselves to God as those alive from the dead. Our baptism is a past event but the result of our baptism is a daily participation in our death and burial with Christ.

Baptism then is a “final” burial. Death is not complete until there is burial. We don’t just leave dead people laying around. God ordained that the corpse should be buried before sundown. When the burial is complete, that person’s natural life has reach it’s final conclusion on this earth. From God’s viewpoint, Baptism is the conclusion of our old life in the first Adam. One mistake that is obvious is that Baptism is NOT just a burial of the outward man (getting wet) but a death and burial of the old fallen person who lives in the body. Baptizing the outward body of a person is of little benefit if nothing happens on the inside. Unfortunately this has been the experience of multitudes of believers who have gotten the body wet and thought that was baptism.

ROM 6:4 Therefore we have been **buried with Him through baptism into death**, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

Being dead and buried is a proper conclusion for the old Adam and his sin nature. However, we are no good to God or to His Eternal Purpose if we are just dead and buried. Now we must be resurrected into a whole new kind of life that first Adam rejected and then, afterwards, could know nothing about. That Life was found in the Tree of Life which Adam rejected. This is the (ZOE) Life of God which is eternal. Jesus Christ was also raised from the dead by the Glory of the Father.

ROM 8:11 But if the **Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead** dwells in you, **He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.**

The Glory of the Father is the Holy Spirit who raised Christ Jesus from the dead. This is the exact same Holy Spirit also **raises us** from the dead and imparts to us this ZOE Life of God. To insist that we receive this Life before resurrection which follows this death and burial is to close our eyes to the reality of an EXCHANGED Life. This is VERY clear in the scripture.

ROM 6:5 For if we have become united with {Him} in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall be also {in the likeness} of His resurrection. Baptism is being united with Him in the likeness of His death. This is not speaking of receiving Him as personal Savior as some teach. Without death there is no need AND no opportunity for resurrection. However, if we are united with Him in the likeness of His death we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection. That means we will be raised up into newness of HIS Life by the Holy Spirit.

ROM 6:6 knowing this, that our **old self was crucified with {Him,}** that **our body of sin might be done away with**, that we should no longer be slaves to sin; 7 **for he who has died is freed from sin.**

Our old self, that was born of the first Adam, was a slave to sin. Sin was a nature that inhabited our body, soul and spirit. Sin was a part of our person and we could not ever be free from it. God ordained that the soul that sinned should surely die. Following Genesis 3 there were no plea bargains, no excuses and no remedy. Why? There was no escape and no exceptions. But, wasn't there forgiveness? No! In the Old Testament there was a covering of sin but no way to **take sin away!** This was solved in the New Covenant by the sacrifice of Jesus.

1John 3:5 And you know that He appeared in order **to take away sins**; and in Him there is no sin.

Heb 9:26 Otherwise, He would have needed to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now once at the consummation of the ages He has been manifested **to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.**

This clearly means that there is NO excuse to sin if we have fully participated in the provision of God and the Sacrifice of Calvary.

ROM 5:12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned--

The sentence of death is upon all men because all have sinned. Thank God, we can choose the day of our death and get on with living for God. The day we die is the day we are freed from sin. We are not speaking about forgiveness of sins but being freed from the body of sin inherited from the old Adam. If that **"body"** of sin (not the outer body) is done away with, we are freed from the slavery to sin. We can still commit "sins" if we want to but we don't have to. If we go on sinning it is because we want to and not because we have to. The slavery is broken in proper water baptism because a personal death has taken place. Burial brings the slavery to sin to a final conclusion.

ROM 6:8 Now if we have **died with Christ**, we believe that we shall also **live with Him**, 9 knowing that **Christ, having been raised from the dead**, is never to die again; **death no longer is master over Him.**

It is appointed to man to die once. We can't escape that first death but thank God we can't die twice. Therefore, once we die, death has no more power over us. There **is** a fear of death up until the time we die. After death passes, fear also passes. After we die, death is no longer master over us. Death brings the fear of death to a conclusion. Of course this is not speaking of the physical body but the FEAR of death!

ROM 6:10 For the death that He died, He died to sin, once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.

Death brings a conclusion to "sin", once for all. The popular concept is that after we are born again God no longer sees our sins. He just looks at Jesus and declares us righteous with His righteousness. Romans 6 is about victory over "sin" and not about forgiveness of "sins." This is about being dead to "sin" but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

ROM 6:22 But now **having been freed from “sin”** and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, **eternal life**.

One problem with the failure to manifest the Christian Life is with those who want to be freed from sin but are not willing to be enslaved to God. Doing your own thing will sooner or later end up in more “sins”! Why? The “sin factory has not been shut down!

Romans 6:14 to 23 has to do with sin and how we get free from “SIN.” This is not speaking about forgiveness of sins but victory over “sin”, singular. The wages of sin is still death and separation even if you believe something about Jesus. This is eternal fact hidden from much of the visible church out of ignorance.

The first verses of Romans 7 is continuing the same thought and teaching of Romans 6. To accept the chapter division as a whole new and separate thought clouds the revelation of water baptism. In this teaching Paul uses the doctrine of marriage from the Old Covenant Law to show another aspect of what happens in baptism. We should remember that these chapters divisions were designed by man and NOT set there by God!

ROM 7:2 For the married woman is bound by law to her husband while he is living; but **if her husband dies**, she is released from **the law concerning the husband**. 3 So then if, **while her husband is living, she is joined to another man, she shall be called an adulteress**; but if her husband dies, she is free from the law, so that she is not an adulteress, though she is joined to another man.

God’s plan is one woman with one man and one man with one woman. Outside of that relationship God calls it adultery. However, this part of Romans 7 is NOT speaking about divorce and re-marriage but how to get free from the Law of marriage.

ROM 7:4 Therefore, my brethren, **you also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ**, that you might be joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, that we might bear fruit for God.

We not only have to die to sin but also to **the law that defines sin**. Before we participated in Jesus Christ, we were under the laws of God for fallen man. We cannot divorce from the law or ignore the law. Therefore, we MUST **die to the law** to be freed from it. When we are dead, the law no longer has jurisdiction over us. Just being dead to the law is not the solution to God’s eternal purpose. If we are going to be fruitful for God **we must be married to another**. That is to Jesus Christ who has raised from the dead. **Baptism** must result in our producing fruit for God through our union with Jesus Christ in resurrection. We are not resurrected into some heavenly realm, above the clouds, so we can do our own thing. We are resurrected so **that we might be joined to Him who is raised from the dead**. “Single Christians” are not in God’s plans. We must be married to the law or to Christ. These are the ONLY alternatives! The **law refuses to die so how we can ever be married to another!** Jesus is NOT an adulterer and nothing has passed from the law. What then is the solution? We must die and be buried and this frees us from the law.

ROM 7:6 But now we have been released from the Law, having died to that by which we were bound, **so that we serve in newness of the Spirit and not in oldness of the letter.**

Before we can **serve God in the Spirit**, we MUST FIRST get free from the law that defines sin. Otherwise we will always be bound to the letter of the law. This is not a small or isolated problem in the church. In some groups they create their own laws but have the same problem with these laws as with the former laws. In these churches DEATH and BURIAL are unknown as an experience and the LAWS become impossible.

If our death, burial and resurrection, that is supposed to take place in baptism, does not **place us into the reality of the Spirit**, we will be bound by rules and regulations. He who walks in the Spirit has no need of rules and regulations. Those who continue to walk in the flesh must have rules and regulations. This is the curse of rejecting the fullness of the Holy Spirit and not moving from the actual experience of Romans 6 into the actual experience of Romans 8. This transition will NEVER happen until we have passed through God's Provision of Death and Burial. We CANNOT walk in the Spirit if we are still IN THE FLESH.

To sum up Romans 6 we could say that even though we are forgiven of past "sins" plural, we will still be a slave to "sin" singular as long as we are still alive to the nature and attributes of first Adam. The only way of escape the "sin" problem is to die, be buried and to be resurrected into a different kind of Life. After we are dead, we are freed from "sin." Death brings to a conclusion our slavery to "sin singular." Once we have truly died in baptism, the fear of death is brought to a conclusion. If we have died with Christ and have been buried in baptism, we cannot die again! The purpose of water baptism is to die to the past and to live for the future. It should result in freedom from "slavery to sin, singular" and it should result in the next step of being enslaved to God. It MUST result to a death to the Law or we will never be able to serve God in the Spirit!

Baptism should birth us into a life of obedience to God. We were once obedient to sin but now we must become obedient to God. We were slaves to sin but now we must become slaves to righteousness. That is the difference between the old life (old man) and the new Life (New Creation Man). If we refuse to be enslaved to God we will continue to experience the reality of Romans 7. Then we need to relegate Romans 8 to the millennium because it is impossible here and now. Water baptism will do what it is supposed to do if we are dead, buried, resurrected and enslaved to God. The real goal of water baptism is to be married, joined in one spirit, to Jesus Christ in resurrection LIFE.

1CO 10:1 For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and **all passed through the sea**; 2 and **all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea**; 3 and all ate the same spiritual food; 4 and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Christ. 5 Nevertheless, with most of them God was not well-pleased; for they were laid low in the wilderness. 6 Now these things happened as examples for us, that we should not crave evil things, as they also craved. 7 And do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written, "\ The people sat down to eat and drink, and stood up to play." 8 Nor let us act immorally, as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in one day. 9 Nor let us try the Lord, as some of

them did, and were destroyed by the serpents. 10 Nor grumble, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. 11 Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

Each of these experiences that Israel had in coming out of Egypt and entering into Canaan are types, shadows and examples for the Christian life. Egypt is a picture of the world system. Pharaoh is a picture of Satan. Moses is a type of Christ. The cloud is a picture of the Holy Spirit. **The Red Sea is a picture of baptism.** As long as Israel was on the west bank of the Red Sea they were still in Egypt and therefore under the authority and the control of Pharaoh. The only way of escape was through the Red Sea. As they approached the banks, the cloud that was over them came down and passed back over them, immersing them in the cloud. They were baptized in the cloud. When Moses struck the waters with his rod, the waters parted and stood up like a wall. (Psalm 78:13) When they passed between “the walls of water” they were Baptized into Moses.

He divided the sea, and caused them to pass through; And He made the waters stand up like a heap. They passed through the Red Sea, by faith, as it stood up like a wall and were baptized into Moses.

As long as Israel was in Egypt they were under Pharaoh’s authority. When they passed over to the wilderness, they were baptized into Moses’ authority. The authority over their lives changed at water baptism. We are not baptized into Moses but into Jesus Christ and at baptism we come under His authority. The authority over our life changes from Satan to Jesus Christ at baptism. At baptism we come out of the world system and begin our walk into the purpose of God. Like we saw in the other verses in 1 Cor 10 there are many things to discourage us and cause us to fall. God said “The enemies that you see today, you will not see again forever”. Pharaoh’s army was destroyed at the Red Sea. Still, there are many other enemies waiting as they made their way into Canaan and God’s purpose for Israel.

Israel was saved by the blood and they were saved by the water. They were saved by the manna from heaven and they were saved by the water out of the rock. They were saved from Amalek’s army by faith and prayer. However, they craved evil things, they were idolaters, they acted frivolously, they acted immorally, they tried the Lord, and they grumbled and complained against God. They were in effect “CASUAL CHRISTIANS” and NEVER inherited the promises of God. They NEVER went back to Egypt but they NEVER entered into Canaan.

1COR 10:11 Now these things **happened to them as an example**, and they were written **for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.**

We, like them, may have had many experiences in the provision of God but still have several character faults and defects. As we continue to walk into the purpose of God, it is necessary for God to adjust and change many things in our lives. One of the great changes necessary is turning from a self-centered life to a God centered Life.

1PET 3:18 For **Christ also died for “sins” once for all**, {the} just for {the} unjust, in order **that He might bring us to God**, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit; 19

in which also He went and made proclamation to the spirits {now} in prison, 20 who once **were disobedient**, when the patience of God kept waiting in **the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark**, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through {the} water. 21 And **corresponding to that, baptism now saves you--** not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience-- through **the resurrection of Jesus Christ**,

Noah and the ark along with the flood is another picture of water baptism and is recorded for us. In the days of Noah the earth became so corrupt and because of the gross sins of the people God could no longer look upon it. He decided to destroy the inhabitants by submerging them in flood water.

God judged the world through Noah! Why? God found one righteous man by which he could judge the unrighteousness of the people. Noah was a man who was righteous in God's sight. God's original purpose was not to destroy man because He had His purpose in mind! However, to rid the earth of corruption he destroy mankind but to judge the sin. However, God could destroy the corruption but still preserve the Adamic race through Noah. This seemed very radical but tells us how God will judge the world at the end. Therefore, God told Noah to build an ark for the saving of his family. Noah built the Ark and continued to preach righteousness.

2PET 2:5 and did not spare the ancient world, but preserved **Noah, a preacher of righteousness**, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly;

The world mocked both Noah and his message of rain, but they had never seen rain. Still, the rains began to fall and the waters began to rise. Noah and his family were in the ark and it says that God shut the door so there were no late comers to be saved! In the days of Noah 100% of the people were baptized. Most drowned because they were baptized outside of the ark. Only those who were inside the ark were saved. This shows us that all who are baptized outside of Jesus Christ are still lost. Baptism is "Into Jesus Christ," into the Ark.

As the water rose, the ark began to float. The earth was under water. However, the water receded but the ark did not rest again in the old land but had traveled to a whole different land. When Noah and his family came out of the ark they walked out into a completely new life. The old things had disappeared.

In this same way, baptism now saves us. It is not just a washing of the flesh but it is an appeal to God for a new, clean conscience. The conscience comes alive and begins to function again following proper water baptism. A good conscience is requisite for us to identify the will of God and to reveal the hidden sins. It is also a powerful tool to avoid the snares of the Devil. This existence of a working "conscience" is another evidence of a proper baptism. If there is no conscience it indicates there was no proper death and burial so there was no resurrection Life in which the conscience actually works.

There is another picture for us in the Tabernacle of Moses that is revealed in the Laver. EXO 40:12 "Then you shall bring Aaron and his sons to the doorway of the tent of

meeting and **wash them with water.** 13 “And you shall put **the holy garments on Aaron** and anoint him and consecrate him, that he may minister as a priest to Me. 14 “And you shall bring his sons and put tunics on them;

This was the initial washing as the priests were preparing to approach God for service. The garments were placed upon them following this washing. The anointing was upon the garments and therefore, followed the placing of the garments. In addition to this cleansing there was the continual washing each time the priests passed the laver.

EXODUS 30:18 “You shall also make a laver of bronze, with its base of bronze, for washing; and you shall put it between the tent of meeting and the altar, and you shall put water in it. 19 “And Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet from it; 20 when they **enter the tent** of meeting, they shall wash with water, that **they may not die;** or when they **approach the altar** to minister, by offering up in smoke a fire {sacrifice} to the Lord. 21 “So they shall wash their hands and their feet, that **they may not die;** and it shall be a perpetual statute for them, for Aaron and his descendants throughout their generations.”

Following the initial washing there was the continual washing. This was not a washing of the whole body but just the hands and feet. Once they were clean, they only had to wash their hands and their feet.

John 13:8 Peter *said to Him, “Never shall You wash my feet!” Jesus answered him, “If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me.” 9 Simon Peter *said to Him, “**Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head.**” 10 Jesus *said to him, “He who has bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all *of you.*”

These scriptures appear to be very innocent verses, that have no application to us, until we really look into the total scripture.

Eph 5:26 that He might sanctify her, **having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,** :27 that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless.

Once we have been baptized, there is the continual washing of water with the word. This washes our doing (hands) and our walk (feet). Whether we call this sanctification or God’s dealings with us or growing up in all things into Christ, the result is the same, a continuous cleansing. This is NOT a once for all time event! The real question is this; do these things represent extraneous things or are they essential things for the Christian Life?

GAL 3:27 For all of you who were **baptized into Christ** have **clothed yourselves with Christ.**

Baptism is into Jesus Christ. When we are “IN CHRIST” we are clothed with Christ, as with a garment. The Amplified Bible says “have put on Christ as a garment”. The Priests were clothed with the new special garments following the initial washing in the Laver. The dual experience of the Christian life is first “Christ in us” and then “us in Christ”. “Christ in us is” our born again experience. This experience begins when we receive the Sperma of God. The Living and

Abiding Word of God is Christ in us! When we enter into genuine baptism into Christ, this Baptism is “Us in Christ” or submerged in Christ.

JOHN 1:12 But **as many as received Him**, to them He gave the right to become children of God, {even} to those who believe in His name,

EPH 1:4 just as He chose us **in Him** before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him In love .

EPH 1:7 **In Him** we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace,

1JO 2:28 And now, little children, **abide in Him**, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming.

1JO 3:24 And the one who keeps His commandments **abides in Him**, and **He in him**. And we know by this that He **abides in us**, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

John had the insight to recognize that to abide “in Him” requires that we keep His commandments. He also saw that we must abide “in Him” if we are going to be ready for the coming of the Lord. We are baptized “into Him” but it is by obedience that we abide “in Him”. When we receive Him, the Word of God, He abides “in us” but we also must be diligent to “abide in Him”. It is clear that there are multiple experiences in Christ and NOT **a once** for all time experience that is being taught.

COL 2:12 having been **buried with Him in baptism**, in which you were also **raised up with Him through faith in the working of God**, who raised Him from the dead. Baptism outside of “faith in the working of God” produces very little in our lives. The resurrection that is supposed to follow death and burial requires faith in the working of God.

For that reason baby baptism must be rejected. Why? Babies can exercise no faith, make no decisions and demonstrate no obedience in the baptism. Therefore they cannot qualify for baptism. Baptism should set us firmly into God’s purpose.

LUKE 7:30 But the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected God’s purpose for themselves, **not having been baptized by John**.

Surely, the baptism of John was a very little thing in the eyes of the Pharisees and the lawyers. John seemed to be some kind of radical that dressed in strange clothes and ate strange things and lived in the wilderness. They were the Theologians of their day. Nevertheless, they cut themselves off from the purpose of God simply by refusing John’s baptism. They could go NO FURTHER simply because they rejected John’s Baptism which was a baptism of repentance, saying repent and believe in Jesus! How much severer rejection is Baptism into Christ

MARK 16:16 “He who **has believed** and has been **baptized shall be saved**; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.

We have never been authorized to tell anyone they are saved before they have “believed” and are baptized. That means “Baptism” which followed “believing the gospel” they were assigned to preach. In Acts 1 it is clear the “gospel they were authorized to preach is the gospel of the Kingdom.” When they believed THAT gospel they were baptized.

ACTS 2:38 And Peter {said} to them, “**Repent**, and let each of you **be baptized** in the name of Jesus Christ for **the forgiveness of your sins**; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

ACT 22:16 ‘And now why do you delay? Arise, and **be baptized**, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.’

Faith is not a passive and dormant thing. Faith is action. Faith without a following action is dead faith. True faith in the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ AND Faith the Government of the Kingdom will result in baptism. Baptism is the action that expresses our faith.

Act 8:12 But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were **being baptized**, men and women alike.

When these “believers” believed BOTH the Kingdom of God AND the Name of Jesus they were permitted to be Baptized. He who believes the Gospel AND is Baptized shall be saved.

HEB 10:22 let us draw near with a sincere heart in **full assurance of faith**, having **our hearts sprinkled {clean} from an evil conscience** and **our bodies washed with pure water**.

Baptism then is not a public testimony. It is not an outward sign of an inward change. It is not a baptism into a church. It is not a ritual. It is not a ritual bath as in other religions. It is NOT getting the outer man wet. Baptism is NOT another option.

Baptism is designed by God to produce something essential that is real and eternal in our lives. We cannot take the next step into God’s eternal purpose without a valid baptism.

Here are the 20 things that we have covered about Baptism in this study.

- (1) Baptism is an immersion into the death of Jesus Christ.
- (2) Baptism is an immersion into a death to sin.
- (3) It cuts us loose from the old nature of first Adam.
- (4) It destroys the “body of sin” or the sin factory.
- (5) It is a personal burial into the death of Christ Jesus.
- (6) It is the preparation for resurrection into Christ.
- (7) It frees us from slavery to sin that is in our members.

- (8) It frees us from the fear of death because we can only die once.
- (9) We are freed from sin so that we can be enslaved to God, or our preparation for Consecration.
- (10) Death and burial sets us free from the law of sin and death so we can serve in newness of the Spirit.
- (11) Baptism is our escape through death and burial from the world system.
- (12) Baptism loosens us from Satan's authority.
- (13) Baptism brings us under the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- (14) Baptism is another step into God's purpose.
- (15) At baptism God provides us with a good conscience.
- (16) Baptism is our first obedience to the word of God.
- (17) At baptism we are clothed with Christ (as with a garment).
- (18) Baptism brings to a conclusion all that was before so that in Christ Jesus all things can become new.
- (19) Baptism is one of the foundations of the Christian life.
- (20) God will not permit us to go on to maturity until the foundations are complete. (Heb 6:1-2)

Until we can accept the fact that baptism is essential and exercise faith in all the provision of God released in baptism, we will not be able to exercise faith to experience all the benefits of baptism. This has been the experience of too much of the church. Since very little was expected through being baptized, very little was experienced in baptism. Therefore, the church has developed a doctrine that nothing much happens in baptism. It must just be a public testimony! Therefore, baptism can't be very important. Since some groups acknowledge that baptism is one of the "sacraments" of the church, they concede that it would be good to do it sometime. Therefore, whether there is any faith in baptism or before we have faith or after we have faith is irrelevant. Since "immersion / burial" is not convenient in many groups, sprinkling the water or touching the forehead with water will do for us. In this doctrine any water used is the same as burial in the water.

Of course we should know it is not "the water" that does the work but it is our faith in His death and burial as an essential part of Calvary. All these many essential things also work through our obedience and by holding to the promises of God by faith. This is what brings the promises into our experience. Repentance prepares the heart to believe what God has said in His Word is true and will happen, just as He said. Baptism outside of repentance, faith and a born-again

experience produces nothing real in our life! That is why we hear “nothing happened in my life when I was baptized.” This is the testimony of many who were not properly baptized. **Being “baptized” into our personal death and burial is NOT baptism.** Proper Baptism is ONLY into Christ’s death and burial. This really sounds strange today because at the time of Calvary we weren’t even born. However, this IS God’s plan and is the foundational experience through which we get free from first Adam and his fallen life!

We can’t help feeling sorry for all the multitudes that were baptized out of obedience to some church ordinance or church requirement but without any clear understanding of what was supposed to happen. They, therefore, could not exercise faith or even know what to believe and, consequently, very little was experienced. The natural man baptizing a natural man into natural water out of a natural ordinance can only, at best, produce something natural in the natural realm. It might qualify for some church membership or some other natural requirement like preparing for a natural ministry. Since none of this was designed by God, may God open our eyes to see into these other eternal realms that depend upon our true Baptism for their reality.

For the Rocket to be shot to the Moon from Cape Canaveral to succeed, EVERY natural law and EVERY law of Mathematics and EVERY law of Science had to be followed precisely and in the minutest detail. Otherwise, there was no hope of completing the mission. All these Laws were built into creation from the very beginning. If the scientists had ignored one these laws, disaster would have followed. Most Christian would agree with these various laws and acknowledge they were essential to the success. Most Pastors would agree that if the scientists or mathematicians had made a mistake or just broken one natural law it would have guaranteed that they would fail.

Then how is it that the church can totally ignore God’s Spiritual Laws and think that it doesn’t matter because of “grace.” Because of God’s forgiveness and mercy, we can now ignore His Spiritual Laws because Jesus removed all laws at Calvary. No, the Laws of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus were not removed or annulled at Calvary. The Laws of Baptism were not removed but established for all time in their ultimate reality. The same is true with EVERY foundational experience! Even though the Laws of Salvation were firmly established at Calvary, the church has been extremely casual about rearranging them to make Salvation much easier for the natural man. Just say these words and believe this doctrine and you are saved for all time is another lie.

The Laws of Repentance, the Laws of Salvation, the Laws of Baptism, the Laws of the Spirit and the Laws of Consecration are regularly ignored or are replaced with a human concept in the church. Very few even think that is a serious breach in the plan of God.

What if we said, even ignoring one of these Foundations would guarantee us failure in completing the purpose of God? Would that change the focus of the church to insist upon these foundations as real life experiences? No! I have tried that and warned the “minister” but I was ignored. Why does this attitude prevail in the visible church? It seems to be because “we are trying to build a church” so we don’t have time to be bothered with all those details. To lay these seven foundations as experiences would require several weeks and we would lose time being out “winning souls.” Besides, in 500 years of past church history laying these foundations has not been a BIG priority in the ministries.

That is true and that is exactly why the corporate church has never come to the maturity of Jesus Christ. The “ministries” just blame the church because of their apathy but the responsibility lies with the “ministries.” After THAT the responsibility for growth lies with the believers.

The real question is this; whom will God hold responsible for this travesty at the Judgement Seat of Christ? My guess is that the “ministries” that were clearly given this responsibility “for the perfecting of the saints” will be in BIG trouble. Will that excuse the poor believers who were misdirected? No! Why? They had the Bible and could have discovered the truth themselves, instead they trusted someone else to fulfill their own responsibility before God.

What was the result? They cut themselves off from their predestined destiny!