

Brand New (Salvation & Baptism)

Last time, we looked at the greatest thing that has come into God's universe; Grace. It was this His great grace that made a way for us to be reconciled unto God. We emphasized that in Christ Jesus, God was able to fully judge iniquity while yet extending mercy to us.

I. Salvation

2 Corinthians 5:14^b, 15&17 "One died for all therefore all died."

"And He died for all, that those who live/ who receive His new life, should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died for them and was raised again.

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come; the old is gone, the new life is here/has begun."

Salvation comes through the acceptance of God's grace. To do this, we must first identify with and agree with God concerning our true state and well deserved penalty. When we have done this, and accepted as ours the sacrifice of His beloved Son, we are brought into a new life, His life.

Romans 10: 9-10

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

Galatians 2:20 (ESV)

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

This new life which has now come into us is His life. Our lives have been done away with when He carried us with and in himself to the cross and was put to death. It is now His own life that we have been brought into; this being the case, we do not get to live it the way we please but the way He desires.

Romans 6:6-7 (NLT)

We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin.

For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin.

II. Baptism

Baptism is a public declaration of an inward reality. This inward reality is that in Christ Jesus, we died. Our old selves/nature were put to death and as Christ rose from the dead in newness of life, we also did likewise in Him.

Romans 6: 3-6&8

Don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his.

For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin.

Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.

These scripture are meant to clearly set before us the implications of baptism. One of the passages of scripture which truly represents this is in Joshua 4: 1-9; The Stone of Remembrance. This paints a truly vivid picture for us that our death is a true reality and likewise our new life.

I sincerely believe that until we truly understand the reasons and the meanings of the things we do, it will be difficult for us to truly experience their full impact in our lives.

In conclusion, Mark 16:16 commands all who believe to be baptized. Philip, in Acts 8:37 said to the Ethiopian eunuch, "If you believe with all your heart", without reservations that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, "you may be baptized".

Do You Believe with all Your Heart?

If So, BE BAPTIZED!!

NOTES (Brand New)

❖ In Christ Jesus, my old self has been done away with; I am a new person altogether.

1. What does it mean to be “Brand New”?

2. How did I become brand new?

3. If I am a brand new person, what happened to my old self?

4. Why is baptism very important and significant in my Christian walk?
