

Sermon Series Begins: *Why Do We Do That?*

6/9/24 "Baptize," Romans 6:1-14, NLT

INTRODUCTION: Does believing something affect how we live?

EX: believe someone borrowed something but then you find it

John's; Jesus' example for us to follow; Matthew 28:19 (*Great Commission*)

Mark 16:16, NLT: Anyone who believes and is baptized will be saved. But anyone who refuses to believe will be condemned.

1st century: Salvation/water baptism closely linked... saved/baptized

Act of obedience that is a public statement of faith in Christ; outward act reflecting an inner change

Why is water baptism so important?

MAIN IDEA: Water baptism helps us have victory over sin. How so? Here are three things that water baptism does for us.

I. First, baptism joins us in Christ's death (3-4a, 6-7)

A. in baptism, we die & are buried with Him (4a)

1. we are united with Him in His death (5a)
2. we "experience" what He did for us

B. our sinful nature was crucified with Christ (6a-7)

1. we are set free from power of sin (7)
2. we are no longer slaves to sin
 - slaves are freed from their masters at death
 - shackles no longer hold the dead

ILLUSTRATION: credit card # stolen, card canceled (bank does the work; we don't); why do I believe it has happened? See docs

II. Second, baptism joins us in Christ's resurrection (4b-5b, 8)

A. we are raised from the dead with Him (4b)

1. by God's glorious power
2. so we may live new lives free of sin (4b, 6)

B. we *will be* raised to life as He was (our resurrection, 5)

1. now with spirits alive to God, but still having flesh
2. future: new bodies, without sin nature

ILLUSTRATION: from chained to sin nature, to a wall between us

III. Third, baptism makes our faith more concrete (9-14)

NOTE: God commands, "consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus" (11), so that we can obey the next commands (12-13): "do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires."

Consider: to reckon; *imputation*, which has 3 steps: 1. Collecting of all charges & payments [**took our sin upon Himself**], 2. Totaling of all these debits and credits [**God calculates the debt is paid**] 3. Placing the balance or credit on one's own account [**God calls us free; we must believe it & live in that freedom**]

A. That we are dead to sin, set free from sin

1. God says we are
2. we believe Him & live by that belief
 - Not allowing sin to control us (12a)
 - Not giving in to sinful desires (12b)
 - Not allowing any part of our body to sin (13a)

EX: healed of lung cancer...would I continue to smoke? Drunkard no longer drinks. Liar no longer lies.

B. That we have new life in Christ...alive to God, able to
know Him, serve Him, live for Him

ILLUSTRATION: eat for comfort, liver... continue to behave

CONCLUSION: Water baptism makes real for us our salvation & freedom from sin. By believing, we are saved, receive the Holy Spirit (at salvation), receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit, live for God. **I believe, so I don't give in to feelings of envy, anger, irritation**

ALTAR: Salvation? Repent of sin now? Be water baptized?
