

Let's Worship God

11th-16th March 2019
Colossians



Colossians

Monday - Colossians 2:6-13 - Baptism

The apostle Paul continues to meet the false teaching concerning the need for circumcision by referring to the sacrament of baptism. The close and intimate connection between circumcision and baptism is inescapable, the point being emphasised again is the fact that circumcision is now obsolete and that all that was symbolised by the initiatory rite of circumcision is now symbolised by Christian baptism.

Just as the outward rite of circumcision symbolised the removal of the filthiness of the flesh, although the rite itself accomplished nothing, so baptism, although ineffectual as a mere rite, symbolised some very important things:

a. The death of sin. Christ suffered died and was buried on behalf of His own people, He bore the punishment of the law and took upon Himself the curse of the law. When a sinner comes in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ, he knows that his old sinful self has been buried with Christ and that he is accepted by the sovereign God. Death to sin is followed, as was the death of Jesus, by resurrection to life. Every believer has been raised to new spiritual life and is 'a new creature in Christ'.

b. The promise of the Spirit. Not only did the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ secure justification from sin for the believer, it also secured the gift of the Holy Spirit. When a sinner comes to faith in Christ he is considered righteous in the sight of God, and as well as that, the Holy Spirit is given to him to confirm to him his sonship and to enable him to live to the glory of God. Baptism not only symbolises justification from sin but also the ongoing work of sanctification in the life of the believer.

Questions

1. How can we make sure that our baptism is more than just a ceremony?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for all that baptism symbolises.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, Colossians 2:6

Praise: Psalm 57 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Colossians

Tuesday - Colossians 2:12; Romans 6:1-14 - Buried With Christ

Although it is perfectly clear in the context, that what is in view here is the moral and spiritual application of the initiatory rites of the covenant people in both Old Testament and New Testament, these verses are sometimes used to seek to justify adult water baptism by immersion. That such an interpretation is erroneous can be seen from the following considerations:

a. The form of burial in the New Testament was not by lowering a body into a hole in the ground, but by sealing up in a cave or by placing in a sepulchre Luke 23:50 - 56.

b. There are other expressions that are used in the New Testament in connection with baptism that do not and cannot be used to indicate the method of baptism. Romans 6:6 speaks of being crucified with Christ; verse 5 of the same chapter of the King James Version speaks of being planted with Christ, and Galatians 3:27 refers to being clothed with Christ.

Writing on baptism John Murray comments, 'When all of Paul's expressions are taken into account, we see that burial with Christ can be appealed to as providing an index to the mode of baptism no more than can crucifixion with him. And since the latter does not indicate the mode of baptism there is no validity to the argument that burial does.'

William Hendriksen sums up the meaning of the passage very well when he says, 'You believers have no need of external circumcision. You have received a far better circumcision, that of heart and life. That circumcision is yours by virtue of your union with Christ. When He was buried, you - that is, your former wicked selves - were buried with Him. When He was raised, you - as new creatures - were raised with Him. In the experience of baptism you receive the sign and seal of this marvellous spirit wrought transformation.'

Questions

1. How would you answer somebody who taught baptism by immersion from this?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that your sins have been put to death in Christ.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, Colossians 2:6

Praise: Psalm 58 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Colossians

Wednesday - Colossians 2:13-15; Romans 1:18-32 - Dead in Sin

In order to ensure that the Christians in Colossae would be safeguarded from the heresies that were threatening them, and to make them realise that all they needed was Christ Himself, the apostle reminds them in these verses of what their situation really was.

Paul first of all reminds them of what they had been before they had come to Christ. The way that Paul describes their former condition is so important for it is exactly the same condition that we found ourselves in before we were believers.

The people to whom Paul was writing were Gentiles, in other words, they had received none of the promises that God had given to His people Israel, they had not been a part of God's special people, they had had no experience of God's gracious deliverances of His people. They were in darkness and cut off from any of the means of grace.

Not only were they 'Gentiles' they were also transgressors of the law. Even although, as Gentiles, they had not received God's law given through Moses, they had the law of God written upon their hearts and they knew that much of what they did demonstrated rebellion against God. Rom. 1:18-32. The natural heart of man is always in rebellion against God and His law.

Just like us, the Colossians had been Gentiles, rebels, and thirdly Paul says, debtors. "The Colossians had disobeyed God and His penalty was eternal punishment, a penalty which they could not pay. They were in danger of being eternal bankrupts." (Malcolm MacLean) God requires perfect obedience to His eternal law and failure to comply results in an ever increasing debt that sinful man can never hope to pay.

It is necessary to be reminded that prior to conversion we were strangers to God, rebels against Him, despising His law and His commandments and saddled with a debt that could never be paid!

Questions

1. Consider what you were and what God has done for you.

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the salvation of family and friends.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, Colossians 2:6

Praise: Psalm 59 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Colossians

Thursday - Colossians 2:13-14; Ephesians 2:1-10 - A Debt Paid

The three problems of separation from God, rebellion, and debt that the Colossian Christians had were all wonderfully met in the Lord Jesus Christ. In their experience the blessings they received were in the reverse order to that outlined by Paul in these verses.

It was the common practice for the crimes of those sentenced to death by crucifixion to be nailed above their heads so that everybody would know why they were being punished. Paul states here that 'the written code' was nailed to the cross v.14. It is as though God had taken a list of our sins and nailed them up over the head of Jesus to tell the world that He was paying the debt that we could not pay. Our spiritual bankruptcy has been dealt with for ever.

Because of the cancellation of the debt, all sins have been forgiven. As Paul cries out triumphantly in Romans 8:33 'Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who is he that condemns?' Those who had been transgressors of the law have had their transgressions wiped away by the death of Christ.

The glorious result of having the debt cancelled and all sins forgiven is that the separation that existed from God has been done away. Paul says, 'God made you alive with Christ'. No longer does the wrath of God remain upon them, no longer do they experience His frown, now they have been received into His family as adopted sons and daughters. This union with God in Christ is real in the life of the child of God as the Holy Spirit witnesses with his spirit, and as he is daily enabled to live in close fellowship with his heavenly father.

Questions

1. How did Jesus cancel the debt of his people?
2. What are the results of having your sins forgiven?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that we are no longer separated from God.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, Colossians 2:6

Praise: Psalm 60 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Colossians

Friday - Colossians 2:1-15 - Our Enemy

For some people in today's world the whole idea of powerful spiritual forces at work in the world is laughable. For others, there is a great fascination with evil spirits and the powers of darkness. Such a fascination is not new nor is it confined to our present century. It seems as though the people in Colossae, not least some of those in the church, shared such an interest and were being led away from simple trust in the Lord Jesus Christ.

To deal with this problem, the apostle Paul makes a very dramatic statement when he tells them that all these powers of wickedness and darkness had already been defeated and robbed of their power through the cross of Christ.

When the Lord Jesus Christ went to the cross it seemed as though the powers of evil had triumphed, but, in reality, the exact opposite had happened. The one on the cross, stripped of all of His clothing and exposed to the gaze of the world, was at that moment, stripping the devil of all his power to accuse and condemn those for whom Christ died. The only weapon the devil had was to demand punishment for those who had broken God's law, but once the debt was paid, that weapon was shattered.

Just as the enemy of the Lord Jesus was defeated on the cross, so is he defeated in the life of the believer. When the devil accuses the people of God and brings their sins before them, their only recourse is to point to the cross of Jesus and to remind him that all of his sins were dealt with there. This is a source of great comfort for the child of God when troubled by his own sinful nature and when tempted by the enemy of his soul.

Questions

1. How do the spiritual powers of wickedness show themselves today?
2. What must the believer do when attacked by the evil one?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that your sins have been dealt with.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, Colossians 2:6

Praise: Psalm 61 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Colossians

Saturday - Colossians 2:16-23 - Freedom

The believer in the Lord Jesus Christ has been granted the only true freedom; not just freedom from sin but also freedom from the strict observance of rules and regulations as a means of acceptance with God. Paul is very anxious that the Colossian Christians do not surrender this glorious freedom and become entangled with a whole new set of regulations. There are three dangers that he warns them about.

One danger that was present in the Colossian church and has been present in the church worldwide ever since is that of the imposition on believers of human regulations. In Colossae, the false teachers not only wanted to impose Mosaic ceremonies on the Gentile Christians, they also wanted to insist on their own rules and regulations. Paul does not condemn out of hand those who wished to retain some of the things from their Jewish past, but he does give two very clear warnings:

a. These things are not necessary and must never be placed on a par with Christ or as a supplement to Christ. They are, at best, only shadows and it is a strange person who prefers the shadow to the reality!

b. No-one has the right to judge another with regard to things that do not have direct and specific Biblical mandate. There is a constant problem in professing evangelical churches of people insisting on non-Biblical or extra-Biblical norms as evidence of godliness. It must always be remembered that each Christian stands or falls before his own master Rom.14:4. That does not, of course, give the professing believer liberty to sin! His conduct must be regulated by the Word of God, but not by the rules laid down by overzealous fellow believers. His watchword must always be 'what does the Bible say?'

Questions

1. How should we react to fellow believers who do things we do not approve of?
2. How can we make sure that we please God in all that we do?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, Colossians 2:6

Praise: Psalm 62 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

The goal of Let's Worship God is to encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.

**God tells us that
Ezra read from
the book of the Law
day after day
and that
the people of God
were filled with joy!**

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