

# Be Baptized

Learning of God, who He is and what He desires, puts one in the position of making certain decisions about life. One that sees God's hand in creation can certainly make the choice to refuse to seek an understanding of this being that gave us all we know. Those who decide to gain a better understanding of this Creator will find the things God has revealed regarding His relationship and plans for man. Reading and coming to an understanding of God will bring one to additional choices, first of which would be a decision regarding belief. Many who read of God turn away in disbelief, but others accept the truth of what has been revealed and seek to gain a relationship with the Creator.

As we pointed out in our last two articles, this decision regarding belief brings one to even more points of distinction. One who believes in God and seeks to develop a relationship with Him must act in accordance with God's desires. Removing one's self from sin and darkness is essential if we seek to be in the presence of the righteous light of the World. Turning from the world and sin and returning to God and righteousness is necessary. Our last writing emphasized the need to confess our belief in Jesus as the Son of God and the Savior of man.

Yet even when we reach this point of understanding we are still plagued by sins of our past. How can we be cleansed and made new? How can we wash away the wickedness of the world and become the holy person that God would bring into His presence? Through Jesus, the Christ!

*Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God. **1Corinthians 6:11***

These Corinthians had been reveling in worldly pleasures and fulfilling any and all desires, yet Paul said they had been cleansed and justified in Christ. That great confession of Jesus was based in His death on the cross. He shed His blood for our sins and through His death we can be made anew in God if we are willing to put to death our worldly, sinful past. We cannot "live for Jesus" until we have rid ourselves of the wickedness of our past. We must "kill" our worldly existence and become a different person focused solely upon serving God.

## Death Means Burial

Paul reminded the Roman brethren that it was through baptism that they had been buried to be raised to a new life.

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

The brethren in Galatia were urged to remember that they had clothed themselves with Christ through baptism.

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

The Colossians were also reminded that they had put to death the old man and were now hidden with Christ.

*For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. **Colossians 3:3***

Peter told those on Pentecost to *“repent and be baptized” Acts 2:38*. Paul, after experiencing Jesus on the road to Damascus and praying for three days was told to *“be baptized and wash away your sins” Acts 22:16*. Peter would later tell his readers *“baptism now saves you” 1Peter 3:21*.

Are you ready to live with God? Do you want to have a relationship with the Creator and Ruler of All? It is time to submit to His will, kill self, and become alive in Christ. Believe and Obey God!