

REPENTANCE & BAPTISM

Part 4 of THE PURPLE BOOK. Colossians 2:11-12.

Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. January 30, 2022.

SENSING OUR THEOLOGY

- God has given us two sensory experiences: Holy Communion and Baptism.
- These help us see, touch, and taste what God has done for us in Christ.
- Colossians 2:6-15

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, 7 rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

8 See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. 9 For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, 10 and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.

11 In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, 12 having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.

13 And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, 14 by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. 15 He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

THREE REASONS TO GET BAPTIZED

1. Baptism makes the invisible visible.

Verse 11: In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ ...

Deuteronomy 10:16-17 (ESV) Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no longer stubborn. 17 For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God ...

Romans 6:6 (ESV) We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.

- Today, the sign of our spiritual circumcision is not physical circumcision, but baptism. Baptism is the visible sign of the invisible work of Christ in our hearts.

2. Baptism makes theology tangible.

Verse 12a: having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him.

- We may not know the theological terms, but going under the water and coming back up helps us say with conviction: I was buried with Jesus so I died to sin's power and penalty. I was raised with Jesus to new life.

3. Baptism makes God audible.

Verse 12b ... through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead

Joshua 4:1-7 (ESV) When all the nation had finished passing over the Jordan, the LORD said to Joshua, 2 "Take twelve men from the people, from each tribe a man, 3 and command them, saying, 'Take twelve stones from here out of the midst of the Jordan ... and lay them down in the place where you lodge tonight.' ... 6 that this may be a sign among you. When your children ask in time to come, 'What do those stones mean to you?' 7 then you shall tell them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD. ... So these stones shall be to the people of Israel a memorial forever."

- "As often as we fall away, we ought to recall the memory of our baptism and fortify our minds with it, that we may always be sure and confident of the forgiveness of sins" (John Calvin, Institutes of Religion, 4, xv, 3).

CONCLUSION: GOT JESUS? GET BAPTIZED

Acts 2:38a, 41 (ESV) Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ ... 41 So those who received his word (that's faith) were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

- The trio: Repentance - faith - baptism.
- Homework:
 - Review today's teaching.
 - Study chapter 4 of the Purple Book: Holy Spirit & Spiritual Gifts.
 - Discuss repentance and baptism in your small group.

TODAY'S BIBLICAL/THEOLOGICAL TERM: REPENTANCE

The very first act of the regenerated sinner's renewed nature is conversion (cf. Acts 15:3), the conscious decision to repent of sin and believe in Christ for salvation.

As God shines the light of regeneration into the sinner's heart, he opens man's spiritual eyes so that he can see the bankruptcy of sin and the worthiness of Christ (Acts 26:18; 2 Corinthians. 4:6), who is perfectly suited to forgive our sins and provide the righteousness we need for eternal life.

Finally furnished with the ability to perceive reality as it is, the newborn soul necessarily and immediately turns away in revulsion from sin and eagerly runs to embrace Christ. That turning from sin and unbelief is repentance, and the eager embrace of Christ as Savior from sin and as Lord over one's life is faith. Together, repentance and faith make up the single act of conversion.

It should be apparent that repentance and faith are intimately related and even inseparable from one another. They are truly two sides of the same coin. In the first place, their connection follows a simple logic: ... one cannot turn toward something without turning away from whatever was previously occupying his attention.

But the inseparability of repentance and faith is also a theological necessity. It is inconceivable that one who finally perceives sin and Christ as they actually are should pursue Christ without forsaking sin.

To the newly awakened sinner, Christ is an inestimably valuable treasure, and to gain him, one delightfully forsakes everything (Matt. 13:44–46; Philippians 3:8). Thus, the faith that saves is a repentant faith, just as the repentance that saves is a believing repentance.

Adapted from *Biblical Doctrine* by MacArthur and Mayhue.