

BAPTISM INTO CHRIST'S SUBSTITUTIONARY DEATH

The reason the Ethiopian wanted to be baptized was the fact that baptism is the point at which the death of Jesus saves a believer. Baptism brings a believer "into" Jesus and "into" His death (Romans 6:3). We are buried with Christ by baptism into His death (verse 4). The believer is planted or united together with Christ in the likeness of His death (verse 5). The likeness of Jesus' death is baptism. Anyone, therefore, who believes that Jesus died for his sins will want immediately to be buried with Christ in baptism so that Christ's death will forgive one's sins. Rejoicing follows man's response to God's good news of forgiveness in the death of Jesus.



THE GREAT GOOD NEWS!

CHRIST SUFFERED SIN'S PENALTY IN MAN'S PLACE!



The gospel is God's great news that Jesus died for sinners. Jesus commanded that the gospel be preached to every creature in all the world (Mark 16:15). He then said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved" (verse 16). Faith and trust in Christ's death for our sins must include baptism into His death. A person has not been united with Christ until he is baptized in the likeness of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection (Romans 6:3—5). Rejoicing in God's forgiveness always follows baptism into Christ (Acts 2:40, 47; 16:33, 34). Baptism is the point at which faith makes one a child of God by putting one into Christ (Galatians 3:26, 27). Baptism is for remission of sins (Acts 2:38). It is when one's sins are washed away in Jesus' blood (Acts 22:16). Will you accept God's wonderful news that Jesus died for your sins and be baptized into Christ to put on Christ so that all your sins will be forgiven in His death?

GOD'S MESSAGE



Our Sin Atonement

HE THAT BELIEVETH & IS BAPTIZED
SHALL BE SAVED

THE GOSPEL IS GOD'S WONDERFUL NEWS!

GOSPEL

This word means "good news" 1 *Corinthians 15:1-4* explains the gospel as the death of Jesus Christ for our sins, His burial, and resurrection according to the Scriptures. But why would Jesus need to die for sins? Why is the gospel the greatest news man can hear?

GOD'S HOLINESS IS REPULSED BY SIN

God is holy and pure. He cannot stand sin. His presence before Moses made ordinary dirt "holy ground" (*Exodus 3:5*). His name is holy and reverend (*Psalms 111:9*). Angels sing, "Thou alone art holy" (*Revelation 15:4*). Man must be holy because God is holy (*1 Peter 1:16*). Without holiness no man can have fellowship with God (*Hebrews 12:14*).



MAN IS BASICALLY SINFUL, UNGODLY

But man is not holy by nature, he is sinful. He is basically un-God-like, or ungodly. The thoughts of man's heart are only evil continually (*Genesis 6:5*). There is not a just man on the earth that doeth good and sinneth not (*Ecclesiastes 7:20*). There is none righteous, no not one (*Romans 3:10*). All men have sinned and come short of the glory of God (*Romans 3:23*). Man is fleshly, sold under sin (*Romans 7:14*). In his flesh dwells no good thing (*Romans 7:18*).



GOD IS JUST, HE MUST PUNISH SIN

God's nature is angered by sin, He must punish every sin. He is sure to look upon sin (*Habbakuk 1:13*). Evil is an abomination to God (*Proverbs 15:8*). His wrath is revealed against all ungodliness and unrighteousness (*Romans 1:18*). Every sin must receive a proper punishment (*Hebrews 2:2*). If God failed to punish a single sin, He would be imperfect in justice. He would be like an unfair judge, partial and corrupt. But because He is perfectly just, God must punish every sin.



THE LAW EXPOSED BUT COULDN'T REMEDY SIN

In the Old Testament, by putting him under a religion of law, God wisely showed man's sinfulness and how unable he was to be perfect before God. It is the purpose of law to point out evil. God exposed man to a standard of perfection, which he could not fully keep so that man would seek forgiveness. By the deeds of the Law there shall no flesh be justified (*Romans 3:20*). The Law was given that sin might be fully seen (*Romans 5:20*). Because of commandments sin became exceedingly sinful (*Romans 7:13*). Law curses every violator (*Galatians 3:10*). It requires perfection, and anyone offending in one point is guilty of all (*James 2:10*).



GOD PUNISHED SIN AND FORGAVE MEN BY PUNISHING JESUS

This shows why Jesus had to die for sinners. The very nature of God cannot stand sin. But the very nature of man is to practice sin. Because God is perfectly just, He must punish man's sin. And a perfect standard of right and wrong doesn't remedy man's sin problem. Law only exposes man's guilt and his need to be forgiven of sin. By the basic nature of God and man the only way man can be forgiven by God is for God to find a way to punish sin and yet to forgive man, the sinner. Jesus' death is the answer

CHRIST DIED FOR US!

THE SUBSTITUTIONARY DEATH OF JESUS

Christ suffered in the place of sinners. Because God must punish sin, man's sins were punished upon Jesus. His death was a substitute sacrifice for us. He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows. He was stricken, afflicted, and smitten of God. He was wounded for our transgressions. He was bruised for our iniquities. He was chastened so that we could have peace with God. With His stripes we are healed. God has laid upon Him the sins of us all. God's demand for sin's punishment was satisfied when He saw the travail of His soul (*Isaiah 53:4-12*). Christ suffered sin's penalty in man's place.



WE HAVE ATONEMENT BECAUSE OF JESUS

The word "atonement" means "at-one-ment." It is the price paid which enables peace to be restored between enemies. Him who knew no sin God made to be sin on our behalf that we might be made righteous because of Him (*II Corinthians 5:21*). Jesus bore our sins in His body on the cross, and by His stripes we are healed (*1 Peter 2:24*). Christ suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God (*1 Peter 3:18*). All have sinned and come short of the glory of God, but forgiveness of sins freely justifies or makes man righteous in Christ (*Romans 3:23, 24*). This is possible because God has given Jesus as a sin-offering that satisfies God's anger against sin. God now can both punish sin and also forgive the sinner who trusts in Jesus (*Romans 3:25, 26*).



FAITH IN CHRIST, BAPTISM INTO HIS DEATH

A man from Ethiopia was riding in his chariot reading the prophet Isaiah about God's suffering Lamb upon whom man's sins were laid (*Acts 8:28*). The preacher Philip began at this Scripture and preached unto him Jesus (*verse 35*). The Ethiopian then wanted to be baptized (*verse 36*). They stopped the chariot, went down into the water, and the man was baptized (*verse 38*). He then came up out of the water rejoicing because his sins had been forgiven in the death of Jesus (*verse 39*).