

b. Death destroys activity.

Paul says the Christian has died to sin. When and where did this happen and what does it mean? Verses three and four explain what was said in verse two.

One of the reasons we are not to sin is that since we are baptized into Jesus, we were baptized into His death. At baptism God imputes (or adds to our account) righteousness. When we repent and become immersed we can then enjoy the benefits of Jesus death. We are justified (or declared not guilty) at baptism.

Verse four tells us that since we were buried with Jesus through baptism into His death, we are also raised from the dead through baptism. When we are raised with Christ in baptism we are raised to walk in a newness of life. When we are immersed we are raised up out of the waters of baptism to walk in a newness of life, we have an entire separation of the old life when we are buried with Christ, just like physical death cuts us off from the physical world.

When something dies physically, it no longer responds to the stimuli of the physical world. I have used the illustration of a dead pet before. When Ellen's fish dies, he will not swim around the tank, come up to the top to eat, hide behind the things in the tank. He'll just float to the top and lay there on his side.

When we are baptized into Christ, we are to be dead to the things of the world. Newness of life is a new start, a new focus (2 Corinthians 5:17, Galatians 3:27, Colossians 2:12).

The way we are "in Christ" is through spiritual baptism. Baptism is not some after thought we can do if we feel like it.

2) We Have A New Master . (verses 5-7)

In verse five we are told that IF we have become united with Him. Notice that IF you have NOT been united with Him in baptism, you will not receive the benefits spoken of.

a. United in Him.

The word here translated "united" is only used in this verse in the New Testament. It comes from the process of grafting a shoot onto a tree. It means to "unite" or "grow together." When we are baptized, we are "grafted" into Christ. Jesus spoke of the vine and branches in John 15. When you have faith, confess Jesus, repent, and become immersed, you are grafted in the vine with Jesus.

b. Crucified with Him.

Verse five also talks about the "likeness" of His death and resurrection. This tells us the two deaths, Jesus and ours are not absolutely identical. His was physical ours is a spiritual death to sin and spiritual resurrection, but both are real historical events.

The passage is conditional, only those who have been buried with Christ will be raised with Him.

In verse six we see that at baptism our "old self" was crucified. I believe this happen the hour we first believe. It happens when we pray a sinner's prayer from our heart. It happens at baptism. It happens as we die daily to self and surrender to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. The body of sin is tossed aside when we are spiritually immersed into Christ.

c. Surrendered to Him.

The Devil's ability to use the body to get man to sin is greatly curtailed when a person is immersed in Christ. We are no longer slaves to the flesh. We regain control of the body through Jesus. We are no longer slaves to sin. Jesus becomes our master. The chains of slavery are broken.

Now before you get confused and think I've lost it, this doesn't mean what some think it means. Baptism is still only a symbol, an outward expression of what has

happened inside your heart, mind and life. Remember Jesus said that His baptism is not of water, but of the Spirit. He told Nicodemus that unless one is born of the water and of the Spirit, he cannot see the Kingdom of God.

When we die to sin, we are free from sin. Now, we still sin, but we do so because we allow it to happen (1Corinthians 10:13).

We are never forced to sin. We have to look for it and want it. God will always provide a way to escape it. Sometimes we have sins we like to commit; we do it by choice instead of by drive. The key is committed surrender to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

3) We Have A New Purpose . (verses 8-11)

a. Before we were saved.

Before we were saved, we lived life without any sense of purpose. Living the Christian life is not based on how much money we make or how many possessions we have, etc. When you think about it, is making a lot of money a real purpose to base your life on?

When we understand that if we have died with Jesus, we also should believe we will live with Him. Our life takes on new purpose. Our purpose is to live for the one who saved us and who broke the chains of sin that held us in its grip.

b. Since we have been saved.

Since we know we serve a risen savior, we have hope. Jesus defeated death. Since Jesus has a never-ending life, we will get the opportunity to continually live with Him.

Verse nine tells us that while Jesus was a man, He was subject to the law of death also, death had dominion over Him (but only because He allowed it), but since He was raised from the dead, death has been conquered!

Verse ten tells us the death He died, He died once for all. When Jesus was a man, He was subject to the same temptation we are (Hebrews 4:15).

When Jesus rose from the dead He conquered death. This is why there is help for us when we are tempted. The life Jesus lives is in perfect harmony with God. The purpose for our life is to live in perfect harmony with Jesus. We are dead to sin and alive to Jesus.

In verse 11 we are told to "consider" ourselves dead to sin. This word "consider" is an imperative command that must be continually carried out by the Christian.

Conclusion

Why do we struggle so much? Maybe it is because we do not consider ourselves dead to sin? Maybe it is because we allow the Devil or other people to continue to remind us of a past that has been forgotten and forgiven?

In His book, "In the Grip of Grace," author Max Lucado tells the story of the boy who was shooting rocks with a slingshot. He could never hit his target. As he was in his Grandma's backyard one day, he spied her pet duck. On impulse he took aim and let fly. The stone hit, and the duck was dead. "The boy panicked and hid the bird in the woodpile, only to look up and see his sister watching. After lunch that day, Grandma told Sally to help with the dishes. Sally responded, "Johnny told me he wanted to help in the kitchen today. Didn't you Johnny?" And she whispered to him, "Remember the duck!" So, Johnny did the dishes. What choice did he have? For the next several weeks he was at the sink often. Sometimes it was his turn and sometimes it was for his sin. "Remember the duck," Sally would whisper when he objected. So weary of her chores, he decided that any punishment would be better than washing more dishes, so the next time he was at Grandma's house he confessed to killing duck. "I know, Johnny," his Grandma said, giving him a hug. "I was

standing at the window and saw the whole thing. Because I love you, I forgave you. I wondered how long you would let Sally make a slave out of you." Little did he know he'd been pardoned, but he thought he was still guilty. Why? He had listened to the words of his accuser.

In Christ, you are free! Stop listening to the words of your accuser. Do you want to experience freedom?

In Christ You Are Free!

Shoebox Time Again

Well, believe it or not, it's that time of year again when we are encouraged to grab a shoebox, fill it with good stuff, include shipping cost, and send it off to a girl or boy somewhere around the world where Christmas gifts are few.

Ted's story reflects the heart of Operation Christmas Child. He was an orphan in the former Soviet Union when he received his shoebox. Residents at the orphanage had to share everything, including towels. When he got a washcloth in his box he actually thought it was his own personal towel! It was very special because he was the only one who could use it. It was his own personal thing—something that he didn't have before—so it was one of his favorite gifts.

God used the shoebox to plant a seed at a time when he was looking for hope and something to believe in. It opened his heart to understanding that there must be a loving God. He'd never felt so much hope knowing that there was someone who loved him.

Through the next couple of years he held on to that hope, thinking, there must be a God who loves him. There is something bigger and better in life. Life is meaningful. As time went on, he hungered more and more to know that Truth.

His sister Tanya had heard about a God who loved her when she received her shoebox gift. She was praying, "God, if you're real, give me and my siblings a family." One day Ted received a letter from her that said, "We might be getting adopted into an American family." Again he thought, "There really has to be someone who cares for me. It could only be someone like a God."

At 13, he and his sister were adopted. His new father asked him if he was happy that he had a family and a house and being in America. His heart looked back to the day he received the shoebox and the amount of joy it gave him. But in Russia they teach a works-based religion with a God that punishes for everything. He was a little confused trying to sort all this out, so he asked his new dad, "Is there something more?" Yes! He told him that God created everything for His glory and that He gave us this earth and this life to enjoy but there's a sin problem that condemns us to hell. It sounded like the same old story. But he went on to say that God loved us so much that He sent His Son to die on the cross for our sins and that it was a free gift.

The words "free gift" reminded him of his shoebox and he thought, "Wow, that makes sense. Someone who didn't know me gave me a gift, and in the same way before we ever knew God, He loved us enough to give us this gift." At that moment he realized that the hope he was feeling had been given from God and it was a hope he could have the rest of his life in Jesus.

It's incredible how God used something as simple as a shoebox. It was such perfect timing. God ordained that shoebox and orchestrated it in Ted's life. It opened his heart to something that changed his life forever.

For years Operation Christmas Child has sought to bring good news and great joy through the power of a simple gift. What goes into a shoebox is fun, but what comes out is eternal. As children receive gift-filled shoeboxes they hear the Gospel. You can have a role in reaching millions of children with God's love by supporting this project of Samaritan's Purse.

God Bless You!

Bro. Allan

Opportunities For Service

Living out Your Spiritual Commitment . . . and Fulfilling Christ's Divine Plan

Sunday, October 16, 2016

Choir Rehearsal..... 9:00 am

Sunday School 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: Larry McKahan, Bill Schottel, Ken Kirkpatrick, Isaac Waters

Alternate: Ken Nice

Evening Worship..... 6:30 pm

Tuesday, October 18

SJBA Stewardship / Leadership Dinner 6:30 pm

Wednesday, October 19

Youth Study..... 6:30 pm

Prayer/Bible Study 6:30 pm

Adult Choir 7:30 pm

Thursday, October 20

O Team.....6:30 pm

Sunday, October 23, 2016

Choir Rehearsal..... 9:00 am

Sunday School 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: ? ? ? ?, Ken Nice, Fred Kerns, Don Sharp

Alternate: Isaac Waters

Evening Worship..... 6:30 pm

Monday-Wednesday,

October 24-26

Missouri Baptist Convention

Wednesday, October 26

Youth Study..... 6:30 pm

Prayer / Bible Study6:30 pm

Adult Choir 7:30 pm

Thursday, October 27

W Team.....6:30 pm

Up-Coming Events.....

October 16 — Food Pantry Collection Day

October 18 — Stewardship Leadership Dinner, Copeland, 6:30 pm

October 20 — Food Pantry Day

October 23 — Diversicare 2:30 pm

October 24-26 — Missouri Baptist Annual Meeting, St. Charles, MO

November 3 — Senior Adult Event, 10:00 am, FBC, St. Joseph

November 7 — Women's World Day of Prayer, 2:00 pm

GROW Team

Commit to **GROW!** **Everyone make a contact!** Invite someone to Bible Study and Worship this week. ☺

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Sunday Nights

We will have Sunday Evening Service here tonight. Hope to see you here at 6:30.

Wednesday Night Prayer and Bible Study

We will meet Wednesday at 6:30 pm. Come to Pray!

Volunteers Needed

For the past several years our Card Ministry has been fulfilled by Maxine Ferbert. She now feels it is time for her to pass that along to someone else. Thank You, Maxine, for your faithful service. Is God calling you to this ministry?

Also, the Nominating Committee will soon be calling asking members to serve in a variety of capacities in the ministry of our church. Prayerfully consider serving!

Just a Reminder ...

The whole month of October is **Pastor Appreciation Month**. Please let Pastor Allan and Ellen know how much they are appreciated and loved!

Food Pantry Collection

Today, October 16, is our collection day for Patee Park Food Pantry. If you would like to donate dry or canned goods you may do so by placing your grocery items in the basket in the hallway. You can also donate monetarily if you would rather. Thank you for your willingness to give.

Diversicare Nursing Home

October 23, 2016

2:30 pm

Please join us as we minister to those who can no longer attend their own churches.

Stewardship Leadership Dinner

This SJBA Annual event will be Tuesday, October 18, 6:30 pm, at Copeland Baptist Church. Let Bro. Allan know if you are willing to attend.

Operation Christmas Child

Collection Week:

November 14-21

For the Record-

Attendance: October 9, 2016

Sunday School..... 47

Visitors..... 3

Total..... 50

Contacts Made.....	8
Morning Worship.....	57
Children's Worship.....	18
Sunday Night	9
Wednesday Night	15

Financial Record:

Weekly Budget	\$ 2,040.52
Offering Received ...	\$ 1,835.00
MMO Received	\$ 1,805.00

Offering Received by Mail:

October Counting Team:

Don Beavers and Daniel Waters

October Van Driver:

Mike Green

Remember to call 232-3747
before 8 am if you need a ride.

October Birthdays:

03...Don Hart
08...Brigida Winans
09...Elvera Crow
10...Fred Kerns
10...Jaden Schottel
14...Dillon Burgess
18...David Schottel
18...Abby Sutton
19...Caitlyn Schottel
22...Angie Liechti
28...Ellen Lane
31...Tim Izer

October Anniversaries

Mike and Martha Green
October 1, 2005

Prayer Requests ...

David Beavers—recovery
Larry Danner—cancer treatment
Cynthia Burdick—cancer treatment
Jim Winans—Laverna Village
Maxine and George Ferbert—strength
Sarah Waters—knee rehab
David Schottel—knee replacement
Karissa and Matt Long
Nellie Reynolds—strength
Betty Campbell—healing

Pat Puckett—eyes, healing
Marcia and Don Hart—future plans
Sue Higgins—regain strength
Robbie Hutcherson, Loleta's son
Lisa Bowers—Jack and Flo's daughter
LoLeta Middleton—strength
Buddy Means—Mary Sharp's nephew
Ellen Blanton and Lois Ulmer—
 Elvera's daughter & daughter-in-law
Stella Davis and Linda Rails—Doris
 Richardson's sisters

Audrey Dugan	Bob Barquist
Kathryn Beavers	Ann Riddle
Louanne Laurence	Keon McKahan
Jozy Winans	Leona Reynolds
Kevin Duty	Kenny Duty
Madeline Swink	Bobby Griswold
Bill Haskins	Debbie Sands
Brenda Burgess	Judy Anderson
Carolyn Houts	Roscoe Lane
Missionaries Don and Diane Combs	
Nickolay Nazaruk, Peski 2 Church	
David and Deborah Grace	
Jeanette Swackhamer—Beja People	
Our Nation and Leaders	
Our Military Service people	

Today's Prayer Requests ...

Our Nation and our Leaders ...

Five More New Families...
