

Alive, Forgiven & Set Free

March 5, 2017

Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)

Colossians 2:1-7

Pastor Mark W. Turner

1. Because Christ died & is risen -

in Him believers have new life!

A. Apart from Christ we are spiritually dead

- Col 2:13; Eph 2:1; Gen 2:17; death = separation, not cessation
- dead in trespasses = sins you have committed
- dead in uncircumcision of flesh = sinful nature from Adam; Ro 5:12; Eph 2:11-12
- we aren't sinners because we sin, we sin because by nature we are sinners

B. Believers are raised with Christ thru faith

- Faith raises us = gift from God Phil 1:29; Eph 3:8-9
- Are you in Christ or in Adam?

C. Only God can raise the dead

- Only God can impart new life to a dead sinner 1 Cor 2:14; Jn 8:43
- Spiritual life has signs: Jn 1:12-13

2. Because Christ died & is risen -

in Him believers have forgiveness of sins

A. To save us, God dealt with the penalty for our sins in line with His justice & righteousness

- The penalty for our sins had to be paid to preserve justice
- all sinned Rm 3:23; sin deserves death Rm 6:23;
- But God forgives; cancels record of debt; nailed to Christ's cross
- Law condemns Ex 20:3-17; Mt 12:30-31

B. On the cross, Christ completely paid our debt

- forgiven - canceled the debt Lk 7:42
- all – not just a clean slate that we have to keep clean
- canceling the record – blot out
- a believer's guilt is not true: from Satan Rev 12:10; Zech 3:1-5

C. In Christ we have victory over forces of evil

- Christ's cross was complete victory - enemy defeated
- Great Exchange – believers are in Christ's kingdom Col 1:13

D. Baptism signifies & seals our ingrafting in Christ

- penance NOT a sacrament – doesn't earn merit or closeness to God
- Sacraments = sign & seal of God's Work (Christ) on our behalf, look to them!
- WSC Q94; WLC Q165 What is Baptism
- WLC Q167 – Study how your baptism is to be improved
- WSC Q96 – What is the Lord's Supper? A: The Lord's Supper is a sacrament, wherein, by giving and receiving bread and wine, according to Christ's appointment, his death is shewed forth; and the worthy receivers are, not after a corporal and carnal manner, but by faith, made partakers of his body and blood, with all his benefits, to their spiritual nourishment, and growth in grace.

Discuss & Apply:

- Study: Westminster Shorter Catechism Q94: What is baptism?

A: Baptism is a sacrament, wherein the washing with water, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, ^{Mat 28:19} doth signify and seal our ingrafting into Christ, ^{1 Cor 11:23} and partaking of the benefits of the covenant of grace, ^{Gal 3:27} and our engagement to be the Lord's. ^{Rom 6:3,4}

- Study Larger Catechism Q. 167. How is our baptism to be improved by us?

A. The needful but much neglected duty of improving our baptism, is to be performed by us all our life long, especially in the time of temptation, and when we are present at the administration of it to others; ^[Col 2:11-12; Rom 6:4,6,11] by serious and thankful consideration of the nature of it, and of the ends for which Christ instituted it, the privileges and benefits conferred and sealed thereby, and our solemn vow made therein; ^[Rom 6:3-5] by being humbled for our sinful defilement, our falling short of, and walking contrary to, the grace of baptism, and our engagements; ^{1 Cor 11:11-13; Rm 6:2-3} by growing up to assurance of pardon of sin, and of all other blessings sealed to us in that sacrament; ^{Rm 4:11-12; 1 Pt 3:21} by drawing strength from the death and resurrection of Christ, into whom we are baptized, for the mortifying of sin, and quickening of grace; ^{Rm 6:3-5} and by endeavoring to live by faith, ^{Gal 3:26-27} to have our conversation in holiness and righteousness, ^{Rm 6:22} as those that have therein given up their names to Christ; ^{Ac 2:38} and to walk in brotherly love, as being baptized by the same Spirit into one body. ^{1 Cor 12:13,25}

1. If dead sinners are unable to believe before God gives them life, how can He hold them accountable for unbelief? How can we urge them to believe if they can't believe?
2. Some argue that everyone can believe if they simply choose to. What Scriptures show that even saving faith is God's gift? Why is this important?
3. The notion that we're good people, not deserving of God's wrath, is a main obstacle to overcome when you're sharing the gospel. What are some ways to show sinners their true guilt?
4. How can a believer know whether his guilt is conviction from the Spirit or condemnation from the enemy?
5. What is the difference between penance and a sacrament? WSC Q92: *A sacrament is an holy ordinance instituted by Christ; wherein, by sensible signs, Christ, and the benefits of the new covenant, are represented, sealed, and applied to believers.*
6. Is there a danger to Lenten practices of penance, fasting, etc.? Can they be beneficial?
7. How do the sacraments of baptism & the Lord's Supper show our ingrafting into Christ?