

Visualized Bible Study

Part 4-b

God's Plan for Redeeming Man.

This is the 2nd of 3 parts 4a/b/c.

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*The Bible teaches that
God is no respecter of persons.*

**The faith and obedience
which He required of Saul in his conversion
is required of all men.**

**A person may know he is forgiven of sin
when he accepts God's grace
by faith and obedience to His will.
Other Bible examples of conversions
prove this to be true.**

Acts 70:34;

BIBLE CONVERSIONS We have seen
that the ***3,000 Jews on Pentecost*** and later
Saul of Tarsus were all told the same answer
to their question, "***What shall we do?***"



In the conversions of
the **queen's treasurer, the jailer and Lydia**
these same requirements were met
in order to accept God's saving grace.

All who became **Christians**
in the New Testament
were saved in the same way
and **all** were **members of the same body,**
the called out assembly of Christ.

Ephesians 4:4-6;

IN ACTS 8 GOD SENT PHILIP
to preach to **a queen's treasurer**
who was riding in a chariot.

As Philip taught this treasurer about Jesus,
they came to some water.

The treasurer said, **“Look! Water!**
What prevents me from being baptized?”



Just as in other conversions before him,
when **this man came to believe in Jesus**
whom Philip preached, **he wanted**
to be baptized immediately. But why?

THE CONVERSION OF A HEATHEN JAILER

and his family recorded in Acts 16 illustrates again that all men, regardless of circumstances, are **saved by the blood of Christ in the same manner.**

This unbelieving jailer had fastened **Paul and Silas** in stocks in the inner prison after they had been beaten unmercifully with rods **because they preached Christ.**

At midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing to the Lord. Suddenly an earthquake rocked the jail and freed all the prisoners, but none of them escaped.

Seeing this, **the jailer** fell at the feet of **Paul** and Silas, pleading, **"Sirs. what must I do to be saved?"**

**Paul told this unbeliever first to
“believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.”**

**Then proceeded to teach him and his family
WHAT to believe. As soon as the whole family
were taught **their faith moved them**
to be baptized the same hour that night,
Again we ask why? *Acts 16:25-34;***



OUR FINAL EXAMPLE IS THAT OF LYDIA
a business woman.

Evidently **a very religious person,**
she had met for prayer
with other ladies by the river side
when **Paul came and taught her about Jesus.**

**When Lydia and her household believed
Paul's message about Jesus,
they too were baptized. Acts 16:14-15;
Why?**



**To help answer this question,
let us sum up three great Bible truths
we have learned.**

FIRST, JUST AS SHEEP
can be **lost** from the fold
so all men without Christ are lost.



- For all have sinned, and come
short of the glory of God
(Romans 3:23)

**Without a saviour
a man's own sins condemn him
to eternal banishment from God.**

**“For all have sinned,
and come short of the glory of God.”
Romans 3:23;**

**After death, there is
no further opportunity of salvation!**

SECOND KNOWING THAT MAN could not pay for his own sin, **God in love sent His only Son to bear the burden of our sins on the cross.**



Think of **all the sins** that have
ever been committed brought together
in one nauseous mass!

**The very thought of it
staggers our imagination.**

Enduring the horror of this awful burden
the Son of God cried,
**"My God, my God,
why have you forsaken me?"**
(Matthew 27:46;)

Christ was actually tasting the hell we deserve, being **separated from God by the burden of man's sins.**

This suffering was far more horrible than the mere death of the body.

THIRD IN THE BIBLE CONVERSIONS
we have studied, we saw God's answer to
the question, "**what must I do to be saved?**"

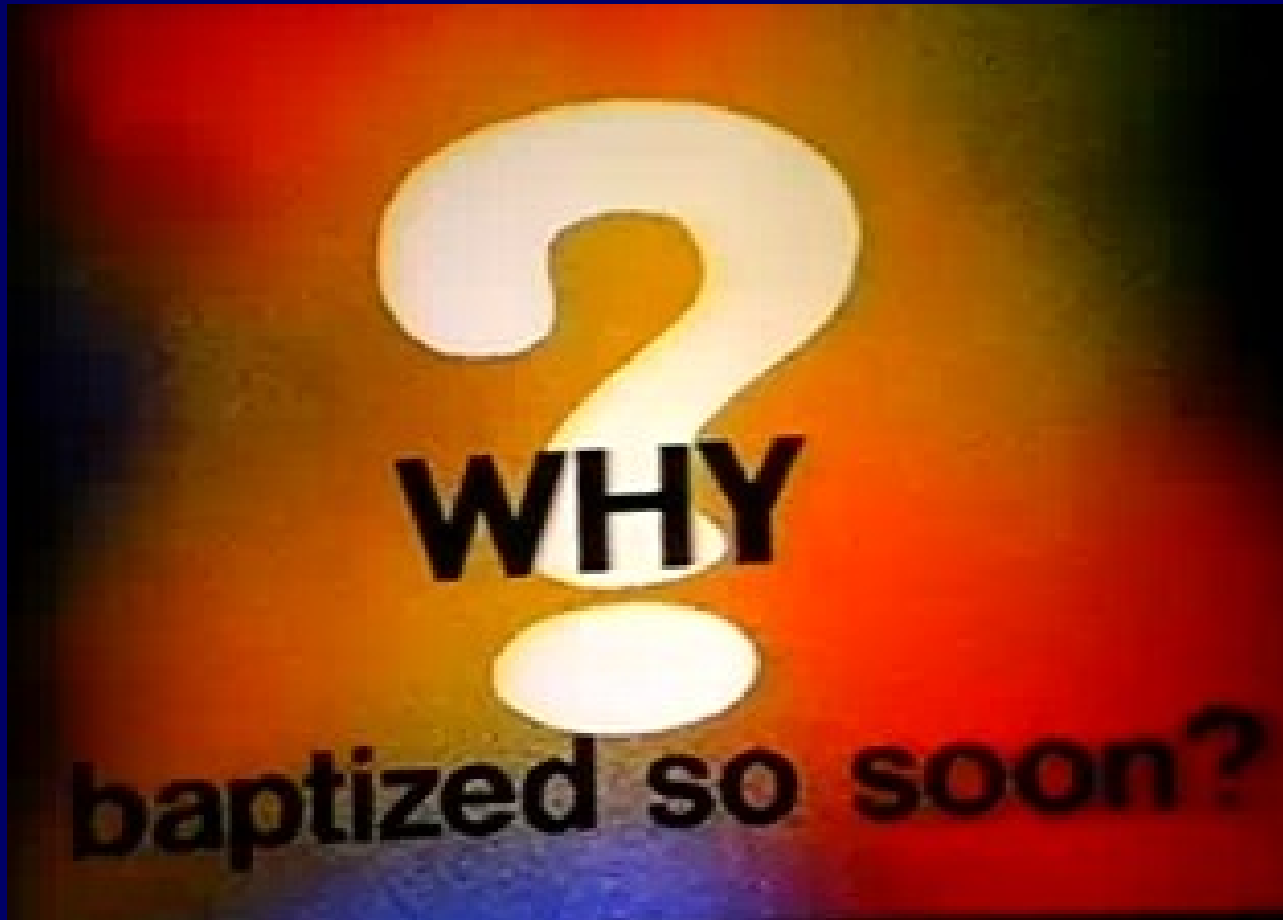


**All these people accepting
God's grace and love,
were cleansed by Jesus' blood
in the same way.**

**Their faith in Jesus led them to repent
of their sins, to confess Him before men
and to be baptized immediately
for the forgiveness of sins.**

**But this brings us back to our question:-
WHY?**

**WHY? WHY WERE THEY ALL BAPTIZED
immediately upon believing on Christ?**



**The simplest answer, of course,
is that Jesus had commanded,
“He that believes and is baptized
shall be saved.”**

**This was enough
for those who really loved Him
and wished to do His will.**

**In order to understand
more about the “why.”
let us use a familiar illustration.**



WHEN WE SEE THAT OUR HANDS are dirty,
it is only natural that we should
want to **wash them** as soon as possible.

We all realize **how foolish** it would be
for someone **to see a need** like this
and **do nothing about it,**
especially when the means
for cleansing our hands is available.



AS SOON POSSIBLE we use soap and water
and **our hands are cleansed.**

With **much more urgency**
we should **desire the cleansing of our souls**
by the blood of Christ.

This is why the people in the Bible
conversions **were baptized to wash away**
their sins through Jesus blood
as soon as **they believed in Christ.**

The apostle Paul said,
"We are justified by His blood."

Romans 5:9; Hebrews 9:13-14;

**PEOPLE RESPONDED BY HUNDREDS
and sometimes by thousands
to the preaching of the apostles.**



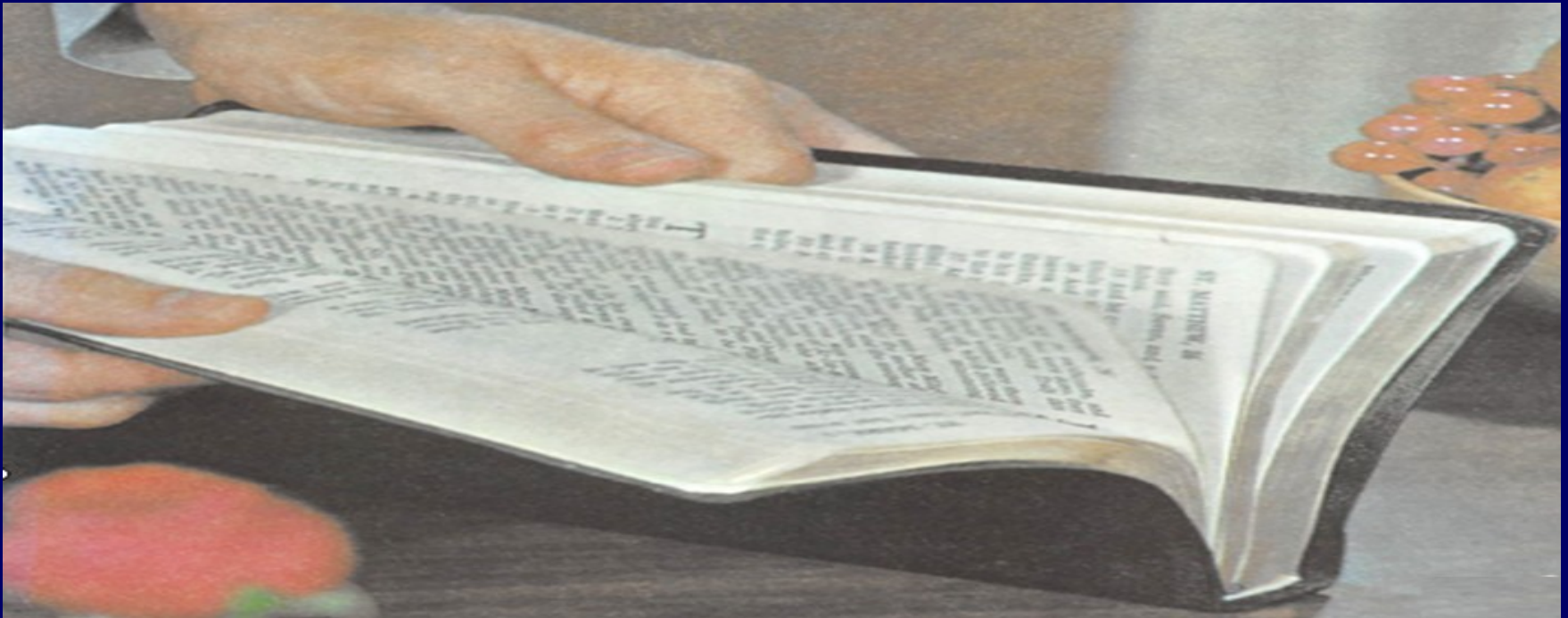
The **basic theme** of all apostolic preaching was the good news that God loves us and that **Jesus died for our sins;** that **He was buried and then raised by the power of God to be our living Saviour.**

Upon hearing these truths people felt the **urgency** of being **cleansed by Jesus' blood as soon as possible.**

Acts 5:14; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4;

These same basic truths
Which compelled so many
to become Christians were also
stressed in the writings of the apostles.

They are now available in the New Testament
for everyone to read and study for themselves.



For example the apostle **Paul**
who wrote the book of **Romans**,
reminded **these Christians**
how **the death burial and resurrection**
of **Jesus**
was connected to their salvation.



PAUL ASKED THEM TWO QUESTIONS:

“Well then, **should we keep on sinning** so that God can show us more and more kindness and forgiveness?

Of course not! Since we have died to sin, **how can we continue to live in it?**

Or Are you ignorant that we, as many as have been baptised unto Christ Jesus, have been baptised unto his death?

(Romans 6:1-3;)

The expression **"dead to sin"**
in verse two shows that
in their conversion **these Christians**
had determined
not to live in sin any longer.

Verse **three** teaches that when they were
"baptized into Jesus Christ"
they were **"baptized into His death."**

**ALTHOUGH NO ONE
CAN DIE ON A CROSS as Jesus did,
yet, everyone who would be saved
through Him must die to sin.**



**This means that we become dead
to the desire and intent to sin
by renouncing our sins and turning
toward God. This is repentance.**

AFTER JESUS DIED,
His friends lovingly wrapped His body
in clean linen cloths
and buried it in a new tomb.



Everyone realizes that
where there has been
a physical death,
there must also be a burial.

When we **renounce sin** and **turn to God,**
it is only fitting that **a symbolic burial**
take place that we might be
separated from our old sinful life.
How can this be?

GOD HAS ORDAINED
that **those** who have **determined**
to die to sin must be
"buried with Christ" in **baptism.**

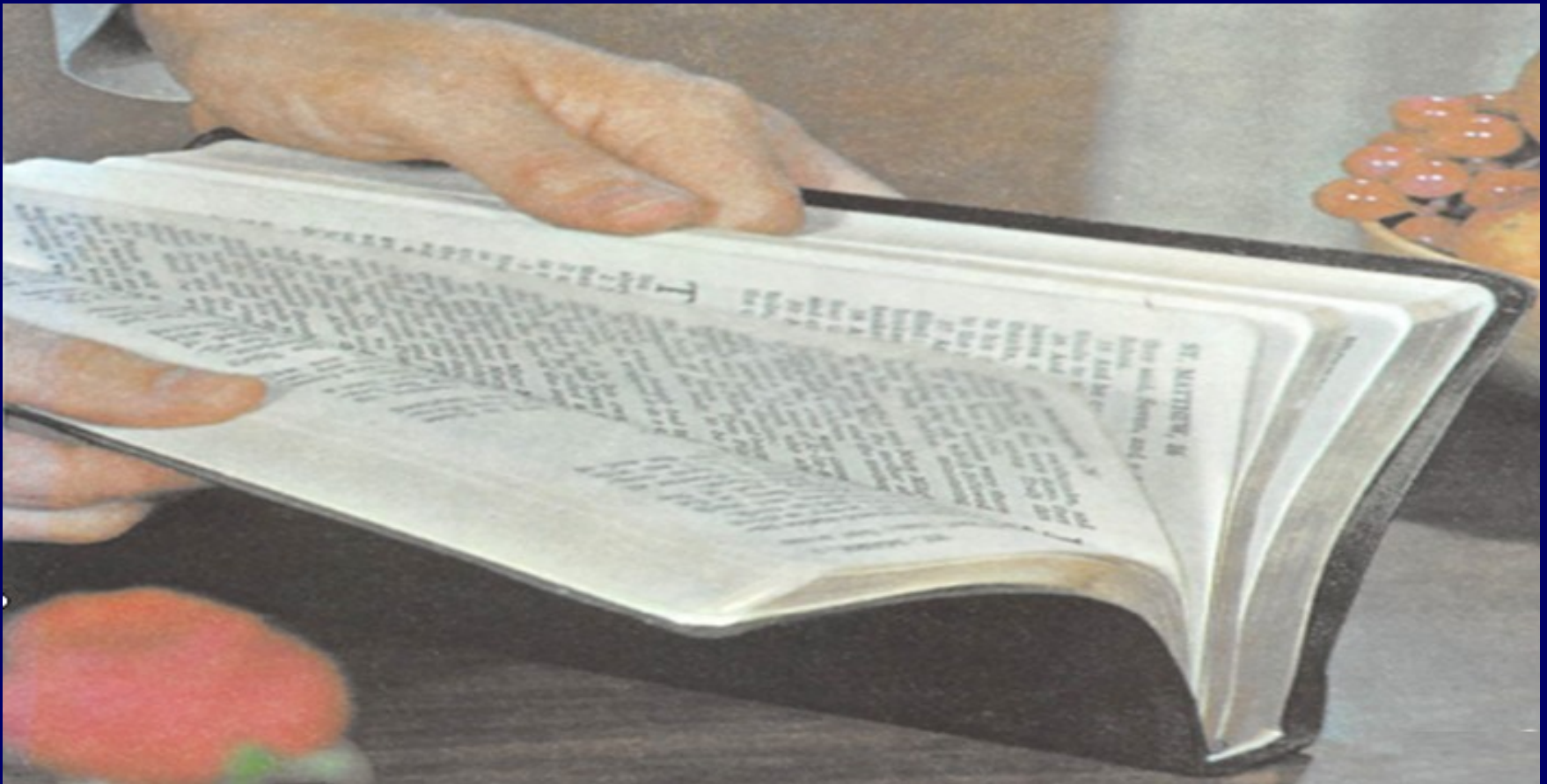


Although this individual is **not a preacher**,
he is **happy** for the **privilege of baptizing**
those whom he has taught.

He is especially **thankful** when he can see
both **husband and wife** united **in Christ.**

The Bible teaches that **in baptism**
we are buried with Christ into His death.

**"THEREFORE, WE ARE BURIED WITH HIM
by baptism into death:** that like as Christ
was raised up from the dead by the glory
of the Father, even so we also should
walk in newness of life." *(Romans 6:4;)*



Notice that **in baptism,**
we are also buried into Jesus' death.
In His death Jesus shed His blood
for the forgiveness of sins.

This is why we can rise
from baptism to walk in newness of life.
Matthew 26:28; John 19:33-35;

The original Greek word for baptize
means "to DIP, to PLUNGE, to IMMERSE."

WHEN ONE IS BURIED by baptism into Christ's death, he must truly believe that God will remove the guilt of all his past sins through the blood of Jesus.
Mark 16:15-16;

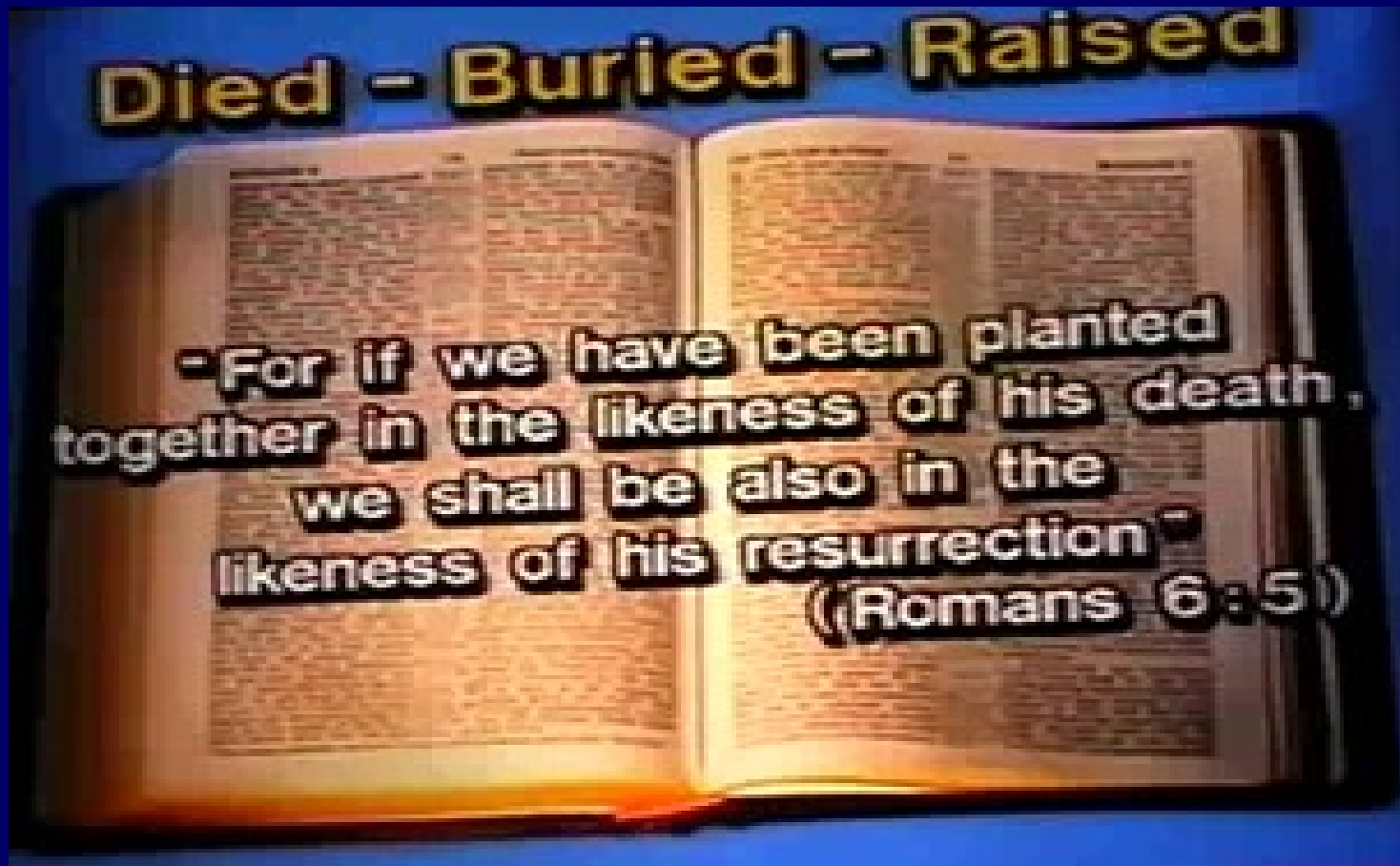


In Bible baptism, a penitent believer is lowered into the water as into a grave.

This pictures to everyone the death and burial of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In the Rom 6:5; the apostle Paul continues this thought.

**FOR IF WE HAVE BEEN PLANTED
together in the likeness of his death,
we shall be also in the likeness of his
resurrection."** *(Romans 6:5;)*



**We have already learned that
we cannot die on the cross as Jesus did
or be buried in His tomb.**

**However, when a person is scripturally
baptized, this is a likeness or portrayal of
Christ's death, burial and resurrection.**

**AS ONE ALLOWS HIS BODY
to be lowered beneath the water,
he is showing his complete willingness
to submit to Christ's authority.**



Far from being a work of merit
which man can do to earn his own salvation,
Baptism is a passive act
in which a person **submits** to being
submerged in water by someone else.

Through faith in God's promise
to forgive past sins, the one
cleansed by the blood of Christ
is then raised from the watery grave
to a new life in Christ!

I Peter 3:21-22; Colossians 2:12;

THREE DAYS AFTER HE WAS BURIED in the tomb, Jesus was raised from the dead and given a new life by the power of God.



Later, **Jesus** told **John**,
“I am he that lives, and was dead;
and, behold,
I am alive for evermore, Amen;”
(Revelation 1:18)

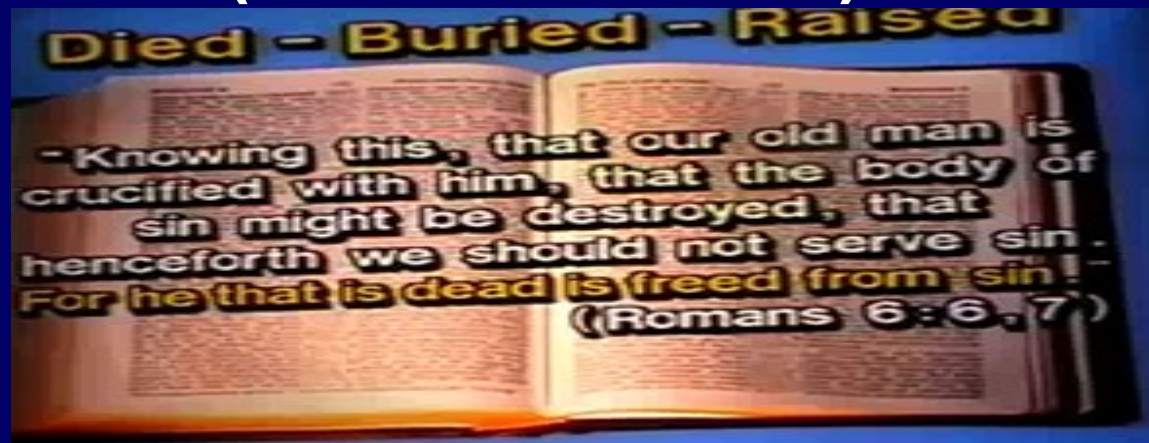
FROM OUR BURIAL WITH CHRIST
we are also raised together with Him.
With all past sins forgiven,
we begin a new life in Christ Jesus.



Since the **new life follows baptism,**
Jesus referred to being **born of water**
and **of the Spirit** as the **new birth.**
(John 3:5;)

Also, **Paul** speaks of **our life**
before baptism as our “**old man.**”

KNOWING THIS that our old man
(or former life) is crucified with him,
that the body of sin might be destroyed,
that henceforth we should not serve sin.
For he that is dead is freed from sin."
(Romans 6:6-7;)



This means that the person
who dies to the practice of sin
is no longer the slave of sin.

WHEN WE TRULY UNDERSTAND
how **we are freed from sin by Jesus' blood,**
baptism becomes the greatest, happiest
and **most meaningful** event of our lives,
even more than marriage itself.

The apostle Paul said,
**"For as many of you as have been baptized
into Christ have put on Christ."**
(Galatians 3:27;)

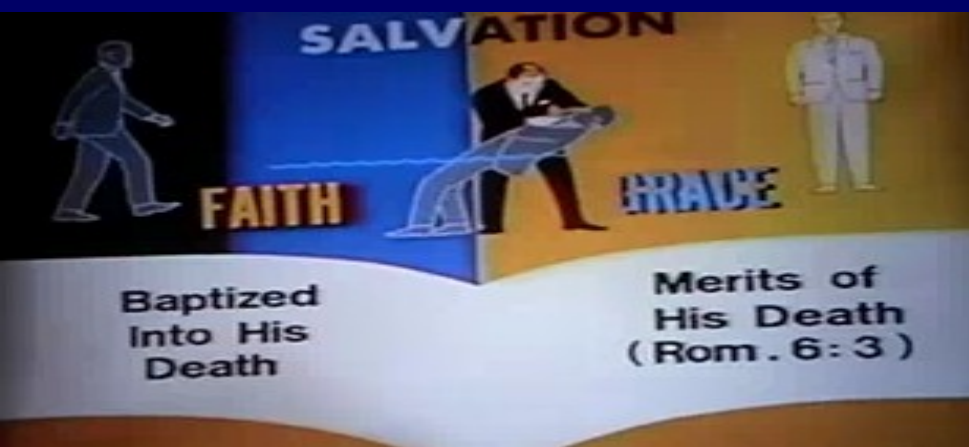
Each **baptized believer rejoices in the Lord** with his loved ones and friends as they also put on Christ in baptism.

Many times a husband and wife will **yield their lives to Jesus** together.



Baptism becomes a very **meaningful** event when we realize how **we are freed from sin by Jesus' blood.**

THIS CHART CLEARLY SHOWS that salvation
by grace through faith involves baptism.
Saving faith moves the sinner
to submit to the will of God.



**Through His grace demonstrated
in the death, burial, and resurrection
of Jesus,**

**God forgives and blesses
the obedient believer.**

**When one is baptized
into Christ he puts on Christ.**

(Galatians 3:27;)

**At the same time he is
"baptized into his death"**

**Therefore has access to the merits provided
through the death and blood of Christ.**

(Romans 6:3;)

In this same act of obedience,
one is **buried with Christ** and raised
to walk in "**newness of life.**"

(Romans 6:4;)

He is also **planted in the likeness of Christ's death, to come forth in the likeness of His resurrection.** (Romans 6:5;)

By the **grace of God** the old man (or self) is crucified (or done away) and the **body of sin destroyed** when **one is baptized for the forgiveness of sins.**

**Salvation by grace through faith
involves baptism.**

AFTER BAPTISM

we should walk in "**newness of life.**"

Christians congratulate and **rejoice** with their friends who now experience together a deep joy, **their sins are forgiven** and they have **a new relationship with God.**



They now wear a new name, “Christian.”
Having been born of water and of the Spirit
they now are children of God
and enjoy continual access
to the cleansing blood of Jesus.

Now that they are Christians,
when they sin they can receive
forgiveness of sins daily
through the blood of Christ
simply by repenting of sins
and praying for forgiveness.

1 John 7:7-9;

ANOTHER GREAT JOY of becoming
a Christian is that God adds all the saved
to **HIS SPIRITUAL FAMILY, THE ASSEMBLY.**

Christians belong together,
therefore, they **meet together** regularly
to worship God, to study His word
and to enjoy fellowship
with God and with one another.

This helps each one to **live for Christ** continually and to **grow into spiritual maturity**.
Everyone who is **truly converted to Christ** will **look forward to every assembly** with **God's people**.

Acts 2:47; Hebrews 10:24-25;



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Part 4-b

God's Plan For Redeeming Man.

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Next in the series:-
Part 4-c God's Plan For Redeeming Man.