



BULLEEN BAPTIST CHURCH

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BUILDING BLOCKS OF FAITH PART 4 : "Understanding Reconciliation"

July 31, 2005 Study 12 : "New Life"

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INTRODUCTION TO THE SERIES

"Building Blocks of Faith" is a Series of basic Christian beliefs. The studies will be kept as simple as possible. Those who are considering following Jesus will have the main issues of the Christian Faith explained. New Christians will gain an insight into what God has done in their life ... and why. Older Christians need to revisit the basics from time to time in order to check that what they are building is consistent with the blueprints! Part 1 of the Series; "Three Little Words" - Grace, Mercy and Peace. Part 2 - Two Studies on "Understanding God;" Part 3, three Studies on "Understanding Man."

So far in Part 4 (Understanding Reconciliation) the studies have been "The Death of Jesus," "Repentance" and "Saving Faith"

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S STUDY

This study deals in the personal transformation that happens when we are Reconciled to God.

Unless a person is BORN AGAIN they cannot see the Kingdom of God. John 3:3

Except a man be born of the Spirit, he cannot enter the Kingdom of God John 3:5

These verses speak of a NECESSARY and COMPLETE transformation.

This is the promise of REGENERATION - **New Life**

Before turning our attention to this, we need to do some "memory work" from previous studies in order to see their link with the work that God does by his Spirit in us when we become Christians.

A. RECAP 1 : The Basis Of Reconciliation (Study 9)

In this Study we asked, "What did the death of Jesus achieve?" We saw that it

1. Turned aside God's Wrath

Jesus ... the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 1Jn2:2 See also 1Jn4:10

2. Paid the price for our sin

Redeemed, not withsilver and gold, but by the precious blood of Christ. 1Pt1:18

3. Made us right with God

Since we have now been justified through his blood we were reconciled to him (God) through the death of his Son. Rom5:9-10

He died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died & was raised for them God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not counting their sins against them & entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2Cor5:14-21

These verses teach :

Jesus death on our behalf : "he died for all" v14

taking our sin upon himself : "God made him .. to be sin for us" v21

so that we are forgiven : "not counting their sin against them" v19

This is the BASIS on which we are reconciled to God

B. RECAP 2 : What We Do - "REPENT & BELIEVE THE GOOD NEWS" MARK 1:15

As God does his work of transformation in us, there will be two observable and related things happening on a human level. These are not "works" that produce the transformation, but are the evidence that God is at work. (See Eph2:8)

1. We Repent (Study 10)

God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ. When the people heard this they were cut to the heart and said to Peter, "Brothers, what shall we do?" Peter replied, 'Repent...'
Acts 2:36b-38a

A person who "repents" does a "U Turn" in they way they think and live. They turn their back on all that went before and they now "follow Jesus".

Repentance effects the mind, the emotions and the will our total being.

Mind : AGREES with God *You are right when you speak
and justified when you judge. Ps51:5*

Emotions : SORROW for sin. *Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads
to salvation. Worldly sorrow brings death. 2Cor7:10*

Will : Determination to OBEY God .. to do what pleases him.
*Zacchaeus - Half of what I have I give to the poor, .. if I have
cheated anyone, I will pay them back 4 times. Lk19:8*

2. We Believe (Study 11)

Saving Faith is TRUST in Jesus' authority and Word (Mt8:5-15)

FAITH in GOD himself, not in ourselves (morality or theology) Lk18:18-25

BELIEF that Jesus' died in our place and that we are forgiven. Jn11:23-27

C. WHAT GOD DOES :

"BUT GOD, WHO IS RICH IN MERCY MADE US ALIVE WITH CHRIST" EPH2:4

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away; behold, all things have become new. 2Cor5:17

I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me. Gal2:20

.... whoever believes in him, will not perish but will have eternal life. Jn3:16b

Becoming a Christian is not just a human experience of a change in how we think and live. God not only takes away our sin, he also gives us a new life. This new life :

is a DECISIVE break from the past and a new BEGINNING (See 1Cor6:9-11)

has a new SOURCE energising it - the life of Christ (See Rom5:9, 6:4, 8:11)

is DESIGNED for eternity

This process of regeneration has three aspects. They are :

1. JUSTIFIED Declared by God to be forgiven on the basis of Jesus bearing our sin and guilt
Rom5:1 *"Therefore, since we have been justified"* Past tense - This HAS happened.

2. SANCTIFIED The process of being changed into the likeness of Jesus. Cor3:18 *"we are being transformed into his likeness"* Present tense - This IS happening.

3. GLORIFIED The process completed. 1Jn3:2 *"... we know that when he appears, we shall be like him."* Future tense - This WILL happen. (see also Rom8:29-30; & Php1:6, 3:21)

