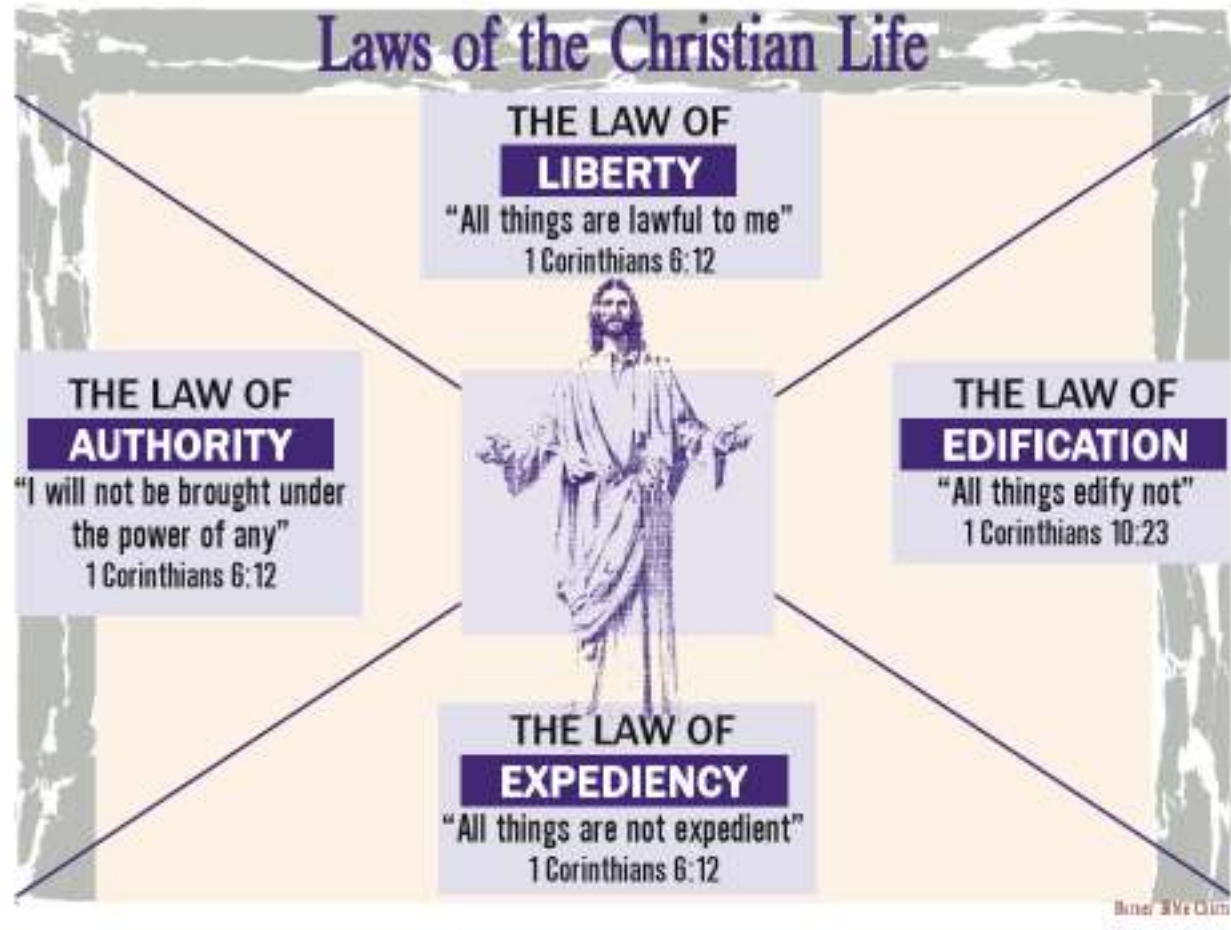


Today's Sermons

Morning: Who Then Can Be Saved?
Afternoon: The Parable of the Tares

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Times of Services:
Sunday
Bible Study:... 10:00am
AM Worship...11:00am
PM Worship:...6:00pm
2nd Sunday:.....1:30pm

Wednesday
Bible Study:.....7:00pm

Radio Program
Sunday:.....7:30am
"Back to the Bible"
AM 580 WSKK
93.5 FM

**We Extend A
Warm & Cordial
Welcome
To All Our
Visitors!**

A Thought about Baptism (Romans 6:3-4) Tim Canup

"What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus." The words of this old hymn are true according to the teaching of the New Testament. The apostle John made it crystal clear that the blood of Jesus is what removes the stain of sin when he wrote, "...Unto him that loved us, and **washed us from our sins in his own blood**" (Revelation 1:5b). I certainly would not argue against the Bible's plain teaching that salvation is by the blood of Jesus. However, the question that must be answered is, "How does a person contact the blood of Jesus?" It does not matter how any man answers this question, it only matters how God answers it in His Word! The one with an honest heart will accept God's answer (Luke 8:15).

The Bible teaches that Jesus shed His blood in His death (John 19:34). With that in mind, Paul wrote: "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were **baptized 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"

Continued Inside

(Romans 6:3-4). When does a person walk in newness of life? At the moment he has faith? Certainly not! According to Paul, newness of life comes when a person is baptized. Paul clearly taught that we are baptized into the death of Christ where we contact the precious blood of Christ that will wash away our sin.

This truth can even be seen in the example of the conversion of Saul of Tarsus. Having seen Jesus on the road near Damascus, he inquired of the Lord, “What wilt thou have me to do?” (Acts 9:6). The question implies what he must do to be saved. Friends, Saul **was not** saved on the road to Damascus. Can I prove that? Yes, for in the city of Damascus, Ananias, a gospel preacher, was sent to him by the Lord. Saul had been three days without food or water when Ananias came in and asked him, “And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, **and wash away thy sins**, calling on the name of the Lord” (Acts 22:16). This verse explains two things for us. Number one, baptism is to wash away sins (that is how we can know Saul was not saved on the road! If he were, from what was he saved? For he was told to be baptized to wash away his sins). Number two, baptism is the equivalent of “calling on the name of the Lord.”

The Hebrews’ writer wrote, “And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that **obey** him.” We can only obtain salvation by obeying the commands Jesus has given and for the reason he has given. Jesus commanded all people everywhere to have faith in Him as the Christ (John 8:24) and by that faith to repent of their sins (Luke 13:3), confess Him as the Christ (Matthew 10:32-33) and to be baptized in order to be saved (Mark 16:16). Baptism is one of Jesus’ commands and He has not given any non-essential command.

A Thought about Baptism (Galatians 3:26-27)

Tim Canup

“Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain **the salvation** which is **in Christ** Jesus with eternal glory” (II Timothy 2:10). Paul said salvation is **in Christ**. With this fact in mind, let us honestly consider how the Word of God answers the question, “How does a person get **into** Christ?”

Paul wrote, “For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:26). Does a person become a child of God (or obtain salvation) at the very moment they have faith in Christ, without any further acts of obedience? Let us back up and note Paul’s use of the word faith in this passage. Verse 23 says, “But before **faith** {literally, the faith} came, we were kept {or bound} under the law {which refers to the Old Law of Moses}, shut

up unto **the faith** which should afterwards be revealed.” Was Paul speaking of a person’s personal faith in this verse? If so, then no one had faith before the coming of Christ; however, this is easily disproven by Hebrews chapter 11. The word “faith,” refers to the Gospel System of faith every time it is used in these verses. In verses 24-25, Paul said the Old Law of Moses was for the purpose of bringing us to the Christ, and once we are under that new Law (the New Testament), we no longer are bound by the Old Law. At the end of verse 24, Paul said we are “justified by faith,” which implies obedience to the commands given in the Gospel.

Verse 26 explains how we are justified by the Gospel system; by being **in** Christ. Do not stop there, because verse 27 explains how we get **into Christ**. It is important to understand the difference between the prepositions “in” and “into.” “In” describes the location of something; such as, salvation (II Timothy 2:10) or forgiveness of sins (Ephesians 1:7). “Into” describes movement. You cannot correctly say you are **in** the house until you first enter **into** it; you cannot say you are in a jacket, until you first put it on. No one can biblically say they are **in** Christ until they first enter **into** Him or put Him on. How does the Bible say we do that? “For as many of you as have been **baptized into Christ have put on Christ**” (Galatians 3:27). Paul said that when we are “baptized into Jesus Christ, {we are} baptized into His death” (Romans 6:3-4) as we noted in our last article. Not one time does the New Testament say we have **faith into** Christ. No person can be in Christ, where salvation is, until they first have been baptized into Christ. Now, are you honest enough to accept God’s command?

“Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic” (James 3:13-15).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Feb 10 – Preach-N-Eat & 1:30 Worship
- Feb 24 – Song Service
- Mar 3 – Men’s Business Meeting & Ladies’ Bible Class
- Mar 10 – Daylight Savings Time Begins; Preach-N-Eat & 1:30 Worship
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell