**BECAUSE OF BAPTISM**

**2 Corinthians 5:17**

**INTRODUCTION:**

1. The Scriptures reveal emphatically: In baptism a penitent believer receives remission of sins (Ac 2:38). One finds a new life in Christ (Rom 6:4; Gal 3:26, 27; Eph 4:24; Col 3:10).

2. Baptism must have an essential relationship to the behavior of Christians, for the inspired

 writers taught Christians to be faithful to duty because of baptism!!

**BODY:**

**1. [WE] MUST WALK IN NEWNESS OF LIFE.**

 A. A new relationship with Christ begins at baptism (Rom 6:3 – 11).

 1. Christians are servants of righteousness walking in newness of life due to baptism.

 B. Is there a newness of LIFE? A transformation? (Eph 4:22 – 24; Col 1:13, 14).

 1. If you live the same LIFE as before baptism, then it has been of ***NO*** avail.

 C. Herein the church is greatly at fault.

 1. There was a time when the attack on the church was over baptism, and for that reason we preached long and loud about baptism being essential unto salvation.

 2.It has changed somewhat upon the kind of lives being lived by those baptized.

 3. [We] are  ***NOT*** be consistent in preaching baptism is essential unto the remission of sins,

 without preaching baptism must emulate an upright, godly, devoted Christian LIFE.

**2. [WE] MUST HAVE UNITY IN CHRIST**

 A. Paul revealed “…children of God by faith..baptized into Christ…” (Gal 3:26 – 28)

 B. A penitent believer is baptized/added to the church/Christ’s body (Ac 2:47; Col 1:18).

 1. There are many members in this body, **BUT** one body (Rom 12:4, 5; Eph 4:4, 5).

 2. Therefore, we must have “unity” in the body.

 C. Baptism allows us to arise to walk in newness of life…there must be “unity” among us.

 1. When strife and dissention is allowed to enter, [we] have forgotten [we] are baptized!

**3. [WE] MUST WORSHIP GOD**

 A. When 3000 were baptized into the church [body of Christ] on Pentecost, “they continued

 steadfastly in the apostles doctrine…fellowship…breaking of bread…prayers” (Ac 2:42).

 1. Christian worship is only for those who have been baptized (Lk 6:46; Jn 4:23, 24).

 A. One who has ***NOT*** believed on the Lord, repented of one’s sins and baptized into Christ…has ***NOT*** begun to do the Will of the Father (Lk 6:46; 7:21-23)!!

 B. Only the ones “born again” (Jn 3:3), “…of water and of the Spirit” (Jn 3:5).

 3. In addition, the Lord’s Table [Supper] is in His Kingdom (Lk 22:29, 30).

 A. Only those who are “born again” should eat at the Lord’s Table.

 B. How can a baptized person [Christian] afford to neglect this worship (Heb 10:25)?

**4. [WE] MUST HAVE REGULAR/SYSTEMATIC BIBLE STUDY (Mt 28:19, 20)**

 A. After baptism, [we] have ***NOT*** learned nor accomplished all there is in God’s Word.

 1. The new birth is completed by being new creatures in Christ (Gal 3:27).

 2. As “newborn babes” [we] are to “desire the sincere milk…grow there­by” (1 Pet 2:2).

 B. There is a reason why so many babies/weaklings are in the church (Heb 5:12 – 14).

 1. Failing to feed one physically, one will soon physically die. How about Spiritually?

 2. How much time is spent each day feeding the “physical man”? “Spiritual”? (Mt 4:4).

 C. Every church must have a continual teaching program to edify baptized believers wisdom

 in Spiritual Growth (Hos 4:6; Jer 8:8, 9; Mt 15:6; Rom 10:1 – 3).

**5. [WE] MUST SEEK THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE ABOVE (Col 3:1 – 3)**

 A. Jesus loved the church and “gave himself for it” (Eph 5:25). (2) reasons (Eph 5:26, 27)…

 B. Baptism is the consummating act in conversion.

 1. The door passing out of the Kingdom of darkness into the one of God’s Dear Son.

 2. [We] must ***NOT*** renounce our choice, break our vow or become traitors to Christ.