

HC 44-45 – Your Baptisms in Christ’s Suffering and Resurrection

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Today you will hear about two more baptisms that you have in Jesus Christ: Your baptism into Christ’s suffering, and your Baptism into Christ’s resurrection. And I am using ‘baptism correctly.’ Baptism means to be “united with.” Baptism does not mean “immersed” or “sprinkled” or “poured-on.” The Bible determines the meaning of the word by the context. (We worship God on Sun-Day, but we don’t worship the sun. We “repent,” but repentance means much more than to change your mind about something as the dictionary says. We hate, forsake our sin, and live holy lives.) Now back to our main point. When you and your children were baptized with water God marked you and showed that you were united with Christ in his covenant and with his covenant people. And this is important. You need all of these baptisms. If you were not baptized into Christ’s suffering you will still have to suffer for your sins. If you were not united into Christ’s resurrection, you will go to hell. So let God speak to you through his Word today and bless your hearts!

Our headings are: Baptism into Christ’s Suffering, and Baptism into Christ’s Resurrection.

Our goals are: That you will know about, desire, and be thankful for these baptisms Jesus Christ counted as yours.

Baptism into Christ’s Suffering

44 Q. WHY DOES THE CREED ADD, “HE DESCENDED INTO HELL”? A. To assure 保证 me in times of personal crisis 危机 and temptation that Christ my Lord, by suffering unspeakable anguish 悲楚,煎熬, pain, and terror of soul, especially on the cross but also earlier, has delivered me from the anguish and torment of hell.

1. Jesus Christ suffered unspeakable anguish during his life and especially at the end. What is anguish? Anguish is “an excruciating or severe distress.” Nowhere is his anguish clearer than in the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus’ anguish was so severe that his sweat became as drops of blood...and he pleaded for his friends to stay and pray with him.

Matthew 26:36 Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the disciples, "Sit here while I go and pray over there." 37 And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed. 38 Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death...

Luke 22:44 And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

In the Old Testament Isaiah spoke of this anguish that Jesus would face. Doesn’t multiple testimony confirms truth! Grief was the Lord’s friend...the one always around.

Isaiah 53:3 He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem 尊重 Him. 4 Surely He has borne 承担 our griefs And carried our sorrows...

And you were in him (baptized) in his anguish, you are credited with enduring his anguish.

2. Jesus Christ suffered unspeakable pain during his life and especially at the end. We saw this recently in a sermon so we won’t go into details now...but you are familiar with Isaiah’s description of Jesus’ physical suffering. His physical suffering was exacerbated加剧 because he was suffering at the hand of the ones he came to redeem...and he was suffering alone...as his friends abandoned him...and he was suffering totally innocently. Look at 6 striking words.

Isaiah 53: 5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement 惩罚 for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. 7 He was oppressed and He was afflicted. Yet He opened not His mouth...

And you were (baptized) in the Lord when he endured pain, so you are credited with his pain.

3. Jesus Christ suffered terror of his soul during his life and especially at the end...and the worst of all was his rejection by his Father. Your Lord’s rejection by his Father was infinitely无限 worse than the physical suffering he endured at the hands of his own people...and with the collaboration合作 of the religious leaders of the day.

Matthew 27: 45 Now from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over all the land. 46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, **"My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"**

No wonder Jesus Christ prayed in the Garden that if possible that the Father might take away his cup of suffering. But look at the blessing! And you were (baptized) in him when God already turned his back him so you are credited with having been rejected by God. So now God can never turn his back against you again! Glory, Alleluia!

4. So what benefit do you get from being united with Christ in his suffering of his body and soul? The Bible tells us clearly.

Romans 6: 5 For if we have **been united together in the likeness of His death**, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, 6 knowing this, **that our old man was crucified with Him**, that the body of **sin might be done away with**, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. 7 For he who has died has been freed from sin. 8 **Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him**, 9 knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. 10 For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. 11 Likewise you also, **reckon** 看作, 认为 **yourself to be dead indeed to sin**, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

So you have been delivered from the terror and anguish of hell. Jesus Christ rescued you from hell. It was as if he himself went into hell to free you. Jesus did not have to go to hell literally to free you from hell. He had to experience the tortures that you deserve to set you free from hell.

So you now have rest – a rest no one can take away.

Hebrews 4:8 For if Joshua had given them rest, then He would not afterward have spoken of another day. 9 There remains therefore a rest for the people of God. 10 For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His.

You are dead to the consequences of sin.

Baptism with Christ in his Resurrection

45 Q. HOW DOES CHRIST'S RESURRECTION BENEFIT US? A. First, by his resurrection he has overcome death, so that he might make us share in the **righteousness** he won for us by his death. Second, by his power we too are already now **resurrected** to a new life. Third, Christ's resurrection is a guarantee 保证 of our glorious **resurrection**.

1. Since Jesus Christ was raised from the dead, it showed that he had full power over death. Death had lost its sting and the Lord had conquered 战胜了 death.

1Corinthians 15: 17 And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile 徒劳的, 无用的; you are still in your sins! 18 Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. 19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable 可怜的.. 20 But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

So what benefits do you receive from him? You started to see the benefits in V20.

2. Since Christ was raised from the dead and you united (baptized) with him in his resurrection, you too were raised:

a. So you are then free of all sins and declared righteous.

Romans 4: 23 Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him, 24 but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead, 25 who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.

You never have to die...be separated from God...rather you are united with Christ forever.

Wherever he is there you are. (Ephesians 2: You are seated in heavenly places.)

b. So you have been resurrected from the spiritual dead – resurrection #1.

Ephesians 2:4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

And the Apostle Paul encourages you, based on your spiritual resurrection in Jesus Christ, that you work as though you understand the greatness of your hope. In other words, don't live like a refugee begging for a place to live...and for the means of living. Live like a prince. Don't let sin conquer you! Use your spiritual weapons to fight.

Colossians 3: 1 If then you were raised with Christ, **seek those things which are above**, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. 2 **Set your mind on things above**, not on things on the earth. 3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

c. So Jesus is now your guarantee that you too will have a **glorious resurrection – Resurrection #2**. Even your body will be there where he is when he comes back for you. And while you wait, you are kept by the power of God.

1Peter 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance incorruptible 不腐朽的 and undefiled 无玷污的 and that does not fade away 消逝, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Your guarantee of your resurrection is from one who has the ability to do what he guarantees...not like the air conditioner salesman who gives you a warrantee for 10 years but only is in business for 3, until he changes his company's name. Jesus Christ has the power to lay down his life and to take it up again.

3. What about those today, like those in the United Church of Canada who believe that Jesus was not raised from the dead? It is madness to say you are a Christian but not believe in the resurrection. That is evidence of an empty faith...and evidence that you are still in your sins. In fact, the Apostle Paul says that if you don't believe in the resurrection, you are pathetic. You deserve pity.

1Corinthians 15: 12 Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. 14 And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty... 17 And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! 19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable. 20 But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.

The true believer through faith realizes that Jesus was raised from the dead as your 2nd Adam, and you now have a heavenly citizenship. And you confidently wait for the Lord to return...and for the new body that he will give you. You were united with him, so what he achieved you can have as well. He went to heaven so you will go to heaven. Faith is such a powerful thing!

Philippians 3:20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

Conclusion:

You were united (baptized) in Christ and so suffered in Christ during his life and especially at the end. What he achieved is credited to your account because you have faith. You were united (baptized) with Christ and so you were buried and then resurrected with Christ. What he achieved is credited to your account because of your faith. So you can say as the Scriptures: I was baptized in Christ's suffering and baptized in his resurrection.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: 1. You were saved completely – solely- because of what Christ did. (Solus Christus) Salvation is of the Lord. You simply are a receiver by faith of what Jesus Christ did. 2. Are you thankful as you should for your salvation? Stop every day and say: "Thank you Lord for saving me." 3. Confidently go about your duties in this life knowing that you will never have to pay for your sins. Don't live a defeated life overwhelmed by sins. Confess them and receive Christ's forgiveness. Have confidence that Jesus paid it all. You must never sweep sin under the carpet. You have no need to.

Finally: If you are not a Christian I pity you! I pity you because I know you will have to suffer and die for your sins...in the worst possible way. But my love for you...and more importantly...the Lord's love for the world says that if you knock and invite him, he will come in and have fellowship with you forever. That means, pray and ask him to make come into your life. He will give you all his promises.