

Becoming A Christian (*Exhortation Before Baptism*) Text : **Romans 6: 1-18**

INTRODUCTION :

A. Have you ever giving someone the wrong directions ?

1. Sometimes one makes innocent mistakes
 - a. Incorrect memory
 - b. Inadvertent mistake
2. To deliberately misdirect others is a malicious act.
 - a. They don't want to help another accomplish his goal. (*Rivalry*)
(**Older employee misdirects one hired for a job he wanted.**)
 - b. Sometime misdirection is a malicious prank.
(**Service Station attendant misdirects people who direct him to come out in rain.**)

B. Satan deliberately misdirects people to prevent them from being saved.

1. Basically ... Satan hates God and all who serve Him. (*not seeking you out of love*)
2. Satan wants to usurp God's sovereign reign.
3. He sends forth people teaching so many different things the truth is often obscured.

C. To counteract Satan's deceptions, God gave man a set of written instructions.

1. By following God's written instructions man can know exactly what is requires of him. (*Individually responsible to seek His will*)
2. This guide is complete :
II Pet. 1: 2-3 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; **3** seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.
3. This guide is permanent :
Jude 3- Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints.
4. This permanent, complete guide is the written standard given by God :
I Cor. 4: 6- Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively applied to myself and Apollos for your sakes, so that in us you may learn not to exceed what is written, so that no one of you will become arrogant in behalf of one against the other.

From God's eternal standard let us very briefly look at what God says about the how and why of salvation.

I. Why does man need salvation ?

A. Though God creates each person pure and sinless at birth, we all go astray.

1. We are all born with a perfectly clean slate : (*One cannot inherit guilt.*)
Ezek. 28: 15- You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created until unrighteousness was found in you. (**Eccl. 7: 29, Ezek. 18:20**)
2. All men eventually go astray from God and do their own desires.
 - a. **Isa. 53:6-** All of us like sheep have gone astray.
 Each of us has turned to his own way;
 But the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him.
 - b. **Eccl. 7: 20-** Indeed, there is not a righteous man on earth who continually does good and who never sins.
 - c. *These are the foundation for the Apostle Paul's teaching ...* **Rom. 3: 10, 23**
To sin is to fall short of the standard which God has set for man, i.e. to rebel.

B. One's first sin results in his death.

(*One shot 25 times does not become more dead.*)

1. **Rom. 6: 23** - For the wages of sin is death, (*singular .. one sin, any sin*)
 but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
2. Living like our neighbors causes spiritual death. (*Being like everyone else kills us.*)
Eph. 2: 1-3 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, **2** in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. **3** Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.
 (*One doesn't have to be jack the ripper to be spiritually dead, just fit in.*)
3. We see our neighbors living in sin ... not physically dead ... **What is this death ?**
 - a. Spiritual death is separation from God.
Isa. 59: 1-2 Behold, the Lord's hand is not so short That it cannot save;
Nor is His ear so dull That it cannot hear. **2** But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, And your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear.
 - b. Whatever spiritual relationship we have with God at death becomes eternal.
4. For man to have a relationship with God requires that man submit to God's rule.
James 4: 8- Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. ... (*Won't turn away*)
1 Pet. 5:6- Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God,
that He may exalt you at the proper time,

II. Spiritually dead people can be made alive through faith in Jesus and the Christ.

A. Only the resurrected Savior can give life to those who are dead.

1. **Eph. 2: 4-5** But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, **5** even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),
2. In order for the dead to be made alive, the cause of their death must be removed.
Col. 1: 13-14 For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, **14** in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. (Cf- **Col. 2: 13**)

B. Salvation comes only through faith in Jesus Christ.

1. **Eph. 2: 8-9** For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; **9** not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. (cf- **Tit. 3: 5**)
- * 2. **Sin is an infection that is killing all mankind and only Jesus can cure it.**
John 14: 6- Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.
- ** **Therefore :** *In order to be saved, one must have faith in Christ Jesus.*

Note : Faith is more than belief that Jesus is the Son of God. **James 2: 19**

C. Salvation is only IN Christ Jesus.

1. **II Tim. 2: 10-** For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they also may obtain the salvation which is IN Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory.
2. **Thus,** one must be IN Christ in order to be saved.
HOW does one get into Christ ?
Gal. 3: 26-27 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.
27 For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

III. Baptism is the ceremony in which one is cleansed by the blood of Jesus.

* *We know this to be true because things equal to the same thing are equal to each other.*

A. Both baptism and the blood of Christ are for the forgiveness of sins.

1. **Acts 2: 38-** Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
2. **Eph. 1: 7-** In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace

B. Both baptism and the blood of Christ wash away sins.

1. **Acts 22: 16-** Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.
2. **Rev. 1: 5-** and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,

C. Baptism and the blood of Christ both cleanse a person's conscience.

1. **I Pet. 3: 21-** Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience — through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,
2. **Heb. 9: 14-** how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

** Therefore, baptism is the point at which one contacts the forgiving blood of Christ.*

IV. Baptism is also the point of commitment to Christ.**A. Baptism expresses faith ... not just belief.**

1. Faith is expressed by actions. (*What one believes governs his life.*)
2. **James 2** ... Faith motivated Abraham to willingly give his only son.

B. Paul taught that being baptized is making a commitment to live differently.

1. **Rom. 6: 1-18** ... One comes up out of the water a different person. (*New Life*)
2. **Acts 2: 38** ... Peter told people they had to “**repent**” before being baptized.
3. This means that one who is in Christ an agent of Christ on earth. (**II Cor. 5: 14-19**)

C. There are no secret agents in Christ Jesus.

1. **Matt. 10: 32-33** Therefore everyone who confesses Me before men,
I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven.
2. **Rom. 10: 8-9** But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart”—that is, the word of faith which we are preaching,
9 that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;
3. This confession of faith is not a onetime ritual, **but rather part of your new life.**
 - a. When Christ or his church is assailed, you must defend Him.
 - b. **I Pet. 3: 15** ... When opportunity arises, you must be ready to share your faith.

V. This is a beginning, not an end.

A. You will be tempted in many ways, but you must serve God faithfully.

1. **I Cor. 15: 58**- Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.
2. **Gal. 6:9**- Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary.

B. Satan will tempt you but God will be with you.

I Cor. 10: 12-13 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall. **13** No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

C. You will make mistakes, but do not be discouraged by them.

1. **I John 1: 6-10** ... As long as you are honest with God about your sin He will forgive your transgressions.
2. **I John 3: 5-10** ... But sin can never become your lifestyle.

D. If one lives by the commitment he makes at baptism, he receives God's reward.

1. **Rev. 2: 10** - ... Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.
2. All who live their faith can face God with great anticipation as did the Apostle Paul.
II Tim. 4: 6-8 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. **7** I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; **8** in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

CONCLUSION :

Baptism

Lesson Text :**Romans 6: 1-18**

1 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? **2** May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? **3** Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? **4** Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. **5** For if we have become united with *Him* in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be *in the likeness* of His resurrection, **6** knowing this, that our old self was crucified with *Him*, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; **7** for he who has died is freed from sin.

8 Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, **9** knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master 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** Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, **13** and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. **14** For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? May it never be! **16** Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness? **17** But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, **18** and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.