

Series: Sermons on Baptism  
Title: The Picture in Baptism  
Text: Romans 6: 3-11  
Date: July 30, 2017  
Place: SGBC, New Jersey (Baptism of Kimberly Thacker)

This hour we will see “The Picture in Baptism.”

**Proposition:** In baptism we are picturing our salvation by the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

## DEATH OF THE OLD MAN

**Romans 6: 3: Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized [unto] Jesus Christ were baptized [unto] his death. 4: Therefore we are buried with him by baptism [unto] death:...**

Baptism pictures the fact that the believer’s old man of sin died in the death of Christ. Verse 3 means Christ’s death is what we pictured by water baptism. Verse 4 means therefore we are picturing by baptism that we are buried with him.

Why did Christ have to die?

First, it was necessary so *that God might be just*;—Romans 6: 23: For the wages of sin *is* death;...

Exodus 34: 7: [God’s glory is that he] will by no means clear the guilty

Christ knew no sin. Christ was not conceived in sin as we are; he is that Holy Thing born of the virgin called the Son of God. Christ walked under the law for 33 ½ years and never sinned in thought, word or deed. Christ was proven to be “*God providing himself a Lamb*” “*without spot or blemish.*”

Yet, the purpose for which he was made holy and sinless flesh was to be the Head of his people. So that the LORD could lay on him the iniquity of all his people then justly bruise him as the head of his people, satisfying and honoring God’s law and justice.

Isaiah 42: 21: The LORD is well pleased for his righteousness’ sake; he will magnify the law, and make *it* honourable.

1 Peter 2: 24: [So Christ] his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree,...

Isaiah 53: 4: Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows:...

2 Corinthians 5: 21: For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

When Christ was made sin as Head and Substitute of his people, God IMMERSSED HIM IN THE LIVING DEATH DEMANDED BY DIVINE JUSTICE AGAINST SIN.

Zechariah 13: 7: Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, and against the man *that is* my fellow, saith the LORD of hosts: smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered: and I will turn mine hand upon the little ones.

Isaiah 53: 5: But he *was* wounded for our transgressions, *he was* bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace *was* upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. 6: All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all... 10: Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him;...

The reason we immerse the believer completely under the water is not only because the word baptize means immersion—but because the death Christ suffered on the cross, he called a baptism—because he was immersed in divine judgment.

Psalm 69: 1: Save me, O God; for the waters are come in unto *my* soul. 2: I sink in deep mire, where *there is* no standing: I am come into deep waters, where the floods overflow me.

Psalm 18: 4: The sorrows of death compassed me, and the floods of ungodly men made me afraid.

Lamentations 3: 54: Waters flowed over mine head; then I said, I am cut off.

Psalm 42: 7: Deep calleth unto deep at the noise of thy waterspouts: all thy waves and thy billows are gone over me.

The Ark in Noah's day pictured this. God broke up the waterspouts of the deep from beneath and God poured out rain from above. So the ark was immersed in the flood. That is a picture of judgment immersing Christ on the cross.

Hereby, God's justice was honored and the law fulfilled! When Christ died justice was honored upon all his people in him. So Christ declared God just!

The other reason Christ had to die was to *declare God the Justifier of his people*; this is also what the believer confesses in believer's baptism—*Romans 6: 6: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.*

When Christ was crucified, every elect child of God was in Christ; Christ was made to be what we are. Therefore, *our old man is crucified with him that the body of sin [our old fleshly man] might be destroyed.* The word "destroyed" means "to render inactive, to deprive of force and power; to cause to cease, to pass away, to be done away." Our "*old man is crucified with Christ*" that "*the body of sin [our old man]*" might be "*rendered inactive and caused to cease, to pass away, to be done away.*"

When Christ died, the old man of sin in all his people died before the judgment seat of God. When a man dies, the law cannot ever charge him again for his sin, he is dead—*Romans 6: 7: For he that is dead is freed [justified] from sin.* When Christ died, all his people were justified, made the righteousness of God in Christ before the judgment seat of God.

What does it mean to be *justified from sin*? Our sin—in thought, word and deed; past, present and future—was blotted out of God's record-book never again to be remembered by God. God will never again charge Christ's people with sin. So God says to everyone who believes on Christ—*Romans 6: 11: Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin...*

What do we do with a dead man? We bury his body. Christ body was buried in a tomb. Believer, behold your old man, your body of sin buried in that tomb when Christ was buried!

So when the believer goes *completely under the water, buried in the watery grave*—the believer confesses that he is saved by the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. He confesses he was immersed in justice and

died in Christ so that God is just and his law honored upon him. He confesses God is Just and his Justifier since Christ justified him when he died in him.

## **RISEN TO NEWNESS OF LIFE**

**Romans 6: 4: 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. 5: For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also *in the likeness of his resurrection*: 8: Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:**

The second thing the believer confesses when he comes up out of the water is that when Christ arose, he arose to newness of life and we in him. We believe all those justified by Christ on the cross arose with Christ when he arose from the dead.

Ephesians 2: 6: And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

In addition, we believe all for whom Christ died must in this life take part in the first resurrection by the Holy Spirit—being born-again through Christ's blood to live by faith in him.

John 6:37 [Christ said] All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

2 Thessalonians 2: 13: But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: 14: Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In addition, we believe all for whom Christ died must be resurrected to eternal glory with Christ in the life to come and none shall be lost.

1 Corinthians 15: 53: For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

This is a must because Christ satisfied justice, justifying all his people on the cross and God is just.

Romans 6: 9: Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. 10: For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.

Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more. Death has no more dominion over Christ because—*1 Corinthians 15: 56: The sting of death is sin and the strength of sin is the law.* And Christ satisfied the law and justified his people from our sin. This he did by one offering dying unto sin once.

God is just—therefore because his people were in Christ, death has no more dominion over us—in *that he died, he died unto sin once*: and so did all his people in him. *But in that he liveth, he liveth unto God* and so do all his people in him.

Therefore, assured God is just and will do right—God says to all who believe on Christ—*Romans 6: 11: Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

## **THE PICTURE**

So here is the picture in baptism. When the believer is *immersed in the watery grave* he is picturing the fact that he died when Christ died. When the believer *arises from the watery grave* he is picturing the fact that he arose when Christ arose and is now born-again to newness of life to live by faith, and is looking for the day when Christ shall raise him to eternal glory!

1 Corinthians 15: 57: But thanks *be* to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 6: 23: For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen!**