

The Main Point Before a person comes to Christ he is powerless in the grip of sin. A person joined to Christ is made part of the cross and the power of sin dies in him. A person joined to Christ is made part of Christ's resurrection. A Christian, by faith, considers that he is like Christ in this world. He can choose what sort of life he shall live. He can go back to his old ways or move toward glory.

Overview

1-V1 People make the most amazing excuses to justify doing the things they know are wrong. The reasoning of some referred to here is: If we keep on sinning it gives God a chance to show us more and more _____ and _____.

2-V 2-4 The thing at stake in leaving sinning behind is our moving on to live _____ lives that enable us to fellowship with God (as well as avoiding old miseries.)

3-V2-4 Christ became like us so that we could become like him. _____ is the term that is used to speak of this joining of our life with his life so that we become _____ with him and by the glorious power of the _____ live new _____.

The benefits of joining ourselves to Christ

4- V5 #1 POWER OF SIN BROKEN "Our _____ sinful selves were _____ with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. --No longer _____ to sin. --Now set _____ from the power of sin."

5-V8-10 #2 WE WILL NOT REALLY EXPERIENCE DEATH "Since we died with Christ we will share His new _____. Death has no power over Christ---Therefore, it has no power over us. "We have already passed from death to life".(John 5:24)

6-V11 #3 WE CAN LIVE GLORIOUS LIVES. " So you should _____ yourselves dead to sin and _____ to live for the glory of God through Christ Jesus."

7-V12-14 Because sin is no longer our _____ (v14) it cannot _____ us unless we choose to give in to its lustful _____. We don't have to let our physical bodies become a _____ of wickedness. We can choose to live for the glory of God.

8-V15 A person might think – "I'm not under the law anymore so I can do whatever I please." The catch is that what ever we _____ becomes our _____. The choice is to have _____ as our master- or _____ as our master

10-V19 If we choose to become a _____ to righteousness we will become _____ which will make it possible to be the FRIENDS OF GOD who is holy.

11-V20-21 There was a time in most Christian's lives before they joined themselves to Christ when they were _____ of sin. Now they are _____ of those days. Now they are also relieved that they are not stumbling toward destruction and eternal _____

12-V23 "For the wages of sin is _____, but the _____ gift of God is eternal life though Christ Jesus our Master."

Word Study

- OBEYED • CHOOSE • WAGES • POWER • KEEP ON • RAISED
- BAPTISM • ONE • CONSIDER

1. V. 1 _____ None of us is free from a desire to "keep on" doing some favorite sins. Apparently some of the folks in this church had come up with a reason to keep on doing the sin stuff that still looked good to them. They said it made God look good when He forgave them. Actually the devil had planted a slick lie in the minds of these baby

Christians. If a habit of life that made us so miserable and hopeless has become dead in us---- why would we want to give it artificial respiration?

2.V. 3 _____ There are two major disagreements in the Christian community about baptism. (1) If a baby or child can connect with Christ --or only an older child or adult with a matured intellect can be touched by the Holy Spirit (2) The amount of water. • The issue of baptism is not being immersed in water but immersed in Christ---in the heart. Christ in the form of the Holy Spirit comes into the hearts of people who are baptized. The effect of His indwelling presence is that our old self is replaced by the Christ self.

3.V4 _____ Believing in Christ, turning one's life over to Him, inviting the presence of His Spirit and being baptized in water ---**have one purpose** -- to intertwine our selves with Christ like we take the fingers of our right and left hands and intertwine them. We become intertwined with the effect of His cross and His resurrection. They become part of our souls. It is compared to a husband and wife becoming "One flesh" Ephesians 5:20

4.V5 _____ Jesus said, "I assure you, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me HAVE eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have ALREADY passed from death into LIFE." John 5:24

5.V7 _____ Sin is a greater power than we are. So Father God doesn't look at us sinning and say--- STOP THAT! He knows He's wasting His breath. We are not free to stop. Even when we hate the bad things we do --- we eventually will weaken and do some of them in spite of every New Year's resolution. The power of sin dwells in us like an enemy in our house --like cancer in our body. It will overwhelm us and kill us if not stopped. Sin loses its control only by being put to death— by death on the cross with Jesus

6.V 11 _____ See as -- Reckon – Declared-- Count as. This Greek word LOGIZOMAI is also used in Romans 4:3 where God declares Abraham as perfectly acceptable in His sight because Abraham trusts in Him and walks with Him as a friend.

• In Romans 8:11 it is the Christian who does the declaring. The Christian says in effect, "Since Jesus came into my heart I am like Him down deep inside where I live. He is " Lord of All" in the world--and in me. I have lordship over temptations if I will keep my attention fixed on CHRIST IN ME. I am able to be good and holy like Christ who is IN ME. "

7. V16 _____ The essential difference between human kind and the other creatures of this earth is that people have the power to choose what they will do. Whereas animals are ruled by instinct. This power of choice was greatly damaged when the power of sin came into the human heart. However, a sinner can still call out for God's help though he is powerless to escape by his own strength. When the sinner becomes child of God – in his union with Jesus --he again rules over all things – he has a place of authority. "We have been brought into this place of highest privilege where we now stand." Romans 5:2 ' We are seated (as the sons and daughters of a king) in heavenly places (sharingthe throne) in Christ Jesus." Ephesians 1:6 However, it is still our choice— be like the devil or be like Christ.

8.V17 _____ The word in the original language referred especially to slaves or servants paying careful attention to every word of their master with an intention to obey their smallest command. "I lift up my eyes to you, O God, enthroned in heaven. We look to the Lord our God for his mercy just as servants keep their eyes on their master, as a slave girl watches her mistress for the slightest signal. " Psalm 123

9 V23 _____ Wages are paid for performance on a job. The wages an employee is paid for his work is money. The wages a sinner gets paid for his life of

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rejecting a relationship with God is death. The "tree of life" is in God's place. All people are trapped in "the power of sin". No person can escape being self centered and God rejecting. The power of sin is like an alien presence in people. **Christ became sin** and took it to the cross. 2 Corinthians 5:20. The death of sin in us is his gift to us. His kind of life called "eternal life" was his gift to us. In the end "God's kindness rules" in this world.

What does this Scripture say to you?
