

Sermons Notes for August 21st

Who are we?

- We are God's children

1 John 5:19-20

19 We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one. **20** We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true by being in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.

Romans 8:16-18

16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. **17** Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

What makes us different, unique?

- God does
- We make a difference that is real and counts for something
- Our story
- Our teaching
- Our history
- The truth

John 8:31-32

31 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. **32** Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

2 Peter 1:10 Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; **11** for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Paul also stresses the importance of obeying the gospel call today in,

2 Corinthians 6:2 Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

Now the question becomes how does a sinner obey the gospel call?

Well first of all we can see that we must go to God's word to find out how to be saved.

James 1:21 Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

But there is more to salvation than reading God's word we must obey it as James says in the next verse.

James 1:22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

One thing that we must do is believe that Jesus is the Son of God.

John 8:24 "Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am *He*, you will die in your sins."

Now some folks stop here and they think that they are saved by faith alone but this simply is not true in fact the only time that the term faith alone is used is found in the following verse,

James 2:14 What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him?

James 2:17 Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

James 2:24 You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.

Luke 13:3 "I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.

Now the type of repentance that is being talked about here is not merely saying I'm sorry it means that you have a change of heart and you are going to do your best to live the way God wants you to. Paul explains this type of repentance in,

2 Corinthians 7:9 Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. ¹⁰ For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death. ¹¹ For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner: What diligence it produced in you, what clearing of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what vehement desire, what zeal, what vindication! In all things you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter.

The Bible also teaches us that we must confess Jesus as our Lord.

Romans 10:9 if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

Now this is not some one-time confession but it is to a continuous one and we can do this verbally and by the way we live our life.

We must look to God's Word to find out how to be saved and we have learned that several things are mentioned to be saved such as believing, repenting and confessing but the Bible reveals one more crucial step that makes the difference of being saved and being lost and that step is being baptized into Christ for the remission of your sins. Peter makes it clear that baptism also saves us in,

1 Peter 3:21 There is also an antitype which now saves us -- baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

We also learn from the scriptures that a person still has their sins until they are baptized and it should be obvious that if we are still in our sins then we cannot possibly be saved before baptism. Notice a

couple of passages,

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Anybody with a sincere heart for the truth can understand this simply passage. It clearly says that a person must be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of their sins. No baptism = no forgiveness of sins which = separation from God. You also notice that the Holy Spirit is not given until these commands are followed. So again no baptism = no forgiveness of sin = no holy spirit given = separation from God.

Finally we can see this with Paul when Ananias tells him,

Acts 22:16 And now why are you gift waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.'

Now in context Paul had encountered Jesus on the road to Damascus and so he believes that Jesus was the Son of God. He also obeyed Jesus' instruction to wait in town for further instruction. He repented and had Godly sorrow displayed by his fasting and praying to God for 3 days. He even confessed Jesus as Lord. Now if anybody could have been saved at this point by just belief or by saying a sinner's prayer it would have been Paul. By the way the sinners prayer that you hear about so much on TV is nowhere to be found in the Bible. Now the question becomes was Paul saved before baptism? No, he was not because after all the things he had already done he was still in his sins. That is why Ananias tells him to get up and go get yourself baptized so that your sins can be washed away.

Friends it doesn't get any clearer than this that a person must be baptized in the name of Jesus for the remission of their sin or they will be lost. Now, once you accept God's saving grace at the point of baptism you must then continue to live a faithful life to God.

So if you are here this morning and you are ready to stop procrastinating when it comes to obeying he Gospel call, then why don't you come forward this morning and be baptized into Christ so

that your sins can finally be removed making you a born again Christian.

Or if you are here this morning and you need to repent publicly of something please come forward as we sing our invitation song.