

SECURE YOUR FUTURE

Introduction: Look up the Bible texts and write a summary of what you read on the lines provided.

Titus 2:11-14; and 3:3-8 _____
Though you and I have been born, raised, and lived in ungodly, disobedient ways and we are condemned to death, hell and destruction, God has loved us without reason and brought us the gift of salvation in Jesus Christ (Romans 5:6-10). He paid an infinite price for us in His Son to redeem us from all iniquity and to purify us for His very own people. But such is His grace to justify us and give us the inheritance of eternal life; such is how much He loves us (1 Corinthians 15:1-4; 2 Timothy 1:9,10).

2 Peter 1:10,11 _____
(Romans 11:29)
God has done and made provision to finish for us these things we have read about. He has called us and actually elected us to salvation. He has justified us by His grace, reconciled us by Jesus' blood and thus accepted us. But such a salvation is of no value to us unless we believe it and claim it for our own. As we trust His Word about it, we outwardly let it show that we have accepted His love and forgiveness. We must make our calling and election sure - we must secure our future (Acts 16:31,32). "Therefore, although the work of redemption itself has been accomplished, it still cannot help and benefit a man unless he believes it and experiences its saving power in his heart." (What Luther Says, ed. Ewald M. Plass, Vol. II, pp. 705,706).

Putting on Christ:

Romans 13:12-14 _____
(Galatians 3:26-29)
Putting on Christ by faith through baptism brings us into intimate union with Jesus. Baptism is our signing our name on God's contract for our salvation. It's the way we show Him the decision we have made about accepting His plans for us (Ephesians 1:4,5; Luke 12:32). Here, through this simple ceremony, we can delight to show our faith in Him, our love for Him, our death to sin with Christ, our new life in Christ for His glory. It is our pledge, through the strength He supplies, to continue to hold on to Him, believe His Word, trust Him for all things, cherish and obey His Commandments and instructions the very best that we can.

Romans 6:4,5 _____
(Colossians 2:12)

Part of His Body:

1 Corinthians 12:12,13 _____
(Romans 12:5)

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Matthew 28:19,20 _____
By baptism we become a recognized part of the body of Jesus Christ (His body is His Church - Ephesians 1:22,23; Colossians 1:18). All the benefits of that body are then available to us. Jesus is our Head and we are under His special care and protection. The opposite is also true. When a part of our human body is cut off, the head has no more influence or control over it. So it is, that if we do not take up our rightful position in the body of Jesus, we cut ourselves off from Him, our Head, and He cannot help and direct us. We will be as the heathen, yet in our sins (Matthew 18:17; John 8:24,31). Let us shun away from any such trap of the devil and instead run into the place of safety: God's Church, Christ's Body.

Baptism Is for Believers:

Mark 16:15,16 _____
(Matthew 3:16)

Acts 2:38 _____
Repentance as well as faith are gifts from God, given to us as we hear the good news about Christ's work for our salvation. Repentance is the honesty to face up to our sinful, lost condition in the presence of God's holy Law and to desire to begin honoring God by obedience. Faith is believing and trusting in Christ to cover our past sins, give us His victories over present temptations and deliver us from the future until His coming. Without these convictions baptism is meaningless. But with them baptism is everything the believer desires, that he might enter fully into Christ and eternal life.

Acts 19:1-5 _____
Here is a group of believers who had been baptized once already but they had only a limited understanding of salvation. When God brought them into contact with members of His Church and they came into a deeper knowledge of salvation through Christ, they wanted to be baptized again in this fuller light of truth. This is as proper and fitting today as then.

Acts 8:5-12 _____

He Went on His Way Rejoicing:

Acts 8:26-39 _____
How beautiful and filled with meaning is this simple commitment to Christ. Perhaps the question is on your mind as it was with the Ethiopian, "What is there to stop me from being baptized?" Nothing at all if you too believe and trust with all your heart that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, your Savior, and you want to live for Him. Nothing else could bring you more happiness, peace of mind and rejoicing; and nothing else would spark more celebration in the Kingdom of God.

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Acts 22:16 _____
(Romans 10:13)

Memorials of Jesus:

1 Corinthians 15:1-4 _____

1 Corinthians 11:23-29 _____
(Matthew 26:20-30)

Our Lord saw that for our best spiritual development, it would be wise for us to periodically review the scenes of His sacrifice by which we are saved, that we might refresh our commitment to Him. This is why He introduced the Communion Service. By eating of the symbols of His body and blood we renew our devotion to Him and show our continued dependence upon His sacrifice for our sins.

John 13:1-17 _____
(1 Timothy 5:10)

Here, right before the Communion supper, Jesus instituted one other humble service to prepare the hearts of His followers to appreciate the deep spiritual meaning of the Communion symbols. It is a way to examine our own hearts, to put away any pride, foolishness, or self-dependence. These things break down communication between us, the Lord and one another; and we miss the blessing of the Communion. Having our feet washed and washing the feet of our brother or sister in the faith is thus a miniature memorial of salvation in Jesus. We acknowledge our sinfulness and our sinful state; and allow Jesus in the person of one of His members, to wash and cleanse us from our sins by His blood. Then, the Communion Service is a time of rejoicing, thanksgiving, and praise to God for His works through Christ for our salvation.

Secure your future? Yes! Thanks be to God who has given us these simple, yet beautiful ways to be and remain secure in Christ Our Righteousness.

"DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME"