

AN EXPERIENCE WITH JESUS WE ALL NEED
(Romans 6:1-5)

I. Our past life (vs. 1-2).

- A. At some point, and some may still be, we were alive to sin and not dead to it.
- B. Each of us was in a state of sin where our lives were stained by it and we were engaged in sin.
 - 1. Saul of Tarsus was a man who was in sin and dedicated to it, despite the fact he didn't even realize it.
 - 2. The Corinthians at one were alive to sin (1 Corinthians 6:9-11).
- C. We lived for sin and not for Jesus.
- D. Sin dominated us like it had dominated Paul (Romans 7:19-20).
 - 1. We may have fought against it, but we couldn't overcome it on our own.
 - 2. A lot of us didn't even fight against it, we just caved right in to it.
- E. It may be that we even thought we were right religiously, just as Saul of Tarsus had.
 - 1. We believed in God and did what we thought was right religiously but we were still in sin.
 - 2. The reason we still were in sin is because we had not obeyed God's law of entrance into the kingdom.
 - 3. We may have even been baptized but it was not for the right reason or purpose or into the right religious body.
- F. Simply put, we were in the same spiritual boat as the Ephesian Gentiles had been (Ephesians 2:11-12).
- G. It is probable that there are some here for whom what we just said is not their past life but their present.
- H. There are those here though, that have had an experience with Jesus that now brings us to our next point.

II. Our present condition (vs. 3-4).

- A. The experience with Jesus that all men need is to be baptized into Him and put Him on in baptism (vs. 3, Galatians 3:26-27).
 - 1. The purpose of baptism is to wash away our sins (Acts 22:16), and place us in Christ.
 - 2. Baptism takes away our sins because in baptism the old man of sin dies (Romans 6:6).
- B. Baptism absolutely saves us (1 Peter 3:21).
 - 1. The blood of Jesus has the power and ability to wash away our sins (Revelation 1:5).
 - 2. Jesus shed His blood at His death (John 19:34).
 - 3. We come into contact with that blood when we obey a likeness of His death, burial and resurrection at baptism (Romans 6:3-4).
- C. Baptism allows us to have a new condition of being in Christ and walking in newness of life (2 Corinthians 5:17).
- D. This simply means we are different people now.

1. Our names and faces don't change, but our actions, attitudes, dress, speech and many things do.
2. Saul was feared by the church and loved by Jews but Paul was loved by the church and feared by Jews.
3. It changed the once sinful Corinthians (1 Corinthians 6:11).
- E. For those of us who have had this experience with Jesus, it has changed us or we just got wet.
- F. We have died to sin.
 1. This does not mean we fail to sin any longer.
 2. It does mean we are not dominated by it and desiring to do it the way we once did.
 3. Our thoughts are no longer centered on sin, but on serving the One who died for us.
 4. Our actions are no longer selfish, but self-less.
 5. Our love is not for the world but for the Lord.
- G. All of this comes about through baptism (Titus 3:5).
- H. The only baptism that does that is the baptism taught in the New Testament.
 1. This is the baptism of immersion for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38).
 2. The change is not accomplished through denominational baptism.
 3. There is no way to be saved before sin is removed.
 4. There is no way to be taught wrong and baptized right.

III. Our promised reward (vs. 5).

- A. The experience with Jesus at baptism changes our present condition immensely.
- B. Not only does it change the present, it gives a great promise for the future and the reward we will receive for being changed.
- C. We are promised that we will also get to be in the likeness of His resurrection.
 1. One day our Lord is returning (Acts 1:10-11).
 2. Those who are in the graves are going to be resurrected (1 Thessalonians 4:14-17).
 3. Those that have done good will receive the resurrection of life and those that were evil will receive the resurrection of damnation (John 5:28-29).
- D. Those that are or were faithful Christians at the return of Jesus will be made into the same likeness as Jesus.
 1. We will be in the "likeness of His resurrection."
 2. We will have a "spiritual body" (1 Corinthians 15:49).
 3. We don't know what it will be like, but it will be like the body of Christ (1 John 3:2).
- E. This great reward is all due to our experience with Jesus.