

The Normal Christian Life

The Divide of the Cross

Two Creations

- In Satan's hands, the **first creation** has become the **old creation**.
- God's primary concern is now no longer with the old creation, but with a **second** and **new creation**.
- **Col. 1:12, 13** – Giving thanks to the **Father**... Who delivered us out of the authority of darkness and **transferred** us into the kingdom of the Son of His love
 - In order to bring us into His new kingdom, God must do **something new in us**.
 - Our fitness for the new kingdom is determined by the **creation** to which we **belong**.
 - The question is not "**good**" or "**bad**" but "**flesh or Spirit**"
- The **Cross** was the means God used to bring to end "the old things" by **setting aside** altogether our "old man."
 - **Resurrection** was the means He employed to **impart** to us all that was necessary for our life in the new world.
- The **Cross** is **God's declaration** that all that is of the **old creation must die**.
- **Baptism** in Scripture is associated with **salvation**.
 - **Mark 16:16** – He who **believes** and **is baptized** shall be **saved**...
 - **Salvation** is not related to sins or the power of sin, but to the **old world-system**.
 - To be **saved** is to **exit** from Satan's world-system **into God's**.

Burial Means an End

- God has **spoken** to us by the Cross.
 - By it He has told of His **judgment** of us, of the world, of the old creation, and of the old kingdom.
 - Our **answer** to God's verdict on the old creation should be to ask for **baptism**.
 - **Rom. 6:4** – We have been **buried** therefore with Him **through baptism** into His death...
 - Baptism means burial.
- Some have been taught to look on burial as a *means* to death.

- Unless our eyes have been opened by God to see that **we have died in Christ** and **been buried with Him**, we have **no right** to be baptized.
- We step down into the water because we **recognize** that in God's sight we have *already* died.
- By baptism we **acknowledge** in a figure that God has wrought an **intimate union** between **ourselves and Christ** in this matter of **death and resurrection**.
 - The real meaning behind baptism is that in the Cross we were "baptized" *into the historic death of Christ*, so that **His death became ours**.
 - Our death and His became then so closely identified that it is impossible to divide between them.
- Our **public testimony** in baptism today is our admission that the death of Christ two thousand years ago was a **mighty all-inclusive death** that **carried away** and **brought to an end** everything in us that is **not of God**.

Resurrection Unto Newness of Life

- We are "baptized into his death," but we do not **enter** into His resurrection.
 - Instead, His resurrection **enters into us**, imparting a new life.
- How do we receive this new life?
 - **Rom 6:5** – For if we have **grown together** with *Him* in the likeness of His death...
 - The words "united" (A.V.) or "grown together" carry in the Greek the sense of "**grafted**."
 - We cannot tell how God has done His work in us, but it is done.
- There is only one fruitful life in the world and that has been **grafted** into millions of other lives.
 - It is not that our **natural life** has been changed at all; it is that **another life**, a life altogether **new**, altogether **Divine**, has become **our life**.

(The Normal Christian Life – Chapter 5)