

Baptism. The washing of Garments

Our Lord on earth said "I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how distressed I am till it is accomplished!"

If you remember it was John the Baptist who ceremonially baptized our Lord. So what does He mean "I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how distressed I am till it is accomplished"?

Baptism is a crossover. Jesus Christ had to face the cross to retrieve the life for mankind that was lost when Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit and became dead. Christ's baptism was a metaphor of His bodily transition from here to there, back to the Father.

He was distressed because it was Him who by the grace of God tasted death for everyone, especially those who believe. Hence the cross. He took our death there so we wouldn't have to. He did not deserve it, hence John 3.16

Oh the love God has for us. He took our sin and death to the cross, bore our pain and judgment in exchange for a new life free from the fear of death and all its threats and entanglements. The entanglements are all the services and provisions of the gods of this age that try to assuage the fear of death for their financial gain, Mammon the other God many work feverishly for.

So in correctly defining Christ's bodily transition He is "distressed until it is accomplished", this too was given to show us how to do it, not by dying like He did, but by faith.

As we vowed at our conversion, our crossover and baptism by water, where we ceremonially bury our old person symbolized by washing off our old person in the likeness of the first parents in Eden, to be brought back up out of the water and made new. New not in the sense of living a dead life waiting for another Jesus, but new in the sense that death was paved over for us to quit focusing on that and to live from here on out eternally awakened to and awakening more and more to this new life given to us of enjoying God's life that's exclusively His as different from the one you experience with your carnal features.

You see baptism by water signifies the washing off of our old self, to be raised new like His self. That's what it means to be Christ-like or godly. It's not a form of religious piety.

Our baptism of washing off the old is when we started this journey and our journey is complete when we are totally reconciled with the various aspects of the Godhead body. This is our transition and transfiguration to be made one with the Father and all the assorted descriptions we've come to know. We are to realize and actualize them as becometh our own from our knowledge of scripture and the power of God's Holy Spirit, while we sojourn in our human bodies. For this reason "in Him dwells the fullness of the Godhead body, and you are complete in Him who is head over all" if you've stayed the course through the various revelations.

This is the gospel and the good news is that if you are participating you are saved already "having escaped the corruption that is in the world" (2 Peter 1).

We now follow the promptings of Gods Word and Holy Spirit and are no longer led around by fear. You see we now know all things. Not that we know all things all the time, but we know what we need to know when we need to know it because we have God inside us all along the way. We will not be caught off guard or surprised. Because God is our shield, and He knows all things, and nothing can slip past Him as though He has a blind spot. He is the "Lo, I will never leave you or forsake you".

As pilgrims and sojourners we are always on the move in the Spirit. Let us go up from here.

We have the interesting account of Christ riding to the temple on the foal of a colt and the onlookers throwing their garments on and around him. Garment is a French word and means equipment. So we can understand the garments as a semblance of trade clothing. Like farmers, teachers, and sales persons. Those are vaneers. So we know these come off too, maybe only in the proverbial sense that whatever we do we serve Christ first, that part of God that became one of us to show us how to do it.

We think of Joshua who being instructed to take the people into the promises, but before the crossover and angel of God stood opposite him, in contrast "as the commander and chief I have come forth". And much like Moses who was instructed to take off his sandals for "where you stand is holy ground", so too Joshua encountered the one who remains invisible to the carnal senses. But this one took on a similtude of the Son of God to understand our plight and His purpose. To leed us into the charge of taking God's promises by force.

Like it's said in the new, the Kingdom is preached and the violent take it by force" so you must through many trials and testings, enter the Kingdom. So we hope you aren't just watching on the side line for that is disgraceful. The exodus from this age is upon us.

The Kingdom of God is at hand in this way.