

INTRODUCTION

1. The experience of believing is conditioned by what is believed.
2. What is the object of our faith? Jesus, crucified, risen & coming again: the gospel. We are united to Jesus particularly in His death & resurrection.
3. *I do believe, help my unbelief* [Mk 9:24] Are we willing to be taught what it means to believe? Our respective experience of believing may differ [Prv 9:12]; but Scripture tells us what Jesus does for us & what the Spirit does in us. We experience union w/ Jesus in His death & resurrection & then must apply the gospel to our respective individual lives.

1st: Our Covenantal Union with Jesus in His Death and Resurrection

1. Rom 6 - chpt 5 2 headships of Adam & Jesus - how we are to live [6:2].
2. v2-4a = union w/ Jesus in His death
3. v4b-11 = union w/ Jesus in His resurrection from death.
4. When did we die & rise from the dead [v13]?
 - i. Sacramentalists - rite of bap
 - ii. Translate *baptize* as referring to union w/ Jesus, not the rite per se.
5. What is Paul's 1st question in v1? Make applic of chpt 5:12-21. 2 covenant heads - legal status & repercussions of that status: death or life.
 - i. 5:12 - when did all men in Adam sin & die?
 - ii. v15 - when did the many die & gift of grace abound to the many?
 - iii. v18-19 - when did condemnation of death come to all men in Adam? when justif of life in Christ?
 - iv. 6:2 - when did this all occur? Christ's people were *in Him* [Col 3:3-4].
6. 6:11 - command to intelligently apply union w/ Jesus to life we live.

2nd: Our Conscientious Union with Jesus in His Death and Resurrection

1. Paul *considers* - Phil 3:8-11
 - i. v8 - *I count*: the determinative factor; definitive evaluation: comparative value - *loss, rubbish* or *surpassing value, gain*
 - a. life as a prominent scholar & politician = *loss* [Gal 1:14]
 - 1) *Loss* = to my disadvantage, endanger me
 - 2) *rubbish* - to toss away, garbage, rubbish

b. life studying Jesus - *knowing Jesus*

1) *surpassing value*

2) *gain* - financial profit [Jms 4:13]; obtain, acquire - Lk 9:25

- ii. v9 - *may be found in Him* = FJ. Not Phar righteousness but given by God to faith. See ASV; ESV; KJV; NAB; NIV; NKJ.
- iii. v10-11 knowing Jesus in the dynamic of death & resurrection

Applic #1: Our Union with Jesus in His Death and Resurrection is Real

1. Lord's Table - union with Christ?
2. R 5:12f points to actual obed life, death & res of Jesus [Col 3:3-4].
3. Imputation - Jesus' righteousness; Adam's sin.
 - i. Heb 7:4-10 superiority of Melchizedek's priesthood over Levites who were in Abraham's loins - Jesus' priesthood superior [Ps 110]
 - ii. Paedo brethren misapply principle to domestic headship. What did JnB tell those relying on Ab as father? What did Jesus tell Nicodemus
 - a. Heb 7:15-17 the principle is not natural lineage but *the power of an indestructible life*.
 - b. Levi was in loins of Ab naturally is a picture of us being in Jesus according to a principle of supernatural life: Heb 2:13
 - iii. Eph 1:3-6 chosen in Christ before fntn of world
 - iv. Eph 2:8-10 - created in Christ - faith evidenced in good works
 - v. 2Thes 2:13-14 God's choice undergirds entire salvation: faith in truth.
 - vi. Eph 1:13-14 we responded to gospel w/ faith
 - vii. Eph 1:17-19a Paul prays for us to xperience God's sovereign love

Applic #2: Our Union with Jesus is Experienced Intelligently & Intentionally

1. Our experience of union is more than intellect & will - but we must *count all things* [Phil 3:8].
2. Sacramentalists & Charismatics would have us be passive to mystery. There are passive imperatives: *be transformed by the renewing of your minds* [R 12:2]. Intelligently, intentionally w/ love for Christ, live life of obedient faith - and be transformed.
3. Prv 9:12. Let us evaluate Jesus rightly & experience Him truly.