

Volume 1, Day 12: Forgiveness: Past, Present, Future Sins

Peter talked about being baptized. I know that seems archaic to some today. We don't have baptism as a regular ritual in our culture like the Jews did back in His day. But for centuries, being baptized in water has been one of those things that provide the most convincing symbol that we want to die to an old lifestyle to begin in a new one. If you have not been baptized in the past, that is something you might consider. Baptism is a means by which I celebrate the changing of life from the way I've wanted to do it myself, to now I have found a God worth knowing and want to fulfill His desires for my life.

Peter preached those things so that you could embrace the forgiveness of sins. It is important, in order to take this journey to intimacy with God, that you know that in fact, every sin (relationship crime) that you have ever committed or ever will commit has been forgiven by God by faith in Christ as His Only Begotten Son. Now to be sure your sin was not summarily dismissed, Jesus paid the penalty for you. Forgiveness is "paying it forward" to Jesus. God paid your sins forward to Jesus and Jesus suffered the full penalty for you. This is God's way to provide justice both for the victims and the perpetrators and yet provide a way to restore right relationships between Himself and any of us!

Now that I have been **born again** (in spirit), He's going to have the **long suffering** (inexhaustible patience) with me as I struggle with sin in the future. Even those future sins were paid for by Jesus such that my sins are wiped out in Him and forgiven in advance. He died naked and shamed in order to pay not just for my guilt but also naked to bear my shame. I can let go of my shame and live fully loved by God.