

*“What goes up...”*

- What goes up, must come down
- Our world and the curse because of rebelling against God
  - And the Lord God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it **you will certainly die.**” *Genesis 2:16-17*
  - Because you have done this... By the sweat of your brow will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and **to dust you will return.**” *Genesis 3:19*

- **Who or what can help us?**

brow = forehead

*Looking for help...*

- We cannot escape the ‘gravity’ that pulls us down
- So we try to find something powerful enough to help
  - Much of the world and most of the people of history
    - Find the **gods** or **spirits** that have the right power in the right place to help, and pray to them/worship them/sacrifice to them
  - “Modern” world
    - Find the right **technology** or **technique** to help
  - Postmodern world
    - Become **cynical**
    - Don’t hope for ultimate meaning or answers or rescue

***The Bible describes something fundamentally different***

*Romans 6:3-5*

Don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his **death**? *Jesus was perfect, yet was cursed in death for us*

We were therefore buried with him through baptism into **death** in order that, just as Christ was raised from the **dead** through the glory of the Father, we too may **live** a new **life**. *Jesus rose to life in full victory over sin and death*

For if we have been united with him in a **death** like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a **resurrection** like his. *We are united with Jesus in His death to sin, and in His rising to life*

**The Big Idea**

## Becoming a Christian

is leaving the kingdom of death and decay  
through "**death**" with Jesus

and entering the **Kingdom of Life and Light**  
through resurrection with Jesus by the glory of God

*Jesus died in the curse of death*

*Jesus rose again to a glorious life, destroying the power of death*

*Jesus opened the way for us to leave the kingdom of death and decay and enter the Kingdom of Life and Light with Him and through Him*

### *Application*

#### **Rejoice!**

- “Therefore, there is now **no condemnation** for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has **set you free from the law of sin and death.**” *Romans 8:1-2*
- “In all these things **we are more than conquerors** through him who loved us.” *Romans 8:37*
- We will not merely live again after death.
- **We will live in limitless glory and joy and love forever, and we begin to experience it in this life**

### *Application*

#### **Rejoice!**

#### **Embrace this life: re-see everything through it**

- For Christians in Christ’s Kingdom, sin, decay, and death no longer have the final say!
  - “For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” *Romans 8:38-39*

### *Application*

**Rejoice!**

**Embrace this life: re-see everything through it**

- For Christians in Christ's Kingdom, sin, decay, and death no longer have the final say!
  - “Do not be overcome by evil,  
but overcome evil with good.”

*Romans 12:21*

### *Application*

**Rejoice!**

**Embrace this life: re-see everything through it**

- For Christians in Christ's Kingdom, sin, decay, and death no longer have the final say!
  - “But where sin increased, grace increased all the more, so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

*Romans 5:20-21*

### *Application*

**Rejoice!**

**Embrace this life: re-see everything through it**

**Repent and be baptized, and receive God's gift**

- When they heard this, they asked, "What shall we do?"
- Peter replied, "**Repent and be baptized**, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the **forgiveness of your sins**. And you will **receive the gift of the Holy Spirit**. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."

*Acts 2:38-39*

### *Baptism*

**A physical expression and experience of a spiritual reality**

- Water baptism is not required for salvation or for being a Christian
- Water baptism does not bring salvation or make you a Christian
- ***Baptism is a wonderful picture of our identification***

***with the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and a joyous celebration by the Church of new life in Christ!***

## The Big Idea

Becoming a Christian

is leaving the kingdom of death and decay

through "death" with Jesus **we are "buried"**  
**with Christ**

and entering the **Kingdom of Life and Light**

**through resurrection with Jesus by the glory of God**

**we are raised to life**  
**with Christ**

## *Testimonies*

**Telling the story of God's work**

**to bring you**

**to new life in Christ**

(His "Gospel work")