

**Outline of
the Messages for the Full-time Training
in the Fall Term of 2024**

**GENERAL SUBJECT:
THE CRUCIAL POINTS OF THE TRUTH IN PAUL'S EPISTLES—
GALATIANS**

Message Eight

Baptized into Christ and Putting On Christ

Scripture Reading: Gal. 3:27-28; Matt. 28:18-19

I. “Many...were baptized into Christ”—Gal. 3:27:

- A. There are four aspects of baptism: baptized into the name of the Father, Son, and Spirit (Matt. 28:19), baptized into the name (v. 19), baptized into one Body (1 Cor. 12:13), and baptized into Christ (Gal. 3:27).
- B. Baptism brings the repentant people out of their old state into a new one by terminating their old life and germinating them with the new life of Christ and in Christ—Rom. 8:2, 10.
- C. Matthew 28:19 says, “Baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”:
 1. “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth”—v. 18:
 - a. In His divinity as the only begotten Son of God, the Lord had authority over all.
 - b. In His humanity as the Son of Man, all authority in heaven and on earth was given to Him after His resurrection.
 2. The resurrected Lord Jesus charged His disciples to baptize all the nations.
 3. *Into* indicates union, as in Romans 6:3 and Galatians 3:27; to baptize people into the name of the Triune God is to bring them into a spiritual and mystical union with Him.
 4. There is one name for the Divine Trinity:
 - a. The name is the sum total of the Divine Being, equivalent to His person.
 - b. To baptize someone into the name of the Triune God is to immerse him into all that the Triune God is—2 Cor. 13:14.
 5. Matthew discloses the reality of the Divine Trinity by giving one name for all three—Father, Son, and Spirit—28:19:
 - a. In Matthew 1 the Holy Spirit, Christ the Son, and God the Father were present—vv. 18, 23.
 - b. In chapter 3 Matthew presents a scene in which the Son was standing in the water of baptism, the Spirit like a dove descended upon the Son, and the Father spoke out of the heavens to the Son—vv. 16-17.
 - c. In chapter 12 the Son, in the person of man, cast out demons by the Spirit to bring in the kingdom of God the Father—v. 28.
 - d. In chapter 16 the Father revealed the Son to the disciples for the building up of the church, which is the life pulse of the kingdom—vv. 16-19.
 - e. In chapter 17 the Son entered into transfiguration (v. 2) and was confirmed by the Father’s word of delight (v. 5), bringing about a miniature display of the manifestation of the kingdom (16:28).

- f. Eventually, in the closing chapter, after Christ as the last Adam had passed through the process of crucifixion, entered into the realm of resurrection, and become the life-giving Spirit, He came back to His disciples in the atmosphere and reality of His resurrection to charge them to make the heathen the kingdom people by baptizing them into the name of the Divine Trinity—28:19.
 - g. Teaching the baptized believers to observe all that the Lord has commanded is for the discipling of all the nations—vv. 19-20.
6. Baptism has two aspects—the visible aspect and the invisible aspect:
- a. The visible aspect is by water, and the invisible aspect is by the Holy Spirit—Acts 2:38, 41; 10:44-48.
 - b. Without the invisible aspect by the Spirit, the visible aspect by water is vain, and without the visible aspect by water, the invisible aspect by the Spirit is abstract and impractical; both are needed.
- D. To be baptized into the Triune God is to be baptized into Christ—Gal. 3:27:
- 1. We are sons of God because we are in Christ, and we are in Christ because we have been baptized into Christ—Rom. 8:10, 14; Gal. 3:26; 4:7.
 - 2. To be baptized into Christ is the way to be in Christ—3:27.
 - 3. Because we have been baptized into Christ, we now enjoy an organic union with Him, which is able to transform our whole being—Rom. 12:2.
 - 4. It is significant that at the end of chapter 3 of Galatians Paul concludes with a word about being baptized into Christ and putting on Christ—v. 27.
 - 5. The fact that Paul concluded with a word about baptism indicates that what is covered in this chapter can be experienced only if we have been baptized into Christ and put on Christ.

II. “Many...have put on Christ”—v. 27:

- A. As many as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.
- B. We have been baptized into Christ, and now we have Christ covering us.
- C. To put on Christ is to clothe ourselves with Christ, to put on Christ as a garment.
- D. On the one hand, in baptism we are immersed into Christ; on the other hand, in baptism we put on Christ:
 - 1. To be baptized into Christ is to be immersed into Christ as the Spirit—1 Cor. 15:45b.
 - 2. When we are immersed into Christ, we put on Christ as our clothing.
 - 3. This means that the baptized one has become one with Christ, having been immersed into Him and having become clothed with Him.
- E. Many of us can testify strongly that we have been baptized into Christ and that we are wearing Him as our clothing, our covering—Gal. 3:27.

III. “You are all one in Christ Jesus”—v. 28:

- A. The word *one* in Galatians 3:28 is of great significance.
- B. Through baptism we, the baptized ones, are one in Christ—v. 28.
- C. If we take in such a word about baptism, we will have the assurance to say that we are in the Triune God, in Christ, and in the Body of Christ; furthermore, we will know that we are one with all of those who have been baptized into Christ—v. 27; 2 Cor. 13:14.
- D. All the differences among races and nationalities, in social rank, and between males and females have been abolished, and we are all one in Christ Jesus—Gal. 3:28.