

Galatians 3:27

THE BAPTIZED HAVE PUT ON CHRIST

- I. The issue.
 - A. Paul is emphasizing the blessedness of the Gentile believers in Galatia.
 - 1. The elect believers heard the preaching of Paul and believed the gospel of justification by faith in Christ.
 - 2. Some of the Christians who were Jews (Judaizers) said that faith in Jesus was not sufficient.
 - 3. But Gentile believers (having faith) are to be identified as the true children of Abraham (7-9).
 - B. The reason is that faith puts one in living fellowship with Christ.
 - 1. Gentile believers too are no longer immature children, but are mature children of God in Christ.
 - 2. Let no one deceive the Galatians into thinking that in order to become Christians they must first become Jews.
- II. Those baptized into union with Christ have put on Christ.
 - A. First, note this is the first and only mention of baptism in this book (and not much detail is given).
 - 1. Baptism was (and is) used as a sacrament in obedience to Christ's command in Matt. 28:19.
 - 2. When the preaching bore spiritual fruit of confessing and repenting believers, then they were baptized (Acts 16:15,33).
 - B. Baptism is sufficient because it is baptism into union with Christ.
 - 1. First, realize that Paul is speaking of the spiritual significance of the sacrament, not of the outward practice only.
 - 2. "In Christ" relationship is all that matters.
 - C. This is true for "as many of you as." (the "all of vs. 26).
 - 1. This is true for all, whether Jew or Greek, slave or free, male or female (28; Col. 3:11).
 - 2. All racial, social and sexual distinctions are to be forever abandoned, since in Christ all are equal.
 - D. Thus baptism had taken the place of circumcision as the sign of the covenant (no more need for bloody sign).
- III. The implied calling: put on Christ.
 - A. The figure of speech is that of putting on clothes.
 - B. One who has been given the white robe of Christ's righteousness is a child of God in God's house.