

## EVANGELISTIC LECTURES

It is possible for a preacher to be perfectly honest, but terribly mistaken. It is possible for him to be entirely honest and give other people wrong directions. Proverbs 16:25 says, "There is a way that seems right unto a man, but the end thereof are the way's of death."

Some will ask, "If a person is given wrong directions by a preacher, will God punish the preacher and let the person go free?" God will judge each person according to the light given him, and according to the opportunity he had to learn the truth. God cannot excuse anyone who goes directly contrary to one of His plain, positive commands.

We have a case in the Bible where one preacher told a deliberate lie to another preacher. He knew he was telling a lie when he told it. This lie led the other preacher to disobey a plain command of God. Did the Lord let the preacher go free who was deceived by the lie of a fellow preacher? No, He did not. You will find all the details in 1 Kings 13.

God told this preacher to go into a certain city, and to do a certain work. God told him not to eat or drink while he was in that city. The preacher went to the city. He did the work God asked him to do. The king invited him to go home for dinner. The preacher said, "No. I would like to go, but God has told me not to eat bread or drink water in this city!" He stood firm.

Then a little later when he was on his way out of town another preacher contacted this first preacher, and said, "Brother, I am a preacher just as you are. Come and go home with me!"

The man said, "No, I cannot do it. God has told me not to eat anything in this town!"

Then the other preacher told him a lie. He said, "An angel just came to me and told me to come out here and get you to come to my house to eat dinner!" He knew he was lying when he said this. The first preacher was deceived. He believed the lie. He went back to town. He sat down to eat at the dinner table in the second preacher's house in direct disobedience to what God had told him.

When he left town a lion came out of the woods and killed him. Here is a case where one preacher lost his soul, because he listened to another preacher, who advised him contrary to the plain command that God had given.

One of the most dangerous things you can do is to accept the word of man in place of the word of God. God commands you to keep the seventh day. Your only safety is to obey God and keep it holy. "To him that knows to do good and doeth it not, to him it is sin!" You dare not run the risk of losing eternal life by listening to any person, preacher, friend or loved one, who advises you contrary to the plain command to keep the seventh day holy. Thousands of people will miss heaven, because they allowed somebody, preacher, neighbour, husband, wife, brother, sister, father, or mother to turn them aside from keeping the seventh day, when they knew in their heart that they ought to do it.

Some years ago two fast passenger trains collided head-on. Twenty-eight people were killed, and scores were injured. The air was filled with cries and shrieks of the wounded and dying. The engineer of one of those wrecked trains was lying pinned under his engine. A man saw him faintly waving a piece of yellow paper. It was the orders he had received from the dispatcher. He was moving the piece of paper, and the man bent over to catch his dying words. He said, "Someone gave me the wrong orders!"

God alone knows how many thousands will be wrecked for eternity, because they listened to the wrong orders on the Sabbath question. Our only safety is to heed God's orders. I should like to know tonight, how many are determined to heed God's orders about the Sabbath and henceforth keep the seventh day holy? Let us put our hands up high. Thank God! This is the best expression we have had here. (Nearly every hand was raised.)

I wonder if there is someone here to whom the truth has been made a little plainer. The truth has been made so plain to some of you who have been holding back that you are ready to say, "God helping me, I will listen to God's orders henceforth and keep His day." Is there someone, who has not previously made up his mind, but tonight you will make your decision? Do I see a hand? Yes, there is one. Is there another? God says they shall be gathered one by one. Thank God somebody tonight is making up his mind. Prayer followed.

## 49. How To Die and Live Again

There are three special days which ordinarily come to people in their natural lives in this world. These are the day of their birth, the day of their marriage, and the day of their death. Do you know that baptism is comparable in a spiritual sense to these great days in a person's life? Baptism means a spiritual death to sin, a spiritual birth into the kingdom of God, and a spiritual marriage to Jesus Christ for time and eternity.

Baptism is a spiritual death, a spiritual resurrection, a spiritual birth, and a spiritual marriage. As we conduct this baptismal service, we will have a spiritual funeral, a spiritual birthday, and a spiritual wedding, all combined in one. No wonder this is the highlight of eleven weeks of preaching the Word of God.

Jesus Christ definitely connected baptism with the new-birth experience. In John 3:5 He said, "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." Baptism marks the time when we were born of the water. When a person is baptized by immersion, he emerges from the waters as from the womb. He is born of the water, and if his heart has been truly surrendered to the Lord Jesus Christ, he is not only born of water, but he also is born of the Holy Spirit.

Notice how important it is for you and me to enter into this experience. Remember the solemn words of Jesus. He says, "Except a man be born of the water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

One of the most important elements in being baptized is to receive the Holy Spirit. You cannot live right after you are baptized unless you receive the Holy Spirit when you are baptized. There is only one way that you can ever live a Christian life, and that is to have the Lord Jesus Christ come and live His life in you, by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. The apostle Paul expresses this truth so graphically and so directly in Galatians 2:20. He says, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live yet

## EVANGELISTIC LECTURES

not I, but Christ lives in me.” (That is the Christian life, Christ living in you). And he continues, “The life that I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God Who loved me, and gave Himself for me.”

The only way that Christ can ever live in you is by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit, is, as it were, the personal presence of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit is His direct personal representative. Christ in your heart, and the Holy Spirit in your heart are the identical and same experience.

Let me say to these dear ones who are being baptized tonight, that God has promised to give you the Holy Spirit when you are baptized. I turn to Acts 2:38, a verse taken from that sermon preached on the Day of Pentecost when 3000 were converted. “Then Peter said unto them, repent, and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”

I say to these dear friends of ours who are being baptized tonight, claim, by faith, the gift of the Holy Ghost. God has promised to give Him to you when you are baptized, and now it is for you, by faith, to claim this highest of all gifts of the Father.

The baptism of Jesus wonderfully illustrates this. As you know, when Jesus was baptized the heavens were opened and the Holy Spirit in the bodily form of a dove came down upon Him. He received a special anointing of the Holy Spirit when He was baptized. Jesus was standing there in your place. In fact He was baptized for you, and He was baptized for me. He didn't have any sins to wash away such as you and I have. He never committed any sin. He did not need to be baptized, but he said, “Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becomes us to fulfill all righteousness!” The gift of the Holy Ghost to Jesus at His baptism, is God's assurance that He will give the Holy Spirit to everyone who truly surrenders himself in baptism.

The New Testament teaches that baptism marks the beginning of a new life in Christ. I turn to Romans 6:3. “Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death; that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life!” After a person is baptized there is to be a new life. He is raised up from the watery grave to walk in newness of life. The day of his baptism is the day of spiritual birth.

The New Testament teaches that a Christian is to be united so closely to his Savior that he is actually married to Jesus Christ. He becomes one with Jesus. When a man and woman are truly married, they become one in every sense of the word. When the marriage takes place there is a ceremony at which they exchange their vows. Baptism is the marriage ceremony where the believer publicly becomes one with Christ. He takes Christ's name to henceforth live for Christ. Paul brings this thought out so beautifully in Galatians 3:27. “As many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ!” Baptism is the seal of your union with Christ for time and eternity.

Baptism means to die with Jesus Christ to sin. We find this expressed emphatically in Romans 6:3 “Know you not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death?” In other words if you are really baptized into Christ, you are baptized into His death. The day of your baptism should be your funeral to the sinful ways of the world and to the sinful habits of the flesh.

Think how much this service means to these dear friends of ours who are about to be baptized. A spiritual death, a spiritual resurrection, a spiritual birth, and a spiritual marriage all together in one service tonight.

Some people think that since immersion is the true form of baptism, all that there is to being baptized is to be dipped under the water. Do you know that a person might be dipped under the water a dozen times, or even fifty times, and not have a true baptism? What do I mean by that? A true baptism means following Christ into His death, burial, and resurrection.

It takes three steps of spiritual experience in order for a person to have a true baptism. He must die with Christ to sin; he must bury the old life of sin; he must rise with Christ to walk in newness of life. If a person does not take these three steps of spiritual experience, his will not be a true baptism, even though he goes through the form of being dipped under the water fifty times.

I want you to notice how important these three steps are for every soul. The blessed Bible shows us that salvation centers, or revolves, around three great acts of the Lord Jesus Christ. He died for our sins; He was buried for us; He rose again to minister His life to us. In order for you and me to actually experience salvation we must go with Jesus into His death, burial, and resurrection.

Salvation becomes yours personally when you follow Christ into His death, into His burial, and into His resurrection. His death must become your death to sin. His burial must be your burial of the old life of sin. His resurrection must become your resurrection to a new life of holiness. Baptism is God's own appointed sign of these three steps of spiritual experience.

How many parts are there in the act of baptism? There are three. Everyone of these people whom I shall baptize tonight will enact these three parts. There will be a laying back in the water; a going under the water; and a coming up from the water. All this has a most beautiful meaning.

Notice how beautifully the three parts of the act of baptism prefigure the three steps of spiritual experience that make salvation yours by following Jesus into His death, burial, and resurrection. As the believer is laid back in the water, it shows that he is dying with Jesus Christ to sin. As he goes under the water, it shows that he is burying the old life of sin with Christ. As he is raised from the water, it shows that he is rising with Christ to walk in newness of life. O, how meaningful is true baptism. Beautiful, isn't it? Even the three parts that constitute immersion beautifully picture the three steps of spiritual experience by which salvation becomes ours.

Some people, when they think about having a few drops of water sprinkled on their head, or a cup of water poured over their head, or actually being dipped under water, conclude that immersion is the best way, because there is more water employed. Immersion is not better than these other forms merely because more water is employed, but rather because single immersion alone sets forth the essential following of Jesus into His death, burial, and resurrection on the part of the believer. Any of you who have only been sprinkled will do well to ask yourselves, “Have I been buried with Jesus Christ in baptism? Have I set forth in my baptism the three great steps of dying with Jesus, of being buried with Jesus and of rising with Jesus?” No. Not unless you have gone through immersion.

## EVANGELISTIC LECTURES

These dear ones who are being baptized tonight are making salvation their very own by following Jesus into His death, burial and resurrection. The all-essential consideration in being ready for baptism is to die with Jesus Christ to sin. Baptism is a burial with Jesus Christ.

Any of you folks who are not just sure about immersion being the right way for you to be baptized really need only to read five words in the Bible. Here they are in Colossians 2:12. "Buried with Him in baptism." Those five words are enough for me. You know and I know that sprinkling a few drops of water on somebody's head is not burying him with Christ in baptism. If there was nothing else in the Bible, these five words are sufficient to show that we ought to be immersed and thus be, buried with Christ in baptism in harmony with the command given in Colossians 2:12.

You cannot be truly buried with Christ, unless you first die with Christ to sin. The question naturally comes, what does it mean to die with Christ to sin? It means this. If a man is addicted to swearing and he dies with Christ to sin, he simply stops swearing. He loves the name of God and Christ so dearly, that he will never think of misusing those holy names. If a man is addicted to the use of liquor or tobacco, and he dies with Christ to sin, he stops using liquor and tobacco.

The way to have sure victory over liquor and tobacco is to be dead to sin. Let me ask you a question. Can a corpse smoke a cigarette? No. If you are dead to sin, you have the victory. Can a corpse drink a glass of beer? No. Jesus, Christ can give you the victory until a cigarette, or a glass of beer, will have no more power over you than if it were offered to a corpse.

I can testify to the glory of God that He gives the victory. I once used cigarettes and liquor, but God gave me complete victory. I have never wanted them from the night I laid them down. "Thanks be unto God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!"

Some months ago I was riding across Canada in a Pullman car. There was a naval officer on the car who became very friendly. After he had talked to me a little while he said to me, "I have here in my grip some of the choicest champagne that it is possible to get in France. Wouldn't you like a drink of this fine champagne?" I said "No, thank you, I wouldn't care for it!" Soon he pulled out a package of cigarettes. He said, "Mr., wouldn't you like to have a cigarette?" I said, "No, I wouldn't care for any, thanks!"

Although I at one time used both of those items, when he offered them to me, it aroused no more appeal in my body than if he had offered them to a corpse. Dead to sin. Yes. That is what God wants us to be. The sure way to have victory over sin is to die with Christ to sin.

I am sure that there are scores of people here, who once used these items and have complete victory over those habits. I believe it is good to testify to the glory of God. How many wish to bear your testimony by the uplifted hand that God has given you victory over these habits? Look at those hands. (A number of hands were raised). Think of the divine power back of those hands which have been raised. Back of every hand there is a living Christ who gives the victory.

What happens to the leaves on a tree when the tree dies? You say, "When the tree dies the leaves fall off!" Yes. Do they ever come back? No, not if the tree is dead. That is how it is with the truly converted man and the sinful ways of the world. When you really die with Christ, those sinful ways of the world drop off, never to come back.

2 Corinthians 5:17 says, "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new!" The way to have sure and lasting victory over liquor and tobacco and every other bad habit of life, is to die to sin with Jesus Christ.

If a person has not been keeping the seventh day, or Saturday, and He dies to sin, he begins to keep the seventh day holy. If a man has been robbing God by not rendering to God His tithe and he dies to sin, he will begin to bring into God's storehouse, the one-tenth of his net income. If a person has been attending dances, the Hollywood movies, gambling, and playing cards, and he dies to sin, he will turn away from those sinful ways of the world. Romans 12:2 says, "Be not conformed to this world; but be you transformed by the renewing of your mind!"

If a person has been wearing ornaments forbidden by the Word of God, and he dies to sin, the ornaments will come off, never to return. Dying with Christ to sin means turning away from every habit and practice that is contrary to the teachings of Jesus Christ. It is not until then that a person is ready for baptism.

No person can live a new life in Christ until he buries the old life. No person can bury the old life until he dies to sin with Christ. Does the undertaker have any right to bury a person in the cemetery unless he is dead? No. That would be a terrible thing. So, no minister has any right to bury a person in baptism, until that person gives evidence of being dead to sin.

This is why Adventist ministers cannot baptize people who are not keeping the seventh day. If they do not keep the seventh day, they are still transgressing the law of God. "The seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work." This is why we cannot baptize any person who is using liquor or tobacco because he isn't dead to sin. We cannot baptize a person, who is attending dances or playing cards, because he is not dead to sin yet. It is really impossible for a person to have a true baptism until he has left off these things.

After a person is baptized he will live a new life. He will live the life of Christ. The apostle John expresses this in 1 John 2:6. "He that said he abides in Him ought himself also so to walk, even as He walked!" Some will say, "Aren't some people baptized and yet live no differently afterward than before?" Yes, we have all seen such cases. In fact we have seen them too frequently, but why? The reason is that those persons did not take the three steps of spiritual experience which are absolutely essential to having a true baptism. They failed to die with Christ to sin. Having failed to die to sin, they could not rise with Christ to live a new life.

Some will say, "What shall I do if I sin after I am baptized?" God tells us what to do in 1 John 2:1. God does not want us to sin. He has made full provision to save us from sin. So we read in 1 John 2:1, "My little children, these things write I unto you, that you sin not. And if any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous."

Jesus will forgive us again if we fall back into sin. He will forgive us again as He did when we were converted, but Christ wants to keep us from failing. He is able to keep us from falling, and He will keep us from falling if we will permit Him.

## EVANGELISTIC LECTURES

Do you know how we are to permit the Lord Jesus to keep us from falling? You will find this in Romans 13:14. Paul says, "Put you on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof." We must enthrone Christ in our hearts, and make no provision to fulfill the lusts of the flesh.

If a person has been addicted to smoking, he shouldn't even take a cigarette between his fingers. If he takes it between his fingers, he may put it in his mouth. We should make no provision to fulfill the lusts of the flesh. If he never puts it between his fingers, he will never put it in his mouth.

If a man has been addicted to drinking and he quits drinking, then he should not stand outside the tavern looking at the liquor bottles in the window. If a man has been accustomed to attending Hollywood movies, he should avoid looking at the posters of the movies. He ought to avoid everything that will keep alive the interests in the wrong things he once did. When he applies for a job, he should make provision for having the Sabbath in the clear. If you will stand firm, and refuse to make any provision for going back on God's commandment, God will see that you will win out completely.

Baptism is a grave between the old life and the new. We bury the sinful past. We rise to walk in newness of life. Think what a privilege it is to put the sinful past where it will not rise up to plague you again. It is a wonderful privilege that these people have tonight, to put the sinful past where it will not rise up to dominate them again.

I appeal to you who are about to be buried in the watery grave. Make this baptismal font a real grave where all the sinful ways of the world, the old habits, the haunts, the attachments, or friendships, that are contrary to Jesus Christ are buried forever. Remember Lot's wife. She lost her soul hankering after what she had left behind in Sodom. So it is liable to be with any of you who are baptized tonight, if you look back.

Jesus says in Luke 9:52, "No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." If we are really raised up with Christ in baptism, we will set our affection upon things above as Paul says in Colossians 3:1-3. "If you then be risen with Christ . . . set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth."

A baptized person does more than leave off bad habits. The religion of Jesus Christ is not a negative religion. It isn't just "don't do this, don't do that." No! A baptized person does more than leave off bad habits. He takes on good habits in the place of the bad. Such as a daily reading of the Bible, daily prayer to God, attending church, keeping the Sabbath, coming to Prayer meeting, paying his tithe, eating and drinking to the glory of God, talking, dressing, and acting in accordance with the revealed will of God.

You who are being baptized, should not conclude that the devil will leave you alone after you are baptized. Jesus Christ had the most wonderful baptism any person could ever have, but what happened immediately afterward? Have you read Mark 1:10-13? The 10th and 11th verses tell how the heavens were opened, and the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus, and the Father's voice said, "This is My beloved Son," when Jesus was baptized. The next verse says, "Immediately the Spirit drives Him into the wilderness and He was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted of Satan." Immediately after the baptism of Jesus, came His great test of forty days of temptation.

I heard one of the greatest evangelists in America declare, "I did not know what temptation was until after I became a Christian." But remember, Jesus Christ will never fail you. He will see you through. He declares in Jude 24 that "He is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy." In 1 Corinthians 10:13 He says, "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man; but God is faithful and will with the temptation also make a way to escape!" In Isaiah 41:10 He says, "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God! I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of My righteousness!"

When God says all this to you, you have everything to go forward for. Then in Philippians 1:6 we learn that "He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ!"

I appeal to you who are being baptized tonight to keep your eye on the surpassing prize at the end of the way. The great prize comes not to him who begins, but to him who finishes the race. I beg you to keep your eye on the surpassing prize that Christ has for you, if you will be faithful to the end. Baptism puts your feet on the first round of the Christian ladder. Now, add to your Faith, Virtue; to Virtue, Knowledge; to Knowledge, Temperance; to Temperance, Patience; to Patience, Godliness; to Godliness, Brotherly Kindness, to Brotherly Kindness, Love; (2 Peter 1:5-7) and then step off the last round over into the City of Gold.

As the choir sings, "All to Jesus I Surrender," I invite those who are to be baptized tonight to come to the front for a prayer of consecration.

This is a fine time for you who are planning on taking your stand in the near future, to come and stand with these who are coming forward tonight. I ask that the entire congregation please stand, and I appeal to everyone who has a purpose in his heart to accept the great message that you have heard to come forward. This is a fine time to come and say, "God helping me, I want to surrender all to Jesus!" (Prayer.)

O, Lord Jesus, Precious Savior, we present to Thee tonight in the arms of our faith, this company of men and women who have heard the great message of God during these weeks. Lord, they are making their response tonight to the call of God. They have come here to stand and say, "I surrender all!"

Lord, we thank Thee for their sincere hearts. We thank Thee for the love they have for Jesus. He says, "If you love Me, keep My commandments!"

O, God, we pray that to these who go forward tonight, this baptism will mean all that the Word of God says it should mean. Make their baptism a real grave, where all the old habits of sin are buried forever. May every one of them come up to walk in newness of life.

We pray for these friends of ours who have come forward tonight to make their decision for Thy message. We thank Thee for their honest hearts and for what they are purposed to do. O, God, work in their lives and grant that in the next baptism we may see as large a number as we see here tonight. We thank Thee for this, in the name of Jesus our Savior. Amen.