***April 21, 2019***

***Today’s Lesson: He Is Risen!***

**From Mike:**

Contrary to what many people believe, the word “baptism” did not become an English speaking word until the writers of the King James Bible in 1611 created it. They simply took the Greek word and turned it into an English word so they wouldn’t have to deal with the fact that it means immersion or burial and the Church of England only used sprinkling to represent baptism. Now that the word has been part of our language for several centuries and has been argued and debated for the same amount of time, much of the simple symbolism behind it has been lost. Baptism, to most people, is a religious act, a ritual, or an act of joining. Because of that, we have lost a good bit of the total nature and symbolism of what it was originally and what it was intended to do for us.

 For instance, isn’t there something very different between saying “...for as many of us as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ,” (Gal. 3:27) and “...those who have been immersed into Christ have put on Christ”? Being immersed in something or someone is to be totally in it. It’s commitment, dedication, and devotion! It symbolizes the complete giving of ourselves. Look at some of the well-known passages about baptism and change the word to immersion or immersed and see what it does to the meaning. The same is true for the word burial—another total word.

 I mention all that not to have a discussion of semantics or even doctrine but to help us see something Paul wanted us to get. In Romans 6, he connects baptism to the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. The symbolism is easy to see. Baptism matches all three elements of what Jesus did. But Paul says we are baptized into His death and His burial and His resurrection. Yes, it is symbolism but it’s also immersion! It’s being completely connected and committed to Him because of what He did for us. So today, think about being immersed into His resurrection!

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