

Light/Darkness, Baptism Study

- Big Idea: *Sin separates you from God, making you lost in the dark and in need of forgiveness. And faith in Jesus, responding in repentance and baptism brings forgiveness, the Spirit and saves you.*
- Part I: Sin.
 - I Peter 2:9-10
 - Every person is either in the darkness or the light, there is no middle/gray area.
 - Where are you?
 - Isaiah 59:1-2
 - Sin separates us from God. It is a wall separating us.
 - Can 2 men separated by a wall have a relationship? No.
 - What must happen for a relationship to be formed? The wall must come down.
 - In the same way the only way for a right relationship with God to happen is for our wall of sin to be destroyed.
 - No more sinning won't do it, for there is already so much sin there, the wall must be removed.
 - The wall is removed when our sin is forgiveness. Mercy and forgiveness is the key.
 - Rom 3:23-25
 - Who has sinned? Everyone. Who needs forgiveness? Everyone.
 - Who is further away from God, the man with one sin, or the man with 100 sins? Both, we all fall short.
 - Faith in the blood of Jesus saves us! (verse 25)
 - What is sin?
 - Gal 5:19-21 – explain them.
 - James 4:17
 - Romans 6:23
 - What is a wage? Minimum wage for example? It is what you work for, **what you earn**, what you deserve.
 - What do we deserve? Death.
 - God wants us to have a gift...Eternal life. There are just 2 alternatives...eternal death or the gift of life.
 - With all gifts what must you do? You must take it, its not enough for me to hold the gift out to you, you must take it.
 - I want to talk to you now what the bible says about how to take this gift of eternal life.

Now before you move onto the next part of this study you must know what they believe about whether they're lost or saved and how they think they got saved. Were they ever baptized? When? Why? Do they think they're a Christian? Are they saved? How'd they get saved? This is essential because if you don't find this out before this part of the study, once you show them what the bible says about these things, if they think they're saved but are confused about how, or if they're defensive about the whole subject then when you show what you believe they may think that's what they did. Know before you begin this part.

- Part II: Forgiveness
 - John 3:1-7
 - What message must one believe to be saved?
 - Acts 2:22-24
 - Response of people
 - Acts 2:37
 - Cut to heart.
 - What shall we do?
 - Once the people believed what did they do?
 - Acts 2:38-42
 - Repent = to turn.
 - We will study this out in greater detail next time.
 - But in short it's a turning of your life.
 - Baptize = immerse in water.
 - For forgiveness and Holy Spirit.
 - This is the point when a person is saved.
 - This way of salvation will not change.
 - Question:
 - Was this how you were saved?
 - If no, then are you saved? What do you think of all this? What do you need to do?
 - Romans 6:1-4
 - Baptism is sharing in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus.
 - It's the point when Jesus' sacrifice becomes personal to us.
 - Not a symbol, no reference to symbolism in this passage.
 - Colossians 2:11-12
 - Again, we are buried with Jesus in what? In Baptism.
 - However, what are we raised through?
 - Our faith.
 - So if someone is baptized, but doesn't have a correct faith, will they be raised?
 - Correct faith is essential.
 - I Peter 3:18-22
 - Baptism does what?
 - It saves you.
 - Is all this clear? Does it make sense? Then what do you want to do?
- Additional Baptism scriptures:
 - Acts 22:14-16; 16:31-34; 19:1-5; 8:31-40; Gal 3:26; Eph 4:4-6; Titus 3:4-6; Heb 10:22;