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WHAT THE CROSS CANCELS, BAPTISM BURIES

The Reality of Being Marked

Introduction: The Reality of Being Marked

Every life carries marks. Some are visible, others are internal, but all are real. Before Christ, humanity is marked not only by sin, but by the record of sin. Sin leaves evidence. It forms patterns, shapes identity, and builds a history that follows a person into every season of life. The enemy does not only tempt, he accuses. He does not only observe, he records.

Revelation 12:10 (KJV) declares:

“And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.”

This reveals a sobering truth. Every failure becomes a testimony against the individual who committed it. Every compromise becomes evidence. Every repeated pattern becomes a narrative. Over time, this record does not just describe behavior, it begins to define identity. The voice of accusation becomes internalized, and what was once an event becomes a label.

But the Gospel introduces a disruption to that system. God does not negotiate with the record. He removes it.

Section 1: The Record That Stood Against Us

To understand the power of the cross, we must first understand the weight of what stood against us. Scripture presents sin as a condition that produces legal consequence. Sin creates a record, and that record carries authority before God.

Every action, every thought, every motive that was contrary to God became part of a spiritual account. This account was judicial in nature. It testified against us. It demanded judgment.

Romans 3:23 (KJV) says:

“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.”

No one stands outside of this reality. The record is universal. It includes both visible actions and internal intentions.

Ecclesiastes 12:14 (KJV) says:

“For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.”

This means the record is complete. Nothing is omitted. Nothing is overlooked. Even what was hidden from others is fully visible before God.

Romans 6:23 (KJV) says:

“For the wages of sin is death...”

The record accumulates, and what it produces is death. This is not only physical death, but separation from God. The record creates distance, and that distance cannot be repaired by human effort.

This is why cycles persist. Because the issue is not behavior modification. The issue is an unresolved record that continues to influence identity. The accuser uses that record to reinforce condemnation, turning past actions into present identity.

Before Christ, humanity stands with a record that cannot be erased by its own strength. This is why salvation must begin with something outside of us.

The accuser uses that record to reinforce condemnation, turning past actions into present identity.

Section 2: What the Cross Cancelled

The cross is where divine justice and divine mercy meet. It is not only the place where Jesus suffered. It is the place where the record was addressed.

Colossians 2:14 (KJV) says:

“Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross.”

The language here is precise. The record was not covered. It was blotted out. The ink was removed. The document lost its existence. What once testified against you no longer has a voice.

But this did not happen without cost. The record was transferred.

Isaiah 53:6 (KJV) says:

“All we like sheep have gone astray we have turned every one to his own way and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.”

The weight of the record was placed on Christ. He did not simply acknowledge sin. He absorbed it. Every accusation that belonged to you was placed upon Him.

1 Peter 2:24 (KJV) says:

“Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree...”

This is substitution in its fullest sense. He did not stand beside you. He stood in your place. The cross is where your record was executed. The judgment that belonged to you was carried by Him.

Because of this, the authority of the record was broken. It no longer has legal standing. It no longer has the right to define you.

But while the record is canceled, the identity that was shaped by that record must still be dealt with. That is where baptism becomes essential.

Section 3: Why Baptism Is Burial

If the cross cancels the record, baptism removes the identity that was formed by that record. Baptism is not symbolic language. It is participatory reality.

Romans 6:3 to 4 (KJV) says:

“Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death

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.”

Baptism is the moment where the believer steps into the death of Christ. It is not a reenactment. It is an identification. What happened to Him becomes applied to you.

The old identity does not get adjusted. It is buried. The person shaped by sin, by patterns, by failure, is placed in the grave.

Colossians 2:12 (KJV) says:

“Buried with him in baptism wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God...”

Notice that this is called the operation of God. This is not human effort. This is divine action. God performs something in baptism that cannot be achieved any other way.

Burial signifies finality. What is buried is not meant to be retrieved. This is why you cannot carry resurrection life while holding onto a buried identity. The old life must remain in the grave.

Baptism is where separation from the past becomes complete. It is not only forgiven. It is removed from your present reality.

The old identity does not get adjusted. It is buried. The person shaped by sin, by patterns, by failure, is placed in the grave.

Section 4: The Seal of the Spirit

God's plan does not end with death and burial. It continues into resurrection. But resurrection is not simply coming back to life. It is receiving a new source of life.

Ephesians 1:13 (KJV) says:

“In whom ye also trusted after that ye heard the word of truth the gospel of your salvation in whom also after that ye believed ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise”

The Spirit is the seal. It is the mark of ownership. It is God placing His identity upon your life. It is not external. It is internal.

This seal confirms that you belong to Him. It also empowers you to live beyond what you were.

Romans 8:11 (KJV) says:

“But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you”

The same power that raised Christ now operates within the believer. This is not symbolic resurrection. This is living transformation.

The Spirit does not improve your old nature. It replaces your source of life. You are no longer sustained by what you were. You are sustained by what God has placed within you.

This is why the experience of the Spirit is essential. Without it, resurrection remains a concept. With it, resurrection becomes a reality.

Section 5: How We Overcome the Accuser

Even after the record is canceled and the old life is buried, the voice of accusation may attempt to remain. The enemy will try to speak from a position that no longer exists.

Revelation 12:11 (KJV) says:

“And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony...”

The blood establishes victory. It cancels the record. But the testimony enforces that victory in the life of the believer.

The testimony is not repetition of the past. It is declaration of transformation. It is aligning your voice with what God has already done.

When a believer speaks what God has done, it silences what the enemy tries to say. The authority shifts. The identity is reinforced.

Philippians 3:13 (KJV) says:

“...forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forth unto those things which are before”

Forgetting is not denial. It is alignment with truth. It is choosing to live from what God has declared instead of what the past recorded.

The accuser depends on memory. The believer stands on redemption.

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Fill in the Blanks

1. Sin creates a _____ that carries authority before God.
2. The record of sin produces _____ and separation.
3. The wages of sin is _____.
4. Jesus _____ the handwriting of ordinances.
5. The record was not covered, it was _____.
6. The iniquity of us all was laid on _____.
7. Baptism is identification with the _____ of Christ.
8. We are _____ with him in baptism.
9. Baptism is the operation of _____.
10. The Holy Spirit is the _____ of promise.
11. The same Spirit that raised Christ now _____ the believer.
12. We overcome by the _____ of the Lamb.
13. We overcome by the word of our _____.
14. The cross canceled it, baptism _____ it, and the Spirit _____ it.



Reflection Questions

1. How does seeing sin as a legal record deepen your understanding of salvation?
2. What does it mean to you that your record has completely lost its authority?
3. Have you fully allowed your old identity to remain buried, or are you revisiting it?
4. How does the indwelling Spirit change the way you see your daily life?
5. What role does your testimony play in reinforcing your new identity?
6. What step do you need to take to fully align with what God has done in your life?