

RALLY AT POINT OF ATTACK (2)

BY KEITH GREER

Consider the **alien sinner's** condition prior to reaching the waters of baptism. Pay close attention to the spiritual condition of the one outside of Christ and the instructions God gave to change his state. Sinners are lost and undone because:

Their understanding is darkened. *“Having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart.” {Ephesians 4:18}* Because they are spiritually ignorant, these people are alienated from God by spiritual blindness. The truth can help them to see correctly.

All have sinned—none are righteous. *“As it is written: ‘There is none righteous, no, not one;’...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” {Romans 3:10,23}* All people have the same spiritual problem, and the solution is the same for every person!

They are without God. *“That at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.” {Ephesians 2:12}* How much worse off could you be than without hope and God?

They are alienated and enemies. *“And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled.” {Colossians 1:21}* Those outside of Christ are His enemies. This picture is full of doom and gloom. What can change this horrible condition into a more positive outcome? Everything changes when one comes up out of the waters of baptism where he has contacted Christ's blood. Now there is...

Redemption and forgiveness. *“In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.” {Ephesians 1:7}* He has bought us back from the bondage of sin and forgiven our past sins.

Eternal salvation. *“Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.” {2 Timothy 2:10}* No longer are we in the clutches of darkness; we’ve been translated into His kingdom {Colossians 2:14}. Our obedience to His will brings assurance of an eternity with Him.

Reconciliation in His body. *“And that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.” {Ephesians 2:16}* We are now part of Christ’s body—His church. We entered this covenant relationship to possess and enjoy all the blessings He promised us.

Children of God. *“For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.” {Galatians 3:26,27}* God is our Father, and we can pray to Him knowing that He hears us. We are children in His family.

Do you see why the devil makes baptism the **point of attack**? Christ’s blood, which is applied during baptism, changes everything about a person’s previous condition. If the devil can convince people, even those who are religious, to stay away from Christ’s blood, they will remain within his grasp. If each of us would examine the whole story, the devil’s ploy would not succeed. Can you think of a better reason to make certain you are obeying God’s truth and not falling short? ***