

Title: Burying the Past: Living in the New Creation

Sermon Summary: This sermon emphasizes the transformative power of baptism and the necessity of leaving our old life behind to fully embrace the new life in Christ. Using the metaphor of a shovel, the speaker illustrates how baptism represents burial of our old sinful nature and resurrection into new life. The message challenges believers to stop digging up their past sins and instead move forward in their faith with confidence, knowing that God has made them new creations. The sermon strongly emphasizes evangelism, accountability through "mat carriers" (close Christian friends), and the importance of spiritual warfare through daily putting on the armor of God. The speaker stresses that Christians cannot live comfortably in their old ways while claiming new life in Christ, and must actively share the gospel with those around them, particularly their neighbors and community.

Key Points:

- Baptism represents the complete burial of our old life and resurrection into new creation, not just repair or improvement
- We must stop "digging up" our past sins and glorifying our former sinful behavior
- Paul's conversion on the Damascus road demonstrates complete transformation without looking back
- Looking back at our old life, like Lot's wife, prevents us from moving forward in faith
- Evangelism is not optional but essential - we must share the gospel even when uncomfortable
- Every Christian needs "mat carriers" - close friends who provide accountability and support
- Daily spiritual preparation requires putting on the full armor of God
- Prayer is our first offense, not a spare tire or last resort
- Comfort and growth cannot coexist - we must be willing to step out of our comfort zones
- The Holy Spirit dwelling in believers makes them divine, not merely human
- We cannot build a new life while mourning our old life

Scripture Reference:

- Romans 6:4 - Buried with Christ through baptism into death
- 2 Corinthians 5:17-18 - New creation in Christ, old has gone, new has come
- Proverbs 26:11 - As a dog returns to vomit, a fool repeats folly
- Acts 22 - Paul's testimony of conversion on the Damascus road
- Genesis 19:26 - Lot's wife looking back and turning to salt
- Luke 9:62 - No one who puts hand to plow and looks back is fit for kingdom
- Hebrews 12:1 - Throw off everything that hinders and run the race
- Ephesians 6 - The full armor of God

Stories:

- The speaker's personal testimony of being unsaved until age 32 and living a wild life
- A car accident at age 17 where the speaker's passenger was killed, illustrating his lost condition before Christ
- Multiple encounters with evangelists that led to the speaker's conversion, including a man in his van, a NASCAR attendee, and Greg the plumber
- An engineer at Lockheed Martin who boldly shared the gospel while the speaker was working
- Halloween evangelism opportunity at the speaker's house with Christian music, WWJD bracelets, and gospel tracts
- The biblical account of four friends carrying a paralyzed man through a roof to reach Jesus
- Lee Gersha's testimony about being invited to church by John across the street and finding faith after losing his son