

11-05-25 Summary

This powerful message challenges us to truly leave our old lives behind when we come to Christ. Drawing from Romans 6:4, we're reminded that baptism isn't just a symbolic act—it's a burial of our former selves. The sermon uses the metaphor of a shovel to illustrate how we often dig up what should remain buried: our past sins, old habits, and former identities. Paul's dramatic conversion on the road to Damascus serves as our blueprint—he didn't look back at his life as a persecutor of Christians, but immediately embraced his new mission. Yet how often do we, like Lot's wife who gazed longingly at Sodom, find ourselves drawn back to what should be dead and gone? The Hebrew word for her look wasn't a casual glance but an intense, desirous gaze. We're called to understand that in Christ, we're not repaired versions of ourselves—we're completely new creations. The Greek term means something entirely new in kind, not merely fixed or cleaned up. This message invites us to stop carrying around the 'stinky corpse' of our past and instead put on the full armor of God daily, keeping our eyes fixed forward like an ancient farmer guiding a plow toward a distant tree, never looking back.