

Getting Started

Have you ever given (or received) a gift that was just never used? If you were the giver, how did you feel? If you were the receiver, how did you feel? How do you think the giver felt?

Why does an unused gift bother us so?

Into the Bible

Read Romans 6:1-14 and answer these questions.

What gift(s) is(are) given through Baptism (vv. 3-4)?

What is Paul’s reason for pointing the Romans to the gifts in Baptism (vv. 1-2)?

What does the gift of Baptism imply for the Christian life?

What does it mean to no longer be a slave to sin? Does it mean we don’t sin ever? What does it mean?

What’s important about Paul’s command in verse 11, “*Count/reckon/consider yourself dead to sin*”?

To summarize, to what use is the gift of Baptism supposed to be put?

1 Peter is widely considered a letter to the newly baptized. How does 1 Peter 2:2-3 support that conclusion?

Read 1 Peter 3:8-22 and answer these questions:

What gift(s) is(are) given through Baptism (vv. 21-22)?

What place courage does Baptism give (vv. 14-16)?

What is the baptismal life supposed to look like (vv. 8-9, 15)?

Digging Deeper

How is (or isn’t) your Baptism a continuing reality in your life? Do you ever think of it as a gift with a purpose? Or is it more a gift to be received and ‘set on a shelf’? What can make Baptism’s ongoing effects more real to you?