

How A Baseball Glove Illustrates the Gospel
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Dr. Steve Horn

Introduction: This particular baseball glove is very special to me. It was given to me by my youth pastor, Jeff Fritscher. He gave it to me for cutting his grass and looking after his house while he was in South Korea for a couple of weeks. He bought the glove in South Korea. Jeff was and is among the greatest evangelists I have ever known. Several years ago, God gave me this idea of how to share the Gospel with kids using a glove. This past summer after Vacation Bible School, several people asked me to consider sharing this message on a Sunday morning, so here we are.

Scripture: I do want to share several verses of Scripture to set the stage for my extended Gospel illustration.

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Ephesians 5:18

And don't get drunk with wine, which leads to reckless living, but be filled by the Spirit:

Philippians 4:13

I am able to do all things through Him who strengthens me.

Colossians 1:27-29

God wanted to make known among the Gentiles the glorious wealth of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. ²⁸We proclaim Him, warning and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ. ²⁹I labor for this, striving with His strength that works powerfully in me.

The Glove:

How does the glove catch a ball?

- Throw the ball at the glove?
- Try Harder?
- Yell at the glove?
- Put it in time out?
- Read to it?
- Wet it?

Of course not! The glove cannot catch the ball unless a hand is in the glove! Then, the glove can do whatever the hand in it does.

So, it is with Jesus.

Some people . . .

- Just try to be good or religious
- Even try hard
- Get yelled at
- Punish themselves
- Read
- Get Baptized

None of this saves! None of this offers forgiveness of sin, freedom from sin, and forever in Heaven!

Only Jesus!

And what is true about salvation in the beginning is also true about living as believer. Paul said . . .

Colossians 2:6

So then, just as you have received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him,

The Key to salvation and the Key to sanctification (life after salvation) is “Christ in you.”

A great Christian example, Watchman Nee said:

A day must come in our lives, as definite as the day of our conversion, when we give up all right to ourselves and submit to the absolute Lordship of Jesus Christ.