

Romans

Romans Chapter Six

Romans 6:4

March 14, 2010

This is lesson number 32 in our exposition of the Book of Romans.

The Theme of the Letter

“For I am not ashamed of **the gospel of Christ**, for it is the **power** of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the **righteousness of God** is **revealed** from faith to faith; as it is written, ‘The just shall live by faith.’ ” Romans 1:16-17

Title: “Newness of Life”

Romans 6: 1-4

1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? 3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

In the last two studies, we have been explaining why the Apostle had to answer a charge being made against the message of grace. In 5:20-21 Paul teaches that the reign of grace superabounds over the reign of sin. Then some misguided soul will ask:

What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?.

His emphatic answer is: **Certainly not!**

How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?

Paul shuts the door on antinomianism!

And then we examined his next question:

Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?

You see, there are people {antinomians} who profess to believe in Jesus as their Savior, but in their life, they reject Him as Lord of their life.

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I once heard, perhaps the most famous evangelist of the 20th century, give an invitation after his sermon for anyone to “receive Jesus as their Savior, or as their Lord, whatever their need may be.”

Cf. Mathew 7:13-14 {narrow way; broad way}

There are those who teach that Jesus can be your Savior and not your Lord. The idea is that you can be saved and continue to live in presumptuous sin. That is one of the devil’s worst lies. He is the Lord Jesus Christ. If Jesus is not your Lord, He is not yet your Savior and you have been deceived by a false prophet to make a false profession of faith.

Jim, how can you make such a dogmatic statement?

Because the Apostle asked:

How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?

This is clearly an “either - or” condition, you are either dead to sin, or you are still under the reign of sin.

In our last study, we dealt with the question as to when we died to sin?

The answer Paul gives us as to when we died to sin is that we died to sin when we were baptized into Christ Jesus, we were baptized into His death.

But that begs the question. The correct usage of “begs the question” is to **assume** what you are supposed to be proving; not to invite a question, or to leave a question unanswered.

Paul **assumes** that this is something his readers already know; but he knew that it was necessary to prove it. So he asks:

3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?

The burden of our last study was to show that while many scholars and theologians teach that Paul here in verse 3 refers to water baptism, he is in fact, referring to the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

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There are five “baptisms” named in the New Testament, and yet most of today’s church people will think only of water baptism.

What else, then, besides Water is called a baptism?

Repentance; Moses; Suffering; Fire and the Holy Spirit.

What I wanted you to see about these five baptisms is that they all have one thing in common. They all involve being **overwhelmed**. If you can remember this concept it will help you to understand all of these baptisms.

What we have here in verse 3 is true of every Christian. If you have not been baptized {overwhelmed} with the Holy Spirit you are still dead in trespasses and sin; you have not been born again and you are not saved.

“Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.” Romans 8:9
Jesus said: “You must be born again.”

Again, I need to give credit to Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones for insight into this text.

“Now if we are going to follow what Paul is teaching here in verses 3 & 4, we must keep before us the fact that he is **refuting** the charge that grace gives us a license to continue in sin. If you have died to sin it is not possible for you to live any longer in it; and if you continue to live in sin, you have not died to sin. All Christians have died to sin.”

And all Christians are expected to know this: “Or do you not know....”

Know what? That all Christians have been baptized into Christ Jesus; they are in a vital union with Christ. In the very same way we were joined to Adam in his sin, Christians are joined to Christ in His death. And that is what verses 3-5 will prove. The question “begged” {the thing assumed} will be answered.

“As many of us ...” simply means everyone to whom this applies, to all Christians.

All Christians are joined with Christ in His death;
All Christians are joined with Christ in His burial; and,
All Christians are joined with Christ in His resurrection.

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And this happened not when we were baptized in water, but when we were baptized with the Holy Spirit.

We Baptists are often intimidated by the incorrect use of some terms:
Charismatic's misapply the baptism of the Holy Spirit;
Roman Catholics have ruined "saint."

First we are joined to Christ in His death: When we were baptized into His death, we participated with Him in His death.

When Adam sinned, we all sinned because Adam represented us, and the penalty of sin is death. And so all men die {even babies} because of the one sin of the one man, Adam.

And so this death in Christ is not a death of our own. Just as Adam's sin is not our personal sin, Christ's righteousness is not our personal righteousness. But when Christ died, all Christians died in Him because He represented all His people.

Most commentaries use this passage to teach sanctification, as an experience, and say, "You must die to sin."

No! If you are a Christian, you **died** to sin in Christ

This is **objective** truth, not **subjective** truth.

When we get to verse 11, the experimental application will begin:
"Likewise, you also,"

For the Christian, baptism into Christ's death is not something that is yet to happen, it is not something that you must strive to achieve in order to live a victorious Christian life. When Christ died to sin, we died to sin. When we are baptized by the Holy Spirit into Christ, all that belongs to Christ is reckoned to us.

In Galatians 2:20-21 Paul gives us the same objective truth. This text is often used to teach sanctification, but the context is **justification**, Cf. Gal 2:16. This is what has happened, not what you may expect to happen.

Because justification by faith alone is so vital we will look at the reason Paul had to confront Peter.

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Galatians 2:11-21

¹¹ Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed; ¹² for before certain men came from James, he would eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing those who were of the circumcision. ¹³ And the rest of the Jews also played the hypocrite with him, so that even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy.

¹⁴ But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter before *them* all, "If you, being a Jew, live in the manner of Gentiles and not as the Jews, why do you compel Gentiles to live as Jews? ¹⁵ We *who are* Jews by nature, and not sinners of the Gentiles, ¹⁶ knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.

¹⁷ "But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, *is* Christ therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not! ¹⁸ For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. ¹⁹ For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God. ²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. ²¹ I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness *comes* through the law, then Christ died in vain."

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And so this is about Justification and not about sanctification.

When Christ died to sin, He died once and for all. His death to sin was not due to any sin in Him, but to His **relationship** to sin. Jesus, the Christ was made {placed in the rank and category of sinners} to be sin, and in that awful time on the cross, God the Father looked on His only Son and punished the sin of His people in Jesus Christ.

Those who argue that Christ was punished for the entire human race to be consistent have to go on to say that God will punish sin twice, once in His Son and again in the sinner who goes to hell. The argument of 5:12-21 makes the proposition of a general or universal atonement illogical and impossible.

And so, every Christian died to the reign of sin and death. It is not that we do not sin at all, but sin is no longer our master.

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First then, Christians are joined with Christ in His death.

Second, Christians are joined with Christ in His burial.

In verse 4, we see that Christians are joined to Christ in His burial. We died with Him and we are buried with Him through baptism into His death.

Wait! You did not even think of water baptism did you? Of course not.
You have been taught “better things.”

Why buried with Him? Because burial is the final proof of death. You don't bury someone until you are sure they are dead. Therefore, burial is the proof that someone is really dead. When someone is placed in the grave they are finished with this life and this world.

That is what it means to be buried with Him through baptism into death. Our **relationship** with the realm of sin is finished and grace now reigns in righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. {Romans 5:21}

We are finished with sin, and grace reigns!

Christians are joined with Christ in His death;
Christians are joined with Christ in His burial,

And in the **third** place Christians are joined with Christ in His resurrection.

3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that **just as** Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, **even so** we also should walk in newness of life.

Just as ... even so ...

Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father

The “glory of the Father” is the same as the power of the Father.
When you see the power of God you see the glory of God.

In Acts 2:22-36 Peter explains that Jesus of Nazareth is the very One that the Scripture promised and he quotes from Psalm 16. It was not possible for His body to see corruption; that God the Father raised Him up.

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Now, I want you to see an important point of interpretation.

In John 10, Jesus says He lays down His life for the sheep; and that no one takes His life from Him; and that he has the power to lay it down and the power to raise it up.

Here, it says that he was raised by the glory of the Father.

It is common in Scripture to ascribe the same event to the Father, to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. This is the Trinity.

There is One God, in Three distinct Persons.

When a person does not ~~understand~~ accept the Doctrine of the Trinity, they wander off into such error as the “Jesus only” cult. E.g., they take a text such as Acts 19:5 where it says “they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus,” and say, “See here, we must be baptized in the name of Jesus only.” But Jesus Himself commanded us in Matthew 28:19, “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

So He is raised by the glory [power] of the Father **and** in His own power.

The power of sin is death; and the reign of sin is death. But sin and death has done its worse, the grave could not hold Him; His resurrection is the proof of His victory over sin and death.

He is not only risen, but lives in newness of life as verses 9 & 10 will tell us more about. Death has no more grip on Him, He lives to God.

And so, my fellow Christians, you must see that it is all in Christ. Do you want absolute assurance that you are a genuine Christian? Here it is.

Do you place your trust in anything other than the work of Jesus Christ?

If you do, you can never be sure it is enough.

A prisoner wrote: “Legalism is a work that is never finished.”

Take water baptism, e.g. If you trust that water baptism is necessary and somehow “makes perfect” what Jesus has done, let me give you some things to ponder.

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If water baptism is essential, who may baptize, does the baptizer need any special credentials? Must the baptizer be a saved person? What about those people that Judas baptized? No I can't prove that Judas ever baptized anyone, but he was an apostle and he had all the others convinced that he was just like them. What temperature must the water be? Must it be running water? You say, "that's silly." Well, if I am going to trust in something I do, it had better be perfect.

Don't be guilty of "subtraction by addition." Anything you add to the work of Christ subtracts from the sufficiency of His sacrificial life, death, burial, and resurrection.

For a little while Jesus, **who made the angels**, was made in the likeness of sinful flesh for the purpose of dying in the place of His people.

John 1:3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made

Heb 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little {or for a little while} lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.

Gal 4:4 But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

The **Creator** of the universe was born as a Man, the **Lawgiver** was born under or subject to the law. But the resurrection finished that. His High Priestly prayer of John 17 has been answered:

John 17:1-5

17:1 Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, 2 as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. 3 And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. 4 I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. 5 And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

His resurrection from the grave and death finished the work of propitiation.

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The wrath of God is appeased against the children of God. Now when the Holy Spirit baptizes someone into Christ Jesus they die to sin in Christ; they are buried with Christ; and praise God, they are raised to walk in newness of life.

Just as it is true of Christ; it is true of us.
He walked in newness of life;
even so we also must walk in newness of life.

This walk, or manner of life, is not a subjective degree of spirituality, some “higher life,” it happened when we were baptized into Christ. Will a Christian progress in sanctification? Of course he will and we will deal with that when we get to it. But this is objective truth, Christian, you died with Christ, you were buried with Christ, and you are raised with Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new

He is already a new creation, not will be, he is a new creation.

Philippians 3:20

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ...

What is citizenship? The place you belong to. This world is not my home, I am only a sojourner here. To sojourn is to have a temporary residence.

Jacob was a sojourner in Egypt, Egypt was not his home.

The home of the faithful in Hebrews 11:

Hebrews 11:13-16

13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. 14 For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. 15 And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

Are you in Christ? Have you died with Christ?

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Have you been buried with Christ? Have you been raised with Christ?

I could as well ask, "Are you a Christian?"

Are you living under the reign of grace? If your answer is "Yes."

Then you will not ask, "Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?"

But you say, I still struggle with sin in my life.

So do we all, but grace reigns.

Jude

24 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless

Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, 25 To God our Savior,

Who alone is wise, Be glory and majesty,

Dominion and power, Both now and forever.

Amen.

By God's grace we will continue in Romans 6 next Sunday.

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