

“Grace & Peace to You”  
A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF ROMANS

Voice of China and Asia  
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## ROMANS LESSON 36 PART 1, “BAPTIZED INTO WHAT?”

**Romans 6:1-11** *What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? <sup>2</sup> By no means! How can we who **died** to sin still live in it? <sup>3</sup> Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his **death**? <sup>4</sup> We **were buried** therefore with him by baptism into **death**, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the **dead** by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.*

<sup>5</sup> *For if we have been united with him in a **death** like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. <sup>6</sup> We know that our old self was crucified with him **in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing**, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. <sup>7</sup> For one who **has died** has been set free from sin.*

<sup>8</sup> *Now if we **have died** with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup> We know that Christ, being raised from the **dead**, **will never die** again; **death** no longer has dominion over him.*

<sup>10</sup> *For the **death** he **died** he **died** to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God.*

<sup>11</sup> *So you also must consider yourselves **dead** to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.*

### “Dead Man Walking!”

This phrase is often used to refer to someone who is on “Death Row” as they walk from their cell to the place of execution. They are NOT dead yet, but they walk in the reality of that “coming” death. So, it has been with every human born from the seed of Adam. They weren’t physically dead... but they “lived” their life in the reality of that coming eternal death.

**EPH 2:1** *“And you **were dead** in the trespasses and sins 2) in which you once walked... 5) even when we **were dead** in our trespasses...”*

**EPH 4:17-18** *Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. 18) **They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God** because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart.*

### Dead... Death... Died... Dead...

With “15” references to “**death**” in 11 verses, we can safely say that Paul wants to emphasize something: **WE WERE Dead... WE DIED... Now WE ARE Dead... But ALIVE!**

Okay... WHAT?

This is one of those “**masterpiece**” paragraphs that God often writes through Paul. **You read it... you think about it... Read again... Think some more...** Yea, it’s like that.

And the whole time, he is giving his “sarcastic opponent” NO TIME to interject, oppose, or question.

As we study through this passage, it is important to remember some things about “**Death**.”

- **Death is NOT Cessation but Separation:**
  - **In Adam, we were “separated from God”**

- Through Identity “with Christ” we were “separated from Adam”
- Through Resurrection “with Christ” we were “separated from the body of sin.”
- The “WE” of ROMANS 6
  - “WE” – who we were BEFORE we were “In Christ...”
  - “WE” – as distinct from those who are NOT “In Christ...”
  - “WE” – who we are NOW that we ARE “In Christ...”

Each of these distinctions will be found throughout these verses and the “context” will help us identify which of these cases apply.

**Vs 1-2** “What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound?”

<sup>2</sup> **By no means! HOW can we who died to sin still live in it?**

In our previous LESSON, we introduced a basic outline for Paul’s response to HIS question and the following presentation of “how” our Justification leads to Sanctification.

**ROMANS 6: 3–14** are Paul’s “instructional answers” to the reasonable questions (*posed by Paul in Vs 2*) faced by every Believer, “How do those who are under this, ‘free gift of grace’ live our lives practically... without being characterized by a life of sin? How are we to live lives of victory?”

Paul answers these *reasonable questions* in his customary logical manner.

**First**, by understanding the nature of our identification with CHRIST (vv. 2–10).

**Second**, by accepting our identification with CHRIST as true (v. 11).

**Third**, by yielding to the CHRIST with whom we are so wonderfully identified (vv. 12, 13).

### UNDERSTANDING THE NATURE OF OUR IDENTIFICATION WITH CHRIST:

Those who have studied Paul’s Letters should be familiar with his often-used phrases: IN Christ; WITH Christ; THROUGH Christ; IN Him; WITH Him; THROUGH Whom... and other forms of these. However, the recipients of Paul’s Letter to the Roman Believers would mostly be ignorant of this vital truth. So, he will use “4” words to convey the Nature of our Identity: **Baptism; Death; Burial; Resurrection.**

## ROMANS LESSON 36 PART 2, “BAPTIZED INTO WHAT?”

### BAPTISM:

One key to understanding this passage is to know what Paul means by “Baptism.”

**ROM 6:3** *Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?*

- *Do you not know...* - This is something they should know... but it is obvious that not all of them do. Paul may have expected that the teachings he had been doing in THESSALONICA; CORINTH; and EPHESUS would have been carried to them. Paul’s Letters to these Churches give evidence that what he is writing is to remind and encourage... not to teach something new.

**Baptism** – In the Early Church era Baptism was ALWAYS by “immersion” - for ONLY in that manner was the full meaning conveyed.

- Two related “Words” in this passage - and they do not necessarily have the same meaning.

- One word is **baptō**, which means “dip” or “immerse.”
- The other word is **baptizō**, may mean “immerse” but may have other meanings as well.
- The **simpler word** usually conveys the most straightforward meaning. The **longer word** adds **specialized** and **sometimes metaphorical meanings**.
- It is the **longer word** that is used for **“Baptism”** in the New Testament.
- **Baptizō** always pointed to a change having taken place by some means. It is NOT just that the subject was “immersed” BUT that that “immersion” had affected some “change upon it”

*EX: animal skin immersed in oil has been changed from what it was... so also a cloth in dye...*

NICANDER (200BC) says that to make a pickle, the vegetable should first be “dipped” (**baptō**) into boiling water and then “baptized” (**baptizō**) in the vinegar solution.

Both verbs concern immersing the vegetable in a solution, but the first is temporary.

The second, the act of “baptizing” the vegetable, produces a permanent change.

With that in mind NOW read what follows:

➤ **Baptized into Christ Jesus...** – What Baptism IS this? Paul is presenting a baptism that precedes Jesus’ Resurrection...

- NOT **Water Baptism** – for that is merely a picture of what has truly happened...
- THIS is “taking on an identity... a permanent change” with **“His DEATH”**
- **Before WE identified with His Death... HE Identified with OURS** (Adam’s Death)

2 COR 5:21 For our sake **HE made him to be sin** who knew no sin, so that in HIM we might become the righteousness of GOD.

ROM 8:3-4 For GOD has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending His own SON in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, **HE condemned sin in the flesh**,<sup>4</sup> in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the SPIRIT.

1 PET 3:18 For CHRIST also **suffered once for sins**, the righteous for the unrighteous, that HE might bring us to GOD, **being put to death in the flesh** but made alive in the spirit,

HEB 2:14-15 Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, HE himself likewise partook of the same things, **that through death HE might destroy the one who has the power of death**, that is, the devil,<sup>15</sup> and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.

ROM 5:19 For as by the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, **so by the ONE MAN’S obedience** the many will be made righteous.

➤ **Baptized INTO His death...** – You are NOT who you WERE... for who you WERE is DEAD...

- Again, I say, **this is NOT water...**
- You have been **identified with Christ in His death** so that **a permanent change has taken place...** that “person” who professed belief in Jesus’ substitutionary death has **TRULY DIED...** How complete... How permanent is this “Identity” with Christ?

ROM 6:4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, **in order that**, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

- **Buried ... by baptism ... into death...** – By now we know for certain we are NOT talking about “water” – THIS is DEATH...
- This **Identity / Change / DEATH** is **so real** that it results in BURIAL...
  - Paul uses “burial” to enforce the completeness of our Identity...
  - A “body” may be DEAD but still present...
  - **Burial removes it** from view and establishes the “permanence.”
  - We are NOT only “Dead” **to the power of our former Nature** (Adamic) ... IT is buried...
  - It was “buried” when Christ was buried... carrying our sins to the place of damnation...
- EPH 2:5-6** “...even **when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ**—by grace you have been saved— and **raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus...**”

#### **ROM 6:4**

In the rest of **verse 4**, one phrase follows upon the other leading to the intended result of our “Identity with Jesus in DEATH... Burial... and Resurrection...”

**In order that** – We had to identify with Christ as the Substitute... and Identify with Him in His Death (as the Last Adam)... **THIS is what makes the “WE” a distinct group from those NOT “In Christ.”**

**Just as** – We cannot be part of the “**resurrection to Life**” if we have not DIED... BUT when we have Identified... AND are DEAD with Him... THEN...

**Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father...** - When HE is **Made Alive and Raised “Out-FROM” (EK) the DEAD** by the Father... WE are Made Alive and Raised **“Out-FROM” (EK) the DEAD...**

**So That NOW**

**COL 2:13-14** *And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God **made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses,**<sup>14</sup> by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.*

**We too might walk in newness of life.** – WE can have the power of a NEW Life – not just “live again” BUT a Whole NEW Life that was NOT before... FOR the “Old creation IS DEAD!”

**“Might walk...”** – *the Verb form indicates “potentiality”* – This does not mean “**maybe they will... maybe not**”... BUT that IF a person **DOES NOT Identify with the DEATH** of CHRIST as their substitute... they **CANNOT have the LIFE** of the Risen CHRIST...

**Newness...** - *The Greek word “newness” (kainotēti) speaks of life that has a **new or fresh quality.*** The resurrection of JESUS was not just a “resuscitation” ... it was a **New Form Of Life.**