



# GOOD NEWS

for the unsaved WORLD!

(#131)

Baptism – union with Christ, and with other Christians (1).

1

**IF BAPTISM IS A PICTURE OF SPIRITUAL REALITIES ...**

⇒ THEN we need to find out WHAT it is a picture of!

We also need to remember that pictures do not cause the realities!



2

**MOST OF THE NEW TESTAMENT EPISTLES WERE WRITTEN TO:**

- **Newborn Christians**, who were still learning to "follow Jesus."
- **"Mixed-up" Christians**, who were being lied to by false teachers.

**CONCERNING BAPTISM, THEY NEEDED TO BE SHOWN:**

- ① **Its meaning**, and its connection to the other parts of salvation.
- ② **Its application** – how it is to influence life and conduct.

**IN LEARNING THESE THINGS, THEY WOULD DISCOVER...**

- ③ The evilness of what the false teachers were saying.

We've already looked at the connection of baptism to the other parts of salvation. Today, our focus is on what baptism itself teaches us.

3

**BAPTISM TEACHES US ABOUT:**

**TODAY**

- **Our union with Christ.**
  - ... all of us who have been **baptized** into Christ Jesus...
  - ... we have been **united** with him...

Romans 6:3b, 5b (ESV) (Romans 6, today.)

**NEXT TIME**

- **Our union with other Christians.**
  - For all of you who were **baptized** into Christ... all of you are **one** in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:27a, 28b (NET) (This issue next time.)

**But each of these facts goes much deeper than this!**

EACH has strong implications on how we are to live.

4

**As we look at Romans 6, there is one "frame of reference" issue that we need to consider.**

⇒ Romans 6 tells us about changes that occurred at baptism. Today, people sometimes get into a debate as to whether this passage refers to *water* baptism or *Spirit* baptism.

⇒ This is because we tend to *separate* the two baptisms by a period of time.

⇒ Back then, they did not separate these events (time-wise) the way we do; both occurred at approximately the same time. They did not have to argue about which baptism it was. Rather, it simply "all happened" – the visible act (water baptism) being a picture of what was happening inside (Spirit baptism).

⇒ The Spirit accomplishes the same thing for them *and* us. We just have to describe it with a different time reference. Instead of saying the change happened at the time of our water baptism, we may have to say it happened before our water baptism.

5

**Romans 6: Union with Christ in baptism.**

**HERE IS THE "BAPTISM" PASSAGE:**

Or are you unaware that all of us who were **baptized** into Christ Jesus were **baptized** into his death?

Therefore we were buried with him by **baptism** into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too may walk in newness of life.

Romans 6:3-4 (CSB)

- Paul wasn't telling them this, merely to give them another fact to add to their "knowledge base"!
- Rather, he was using this fact to prove that sin is not an option for God's people!
- This was part of his response to the claims of false teachers, who used "God's grace" as an excuse for ongoing sin!

6

**Union with Christ in baptism... What does it prove?**

**BACKGROUND:**

- Knowledge of the Law increases sin. (Chapter 7 tells us the Law is good, but sin uses it as a "springboard" to increase the sin.)
- However, where sin increases, grace increases (so that the sin problem can still be dealt with).
- False teachers and self-deceived people often use this fact as an excuse for continuing to sin. (In reality, choosing to continue in sin is *not even an option* for a saved person – as Paul will show.)

**Don't view sin as an option!**

What type of conclusion should we reach?  
**Not this one!**

**The QUESTION:** What should we say then? Should we continue in sin so that grace may multiply?

**The ANSWER:** Absolutely not!

**WHY? (Next page)**

Romans 6:1-2a (CSB)

**UNION with Christ in baptism... it proves that sin is not an option!**

It would contradict the reality that we have **died** to sin!

How can we who died to sin still live in it?  
Romans 6:2b (CSB)

They were probably aware of this fact, but hadn't given much thought to what it implied.

Or are you unaware that all of us who were **baptized into Christ Jesus** were **baptized** into his death?  
Romans 6:3 (CSB)

**Because of this UNION with Christ ...**

**IN HIM** we DIED...  
Therefore we were buried with him by **baptism** into death, ...  
Romans 6:4a (CSB)

**IN HIM** we receive a **NEW LIFE**.  
... in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too may walk in newness of life.  
Romans 6:4b (CSB)

**We can't be UNITED with Christ only half-way!**

**If the DEATH part applies to us...**  
For if we have been united with him in the likeness of his death, ...  
Romans 6:5a (CSB)

**... the NEW LIFE part will also apply.**  
... we will certainly also be in the likeness of his resurrection.  
Romans 6:5b (CSB)

**Two more passages with this death-and-life theme.**

**CONTEXT:**  
LIFE – by GRACE and Christ's power, not by law-obeying!

We are no longer slaves to religious rituals!

I have been crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So the [new] life I now live in the body, I live because of the faithfulness of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.  
Galatians 2:20 (NET)

For you were buried with Christ when you were **baptized**. And with him you were raised to new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead.  
Colossians 2:12 (NLT)

**Our "old self" is now dead!**

**This is the "self" that was enslaved by sin. IT IS DEAD.**

For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be rendered powerless so that we may no longer be enslaved to sin, since a person who has died is freed from sin.  
Romans 6:6-7 (CSB)



[Or we can say that the "dying" occurred on the cross, and that baptism symbolizes the burying of what is dead.]

**The death of our "old self," as united in Christ, involved crucifixion. But isn't this what Jesus had already told us must happen?**

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone wants to become my follower, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me."  
Matthew 16:24 (NET)

**In Christ, we now have a "new self"!**

**If the DEATH part applied to us, then the LIFE part also applies.**

Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him, ...  
Romans 6:8 (CSB)

The Bible's "faith" is fact-based. Here, saying "we believe it" is like saying, "we admit the truth."  
(Described in verse 9.)

This is the result of being united with Christ. If it happened to him (and we know it did), it happened to those who are united with him. Many people are unwilling to admit this and still cling to their old self!



**I'M ALIVE!**

**We know the FACTS about Christ (These facts will apply to those UNITED with him).**

**Death cannot regain its hold on him.**

... because we know that Christ, having been raised from the dead, will not die again. Death no longer rules over him.  
Romans 6:9 (CSB)

For the death he died, he died to sin once for all time; ...  
Romans 6:10a (CSB)

**DYING TO SIN**  
The nature of his death [⇒ temporary, never to happen again].

**JESUS... dying to SIN???**

**LIVING TO GOD**  
The nature of his (new) life [⇒ permanent, never to end].  
... but the life he lives, he lives to God.  
Romans 6:10b (CSB)

# JESUS – dying to SIN???

**BECAUSE OF OUR UNION WITH CHRIST, OUR SIN GOT POURED OUT ON HIM. In fact, he became our sin.**



God made him who had no sin **to be sin for us**, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.  
2 Corinthians 5:21 (NIV)

SINCE WE KNOW THE FACTS, WE NEED TO APPLY THEM!

**FOR US WHO HAVE THIS UNION WITH CHRIST [⇒ WHICH BAPTISM REPRESENTS], IT IS TO EFFECT THE WAY WE LIVE:**

**DEAD TO SIN**  
So, you too consider yourselves dead to sin ...  
Romans 6:11a (CSB)

**ALIVE TO GOD**  
... and alive to God in Christ Jesus.  
Romans 6:11b (CSB)

**THIS IS HOW WE DO IT:**

**DON'T offer your body's parts to sin... DO offer them to God.**

Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, so that you obey its desires. And do not offer any parts of it to sin as weapons for unrighteousness.  
But as those who are alive from the dead, offer yourselves to God, and all the parts of yourselves to God as weapons for righteousness.  
Romans 6:12-13 (CSB)

👉 We have a new Master, because of God's GRACE!

**DEFINITION**  
"RULE" = "to be master over."  
Sin is no longer our master or lord!

For sin will not rule over you, because you are not under the law but under grace.  
Romans 6:14 (CSB)

**The rest of chapter 6:**

- False teachers rarely give-up easily. So Paul has to address their next claim, that being "under grace" and not "under the law" means "it's OK to sin."
- So Paul shows us that the issue is: "Who is your master – sin or righteousness?" (Your choice will determine who you serve!)

**Chapters 7-8:**

- Sin will do everything it can to overpower us. But God gives us the power to overpower sin!
- Ultimately, the one we choose to serve is the one who will control us. Our choice will be a reflection of our spiritual condition.

👉 ALL THIS is by God's GRACE, and is implied by the picture of water baptism!

A PICTURE OF → EACH OF US, BEING UNITED TO CHRIST.

👉 IT IMPLIES → DYING to sin and LIVING to righteousness.

👉 IT MEANS: → We no longer have to sin!

★ THERE IS NO POSSIBLE WAY THAT MERELY GETTING WET COULD ACCOMPLISH THIS! ★

These types of changes start in the heart, not in a pool of water! We need the Holy Spirit baptism that this water baptism is a picture of!

## YOUR MISSION!

YOUR LIFE WILL REFLECT THE CONDITION OF YOUR HEART.

👉 If you don't have a changed heart, pursue it!

👉 If you do have a changed heart, live it!

**AS JESUS SAID, A PERSON CANNOT SERVE TWO MASTERS –** and this is true, whether the issue involves:

- ✓ God vs. wealth (Matthew 6:24), or
- ✓ Righteousness vs. sin (Romans 6).

★ Getting wet did not save us... but the Holy Spirit did! ★

Without a heart change, our *best* "goodness" is no better than the "goodness" of the religious leaders in Jesus' day.

Jesus described them as being:

... like whitewashed graves that look beautiful on the outside but inside are full of dead people's bones and every kind of impurity.  
Matthew 23:27b (GW)

★ **Getting wet did not save us...**  
**but the Holy Spirit did!** ★

⇒ Those who rely on getting wet to save them, WITHOUT the necessary heart changes, are like...

**GROWL, SNARL, HOWL, BARK!**  
**I'M A SHEEP!**



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