

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

MAY 17TH–18TH, 2025 // BAPTISM WEEKEND

BAPTIZED INTO DEATH? (ROMANS 6:1–7)

The greatest problem of our humanity is that we are all sinners before a holy God (Rom. 3:23).

- We deserve nothing from God except for the just penalty of our sins—death (Rom. 6:23).
- The second death, hell (Rev. 2:11; 20:6; 20:14; 21:8) is a place of eternal separation from God.
- Jesus took the penalty of our sin upon Himself and stood in our place so that we could be saved.
- Salvation from our sin is also freedom from sin.

We are dead in sin before Christ. But if we are in Christ, we are “[dead] to sin” (vs. 1–2).

- Christianity is not just turning over a new leaf or getting a list of virtues that you should aspire to live up to (“But if you don’t, that’s ok, grace!”).
- The gospel is the power of new life.
- We look for so little when it comes to salvation. It is not just a “get-of-hell-free card,” it is an abundant life in Christ that frees us from bondage.

“HOW CAN WE WHO DIED TO SIN STILL LIVE IN IT?” (V. 2B)

If we have been born again by believing upon Jesus for our salvation, our relationship with sin has permanently changed.

- We have died to sin, therefore we should not live in it any longer or abuse grace (v. 1).
- There are no degrees of deadness; you are either dead or alive. The rescue God has in mind for you in salvation is giving you new life.

SALVATION IS THE RESCUE OF GOD THROUGH JESUS CHRIST TO UNDESERVING PEOPLE FROM A STATE OF SPIRITUAL DEATH, SLAVERY TO SIN, AND REBELLION AGAINST GOD.

Salvation is entirely an act of God’s kindness and mercy, not something we earn through our good deeds or religious performance.

- We are saved because God is good, not because we are good! Jesus took the penalty of our sin upon Himself so we could be saved.

Every religion in the world teaches that in order to get to God, we must “DO” works.

- But it is IMPOSSIBLE for us to do enough to make ourselves right before God!
- The gospel teaches that the work is DONE. We must simply place our faith in the Lord Jesus.
- This means we “repent” of our sins, we stop trusting in our own works, and we trust in Jesus to make us right before God.

The word “baptized” (v. 3) in Scripture carries with it the meaning of being immersed, covered, or overwhelmed by something.

- Baptized by the Holy Spirit (Mt. 3:11; Acts 1:5)
- Baptized with suffering (Mark 10:38–39)
- Baptized into Christ: immersed, overwhelmed, or covered by Christ (Rom. 6:3)
- Baptized with water: given to those who have believed upon Christ (Acts 2:38)

In the early church, water baptism was not an optional event in the Christian experience.

- The idea of an “unbaptized Christian” would be like a “childless parent,” or a “spouseless husband.”
- Baptism usually occurred immediately when someone was converted (Acts 2:38; 8:9–40; 16:11–40) because of its physical representation of salvation.

BAPTISM AS DEATH AND RESURRECTION (VS. 3–4)

Water baptism is an “acting out” of the Believer’s “immersion” or identification with Jesus in His death and resurrection.

- They are buried in a “tomb” of water as a way of symbolizing the spiritual reality that they are dead to sin and their old self was crucified with Christ (Gal. 2:20). It means that since Jesus died for me, I die with Him.
- Baptism also symbolizes resurrection (v. 4).
- We have been raised from the dead spiritually because before Christ we were “dead in our trespasses and sins” (Eph. 2:1).
- The same Spirit who raised Christ lives in us (Rom. 8:11) so that we might walk in newness of life. You cannot die and rise again spiritually without it radically changing your life.

UNITED (V. 5)

Since we joined Jesus in death by dying to self, we have been “united” to him in resurrection.

- This is a unity we have of the closest and most intimate kind where resurrection life from Christ Himself flows to us because we are joined to him.
- So, it is not just that our sins are forgiven and done away with, it is that we are given a power from God to live a new and different life.

NO LONGER ENSLAVED (V. 6)

The “old self” is the part of us patterned after Adam—that part of us that is rebellious, law-breaking, and self-seeking.

- That “old self” was “crucified with him” so that our sin nature (our “body ruled by sin”) would be brought to nothing.
- You cannot be a slave to someone who is dead. We’re no longer controlled by the “old self.”
- The old self has been done away with, but why do we feel the pull to sin inside us? That pull comes from something called the “flesh.”
- Remnants of our old desires, impulses, passions, mindsets, and imaginations may still be there, but they do not control us anymore.
- Now we have power from God’s Spirit to put them to death (Gal. 5:24).

SET FREE FROM SIN (V. 7)

Our old enslaved self died on the cross with Jesus. Now a new person, a “free man,” lives by the power of God’s spirit!

- Sin wants to be our master, and it often finds a foothold in our flesh that seeks to control us.
- But we have been set free. We do not have to live this way—we have a power from God that so often goes untapped.

RAISED WITH CHRIST (ROMANS 6:8–14)

“NOW IF WE DIED WITH CHRIST, WE BELIEVE THAT WE WILL ALSO LIVE WITH HIM” (V. 8)

Living with Christ means our lives are radically altered and daily transformed by His Spirit.

- This is the doctrine of “sanctification”: the process by which we are made holy, set apart from the world, and grow to look more like Jesus as we surrender to the Holy Spirit’s work in our lives.
- This is a lifelong journey!

Because we are in Christ, death no longer rules over us (v. 9), and the life we live now is no longer for ourselves and for sin, but for God (v. 10).

- So, all of this describes our spiritual standing if we are in Christ—this is who we are positionally before God.
- But how does this actually become a reality behaviorally in the life of the Believer?

“CONSIDER YOURSELVES DEAD TO SIN...” (V. 11)

The word *logizomai* is translated as “consider yourself” (reckon).

- It is an accounting term that means you count one thing as if it were another (Wild Card in Uno).
- When God sees our faith in Jesus as our sin substitute, he *logizomai*s our faith as righteousness (Rom. 4:5).
- Well, now it is our turn to do some reckoning.

When we consider ourselves “dead to sin,” it simply means we believe what God says in His Word is really true in our life.

- Even if we do not feel dead to sin, when we still choose to believe what God has declared to be, God infuses power within us to walk in it.
- We walk in it when we feed our spirit instead of our flesh, stay away from temptations, and confess and repent of sin quickly so that it does not gain any control over us.

RESTORING GOD AS THE CENTER (VS. 12–13)

Living in Christ and being dead to sin works through considering ourselves dead (v. 11) and then restoring God as the center of our lives.

- We do not live to serve ourselves and sin anymore.
- “Do not let sin reign” means to cut ties with sin: we take drastic measures to stay away from temptation, we get accountability, and we confess and repent quickly when we fail.
- Instead of presenting our bodies to our old master (sin) so that we can serve it, we present our bodies to our new master (God) so we can serve Him!
- If the Christian life is simply sin avoidance, not gospel obedience, this is UNBELIEVABLY difficult (if not absolutely impossible).
- We get busy serving God and not self.

NOT LAW, BUT GRACE! (V. 14)

For those under the law, sin is the master, because the law points the finger at our failures yet gives us no power to resist sin.

- But the reason why sin has no dominion over us is because we are under grace!
- In salvation, we have God’s forgiveness, unmerited favor, AND the power of the living God through the Holy Spirit to live a new life!

WHY DO I NEED THIS?

WHY BE SAVED AND BORN AGAIN?

The human condition, apart from Christ, is that we are totally lost in sin and completely unable to save ourselves apart from Christ.

- We are spiritually dead, enslaved to sin and Satan, and our hearts are hardened by evil (Eph. 4:18).
- We are under God’s wrath, at odds with God (Rom. 8:7–8), and in danger of eternal hell.
- Getting right with God, becoming a Christian, living free from sin, and receiving the assurance of heaven is not a matter of attending church or trying to modify your behavior.
- Some of us are trusting in religion, morality, a magic prayer we once prayed, or some magic water we once got dunked in, but it is only complete faith in Christ that saves us!

WHY GET BAPTIZED?

Jesus commanded it (Mt. 28:19–20), Jesus modeled it (Mt. 3:16–17), and the early church baptized in obedience to Christ’s commands (Acts 2:38–41).

- Baptism is a public proclamation of the inner transformation that has already occurred in our lives through faith in Christ. By being baptized, we declare our allegiance to Jesus!
- Baptism identifies us with Christ and shows the union we share with Him upon salvation (Rom. 6:3–4; Col. 2:12).
- Baptism shows that our old self and old way of life have been crucified and buried with Christ.
- Baptism shows that, just as Jesus was resurrected, we have been raised to a new kind of spiritual life by the power of the Holy Spirit.

“BUT...DO I HAVE TO GET BAPTIZED?”

When we ask that question, it already proves our hearts are in the wrong place.

- Every person on planet Earth needs to be saved because only through Jesus can we have eternal life. Every Believer should be baptized as an act of obedience and a public sign of the new life we have in Him.

HAVE I RECEIVED THE SALVATION THAT GOD OFFERS THROUGH CHRIST?

- Is my body ruled by sin and self or by God?
- Am I trying to atone for my sins through good behavior, virtuous living, justifying/comparison, or religious performance?
- The work is DONE—we must “repent” of our sins, stop trusting in our own works, and trust in Jesus to make us right before God.

HAVE I PUBLICLY PROFESSED MY FAITH IN CHRIST THROUGH BAPTISM?

- If you have been born again, but you have never been baptized, right NOW is the time to take that step of obedience and publicly declare your faith.
- If you have been washed, regenerated, and renewed by the Holy Spirit, He has given you a new desire to obey God, so obey God and be baptized (Acts 2:38).

AM I LIVING OUT THE NEW LIFE BAPTISM REPRESENTS?

- Are you living as if salvation and grace are simply “get-out-of-hell-free” cards while you continue to live enslaved to sin and self?
- What measures are you taking to stay away from temptation, get accountability, and confess and repent quickly when you fail?
- Are you walking in newness of life?