

Wednesday in the Word

Digging Deeper

June 15, 2022

On Baptism

Romans 6:1-14 KJVS

[1] What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? [2] God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? [3] Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? [4] Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. [5] For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: [6] Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. [7] For he that is dead is freed from sin. [8] Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: [9] Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. [10] For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. [11] Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. [12] Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. [13] Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. [14] For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

What happens when you get baptized? It seems a requirement after salvation. Mark 16:16, Acts 2:38, 22:16. Now, we know that Salvation in Christ alone is all that's needed to go to heaven. Baptism is a public statement of our faith. It is a practice in which we place great import and is as well with communion. Both of these picture the high points of salvation, as they convey the atoning blood of Christ and the regeneration of the Holy Spirit. Baptism can be a deep spiritual and emotional experience. It can be a point of initiation to a radical new life. Jesus was baptized to define a beginning to His earthly ministry. Matthew 3:13-17. While no mention is made of Jesus' reaction to this moment it is quite evident that it was a powerful time. For many of us baptism is the impetus to pursuing the call of God. He may use it to guide us into serving Him in some unique way that may become the focus of the rest of our Christian life. If we picture the experience the Ethiopian Eunuch had at his baptism it had to be a fantastic event for him and surely he retold his story many times. Acts 8:28-39. This had to have greatly altered the direction of his life. If Jesus has saved you and you were baptized by immersion perhaps you have a story to tell. Encourage others with how the Holy Spirit affected you since that day. Take some time even now to share with your small group what you went through and how God has used your baptism experience.

In today's passage our author uses some critical logic to help us see the power of baptism. We begin with a preposterous supposition. Romans 5:20-21 tells us that despite the depth of our sin, God's grace and forgiveness overflow, more than sufficient to eradicate our sin. We can't out sin God's grace. Chapter 6:1 asks if we have a license to sin. If God will always forgive, can we continue to sin without fear or guilt? Verse 2 answers quickly. God forbid! The argument then begins that we are dead to sin. If we are dead we cannot function. Verse 4 is our key.

Baptism is a picture of our joining Christ in death and in rising with Him to life. We acquire a change of conscience. 1 Peter 3:21. A new spirit is born within us. John 3:5. We were joined to a new fellowship. 1 Corinthians 12:13. We now live within Christ. Galatians 3:27. In Romans 6:5 we are likened to a living stalk of grain. 1 Corinthians 15:35-38. Reading on from there in verses 40-44 we are also compared to the sun, moon and stars. In Christ we are uniquely new and different, so sin ought not to occupy space within us. Romans 6:6. Verses 7-8 declare us dead to sin and alive in Christ. Reading on, we are free from sin and death. Vv 9-10. Perhaps most joyfully we are free from ourselves. The remainder of today's passage commands us in God's logic to reckon ourselves dead to sin and alive to Christ. This word reckon in verse 11 is *logizomai* in the Greek; to take an inventory that is to estimate. Go into the warehouse of your life and record every item on every shelf. How much is sin? Are the quantities decreasing? How much is righteousness? Are stocks growing or should we order more? By taking a full account of every thought, behavior and heart motive we can assess or estimate the nature of business. A review of this survey, presented to the Holy Spirit will result in a business meeting like no other. Let the Boss determine your future. Verse 12 says "Let not sin reign". The Greek here speaks of the kingdom of your physical body. Sin and the flesh sit on the throne until the King of kings takes over. We will reign with Christ one day. He will place us on thrones in His Kingdom. Revelation 3:21. Have you placed Him on yours here and now? Yielding in verse 13 is *paristēmi*; to stand beside to offer for acceptance. The soul is the mediator between the Spirit and the flesh. When we sin, our soul stands beside our flesh and offers sin as acceptable. We are commanded not to yield. Member and instrument in the Greek are respectively; *melos*; a limb or part of the body and *hoplon*; to be busy with an implement, utensil or tool. How busy is your body with sin? How we use our body matters to God. Coming out of the waters of baptism we are squeaky clean and God in Christ forgives and washes us as often as necessary. As often as we repent. Verse 14. We are under grace. Let us not frustrate His grace. Galatians 2:17-21. If you still entertain sin, remember from whence you've fallen and strive to please your Savior. Revelation 2:5. Remember your baptism and understand its symbolism. Colossians 2:11-12, 2 Corinthians 5:17.