

7/18/18

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Romans 6:1-7

In these Bible verses there is a certain logic behind the opening question that makes sense to our human way of thinking. If our sinning makes God's grace abound, then why not keep on sinning to make God's grace abound even more? While this logic might make sense to our sinful natures, it makes no sense when we remember how we have been united with Christ in his death and resurrection. God's Word says, "We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?" (Romans 6:2).

There's a story of a young slave girl who was up for auction by her owner because she was no longer strong enough to work in the fields. She was sobbing because she knew that if a harsh owner bought her, it would end in death. Despite her physical weakness, the price for her sale escalated rapidly because of her beauty. Finally, a wealthy landowner won the auction by offering double what anyone else had bid—the highest price of the day! When the auction was over, the clerk handed the girl a bill of sale which normally would have named her new legal owner. But to her surprise, the only thing written on it was her name with the word "FREE" in

capital letters. At first, she didn't know what to make of it. Was this a cruel joke of some kind? But when she realized that it wasn't, when she realized what had happened, what this piece of paper meant—that she had been set free from slavery to death—she hurried back to the clerk and pleaded, “Where is the man that bought my freedom? Please help me find him. This man has set me free, I want to serve him the rest of my life.”

All of us who were baptized into Christ were baptized into his death. We have been united with Christ in his death and resurrection and freed from slavery to sin. This is why we can count ourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus (Romans 6:11). Yes, God's grace abounds to cover all our sins, but why would we want to go back to our old slave owner? Why would we want to live a life that leads to hated service and death? We've been raised from death to life with our Savior, freed from slavery to sin. So “how can we live in it any longer?”

***Prayer:** Dear Heavenly Father, in your grace you have united me with your perfect Son and his death and resurrection through baptism. Send your Spirit into my heart to give me the desire to live a new life in the joy and peace of his resurrection. Amen.*

(WELS E-Devotion, adapted)

To humans belong the plans of the heart, but from the Lord comes the proper answer of the tongue. Proverbs 16:1

Remember in your prayers:

In Need Of Our Prayers

Sue Whittier, Allan Champlain, Allan Champlain's brother-in-law, John Roth, Bill Geisser, Rose Marie Lenz, Jean Johnson, John Smith, John Ladner, Ellen Laurencell, Keith Haslam, Evelyn Lothar, Carroll Lothar, Marge Krueger, Carolynn Perkins,

Tammie Mueller, Mary Emery, David Shield, Steve Schroeder (friend of Brenda Henschen), Bradley Orahod (great nephew of Cynthia Champlain).

Specific Prayers

Military Personnel

For Bethany and Christ the King Lutheran Churches that the Lord richly bless our family of believers with His grace and mercy.

John Saylor who is undergoing cancer treatment

Keane Foster, Marlene Fleming's brother who is experiencing many health issues

Two friends of Jodie Roberts are dealing with cancer

Jodie Roberts' friend's sister who was in a car accident

Allan Champlain who is dealing with health issues.

Marilyn Yelland is recovering from surgery

Don Publitz who is battling lung and lymph cancer

Vickie Weston who is dealing with health issues

Ernie Kully, Sue Whittier's son, who has a lung disease and needs a lung transplant

John Smith who is dealing with health issues

Laura Reilly who is dealing with health issues

Ruth Ladner is dealing with health issues

This Week In God's Grace

Today: 9:30 a.m. Bible Class at Bethany
Pastor at Bethany – shut in visits

Thursday: 8:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast
9:30 a.m. Church Council Meeting
1:00 p.m. Pastor meets someone at office

Pastor visiting shut ins in the afternoon
Pastor in the church office from 6-8 p.m.

Friday:

Pastor at Bethany

Saturday:

9:00 a.m. Pastor at LWMS Meeting at Christ the King

Sunday:

8:30 a.m. Worship Service at Bethany

9:30 a.m. Fellowship at Bethany

9:30 a.m. Bible Class at Christ the King

10:30 a.m. Worship Service at Christ the King

...See you in worship.

Keep looking up because the Lord is always looking down – Psalm 121

Pastor Alan W. Gumm

Phone: 630-947-4317 - revagumm@hotmail.com