

The Book of Romans - Part 22

What a great day it is to be serving the Lord, and it is a good life to know Jesus as our Lord and Savior. I'm excited today to be with you and sharing with you the Word of God. We're looking right now through the book of Romans, and we're in Romans chapter 6. Last time we left off at Romans 6:1-2, and I want to recap that right now, just a little bit. Paul begins there in Romans 6:1-2 by saying, *¹What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? ²God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?*

Remember, we studied in chapter 5 where Paul ended that chapter by saying that sin abounded, but he also added that where sin abounded, grace abounded much more. And now he says, *What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?* And his answer, of course, in verse 2 says, *God forbid... No... How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?*

As we continue on looking at this verse 2, Paul asks the question, "How shall we continue?" And in 1 Peter 2:24, *Who his own self bare our sins... This is Jesus... in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.* Now in verse 3 and the first part of verse 4, it says, *³Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? ⁴Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death....* Now, we are identified with Christ in His death by baptism.

The references to baptism in Romans 6:3-5 here clearly imply immersion, as no other mode would or could portray the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. And,

likewise, immersion also portrays the death of the believer to his old nature.

Now, let me quickly add that baptism by water does not save anyone. Remember, Jesus is already speaking to people who are already saved here. Paul is speaking to these people who have trusted Jesus as Savior. They're already saved, so he's saying that we are identified with Christ. We're letting the world know that we have been saved, that just as Jesus Christ was killed, he was hung on that cross, he died, he was buried, and he rose, and just as He did that, we are identifying ourselves with that death, burial and resurrection. And the way we do that is by going down into the water and coming up out of that water.

Nowhere in the Scriptures does it tell us that when a person gets baptized... I don't care what someone tries to tell you... the Scriptures do not bear this out that a person is saved by baptism. Nowhere in the Scriptures does it say that. And Paul is not trying to tell us here that a person is saved by baptism. Remember, he's speaking to saved people. He's writing this to the church at Rome.

Now look with me in verse 4, the remainder of this section of Scripture and we'll go through verse 7 here. It says, *^{4b}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. ⁵For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death... and there's that baptism again, see... if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: ⁶Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we*

should not serve sin. ⁷For he that is dead is freed from sin.

When we go down into the baptismal waters, what we're doing is identifying ourselves with Christ with His death, burial, and resurrection, and we're telling the world that we have died to sin. Now, we should walk in newness of life, and having been united together in the likeness of His death and resurrection, we are to recognize that we have been crucified with Him, telling the world this, and are no longer slaves of sin but freed from sin.

Colossians 3:3-9 say this: *³For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. ⁵Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: ⁶For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: ⁷In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them. ⁸But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. ⁹Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds.*

We have been saved. We have been raised with Christ from the dead. In God's sight, we are in Christ, and just as Christ gave His life for us, God sees us in the life of Christ. We are no longer our own at this point, and we'll see that more as we get over into the book of Romans here. In Romans 12:1, Paul says, *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice....* You see, he's carrying on this idea of not living for sin any longer but living unto Jesus Christ, presenting our bodies living sacrifices, which is our reasonable service. And we do that by trusting fully in Jesus to take care of us. We've already been saved according to the Scriptures

when we asked Jesus into our heart, and therefore, we are able to present our bodies living sacrifices, which is our reasonable service unto God.

Now, I want you to notice something else here in Romans 6:7. We've already read that a dead person is set free from sin. When we recognize ourselves to be dead indeed unto sin or dead with Christ, then we're freed from sin. That doesn't mean that a person cannot sin. I'm talking about this body. As long as we're in this body, we have a problem, and that's the reason this body is going to die. The Bible tells us that this body is going to be changed, and when it is changed, we're going to be fashioned like our Lord. And the new body that we receive, that new body will not sin, but I'll have you to know this that this real person, myself and you, if you've trusted Jesus as your Savior, the real you cannot sin because that is what goes to Heaven. This body is not going to go to Heaven, and Paul once again is talking us through the book of Romans. He's telling these people in the church at Rome there, the Christian church, that they are not to live in sin, not to look for sin, not to try to sin, not to give in to sin, but do what God wants them to do and live unto Him, that sin would not reign or have control over that body. We know that we have problems in this life, and one day, thank God, this life will be over, and we will be with the Lord forever. And we don't have to worry about the sin problem anymore, because it will be taken care of completely for us as children of God.

Now look with me in verses 8-14 of Romans 6. Paul continues his idea about being dead with Christ. He says, *⁸Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: ⁹Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. ¹⁰For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. ¹¹Likewise reckon ye also*

yourself to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. ¹²Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. ¹³Neither 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. ¹⁴For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

These verses are telling me in the beginning here that having died with Christ we will live with Him, according to Romans 6:8. First Thessalonians 5:10 says, *Who died for us that whether we wake or sleep we should live together with him.* Second Timothy 2:11 says, *It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him.* And that's a promise to us from our heavenly Father, from Jesus Who gave His life for us, our Savior.

Now, Newell wrote this. Newell was a great preacher. He was a great man of God. When I say "great," he was simply a human being, but God used him greatly in the work. And he says, "This word, shall also be living with Him, must finally include, doubtless, the consummation of our salvation at the coming of Christ, and the fashioning anew of our mortal bodies. But the word refers directly to that expressed by Paul," he says, in Galatians 2:20 where Paul says, "I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless, I live, yet not I but Christ liveth in me."

When Jesus comes back for us, whether we meet Him in the air at the rapture of the church, whether we're alive and meet Him in the air, or whether we've gone on, whether these bodies are in the ground or whatever has taken place, whether we've died this physical death, Jesus says that one day sin is going to be eradicated completely from this ourselves and until then we are to submit unto God. We are to give ourselves wholly over to the Lord to let

Him fashion us, to let Him help us to realize that we have been crucified with Christ but nevertheless we live, yet not myself, but Christ liveth in me. Christ is all in all.

I wonder today, have you trusted Him as your Savior? Do you know Jesus as your Lord and Savior? If you've never trusted Him, ask Him to come into your heart right now. And if you have been saved, you need to realize that God wants to use you. I don't care who you are, how old you are, how young you are. God wants to use you for His honor and glory, that is, if you've trusted Jesus as your Savior.

Thank you for being with me today, and it's a real joy each time that I'm able to share with you the Word of God and I want to be able to share that Word with you. Even during the week when you don't tune into this broadcast, you can go to the Website, www.LRWM.org, and you can listen to this message again and other messages of "It's a Good Life," and you can download transcripts there. You can get Bible study helps and you can hear preaching on the Website, as well. And let me invite you to go there.

You can write to me, Lewis Woodard, 497 Judith Avenue, Fruitland Park, FL 34731. Write to me and I'll be glad to send you a transcript of this program and other programs of it's a good life.

Well, until the next time when you hear me say, "It's a Good Life," I'll be praying for you. And you say, "Well, you don't even know me." Yes, I do. God knows you, and I know you listen to this program, and I pray for you. I may not know you by name, but I pray for you that God would continue to bless and that if you've never trusted Jesus as your Savior, that you would ask Him to come into your heart.

May the Lord bless you richly is my prayer.