



# Romans

Right With God

# Dead *And* Alive

Lesson Twenty-Six

*Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex Curriculum*

# Romans

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### Dead *And* Alive

It seems impossible to be dead *and* alive. However, in the lesson for today, we are going to see that it is not only possible, but it is what every person who ever lived ought to want. Read Romans 6:1-10.

These verses convey serious thoughts. First, it is awful to think of sinning carelessly. Sinning as if it doesn't matter is unthinkable Sin breaks God's heart.\* Think about it. Would you intentionally do something which would break your parents' heart? Surely not.

Paul says that it is not possible for someone who has truly received Jesus to enjoy sin as a way of life. He does not say that sin has died. He is saying that sin no longer has a hold on the Christian. Christians are no longer under the control of sin. Paul is not talking about sinless perfection. He is talking about freedom from sin, The Christian's choice. He says that we died to sin. And to make that easier to see, he reminds them of their baptism.

Baptism was a religious practice in both Jewish and pagan religions. So, everyone who read the letter would have some idea what he was talking about. All baptism, at that time, was adult baptism. It was an initiation. Baptism was by immersion. The word "baptism" was used to describe the sinking of a boat or a person being drowned. In Christian baptism, you went down under the water painting a picture of the burial of the old sinful human.

The second thing that Paul wants us to think about is that the person who becomes a Christian enters into a totally different life than he or she lived before. We die to the old life, but we are not dead. We are alive "in Christ." There is a new identity. When children are adopted, they get a new last name. They live in a different place. They call someone mother who is not their birth mother. They depend on a father who is not their birth father. They are in a new family. We are in a new family when we become a Christian.

Verse four says that Jesus was raised "through the glory of God." That is an unusual statement. Glory describes the wonder and the greatness of God. What we see here is not just the power of God, but the power of God in action...for all to see. And just as the glory, the revealed power of God in action, is evident in Christ's resurrection, it is evident in our new life.

The old person has died. We have died to sin. And the sinful self that died is no longer a slave to sin. You could say that the old human was united with Adam. The new human is united with Christ.

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By faith we move forward to a new life; life in Christ. Death for the Christian is not bad in any sense. It is the door to new life: new life here on earth, and new life in Heaven beyond this earth. Death had no power over Jesus, He conquered death. And, death no longer has any power over the Christian; Jesus took care of that also.

According to verse ten, Jesus' death is done. And it was done once for all. It will never happen again. There is no need. But remember, sin tempts believers constantly and we must deal with it daily. However, Jesus, who never sinned, died for all sin, once for all.

Any way you look at sin, any way you are confronted by sin, you may be absolutely sure that Jesus Christ, God's unique Son, dealt with it victoriously once for all. And, since He did it for you, you can also have victory over sin! You can be *dead* to sin **and** *alive* in Christ.

**Scripture Memory: "If we have been united with Him like this in His death, we will certainly be united with Him in His resurrection." Romans 6:5**

\*Underlined statements in this Teacher's Guide appear in the Student Worksheet with blanks to be filled in by the student during the lesson. Words in the Student Worksheet may not appear exactly as printed in the Teacher's Guide.

### **For the Teacher:**

***Lesson Goal: To help students understand the concept of death to sin, and new life in Christ.***

1. We have come to a new section of Romans. From 6:1 to 8:39 Paul is going to discuss the way Christians should live. He has thoroughly dealt with the fact that God, in Christ, justifies sinners. Now, he is going to tell those justified how God expects us to behave. Read Galatians 5:13.

2. In Paul's day, a person who converted to Judaism was required to do three things. First, make a sacrifice. Second if male, be circumcised. Third, be baptized. The person being baptized was to cut his nails, cut his hair, undress completely so that every part of the body would be touched by the baptismal water. When he was in the water, he was to make confession of his faith before three persons who were qualified to hear such confession at baptism, and then receive several teachings given to him by the baptizer. The effect of the baptism was to signal complete regeneration. In other words, the person became a new person...like a newborn. Sins, therefore, were no longer held to his account, because they happened before he was born. This was such a radical event that some rabbis held that children born to this person before baptism didn't count. His first born would be a child born after baptism. So any Jew would understand Paul's teaching about a baptized person being seen as completely new.

3. We are baptized into Christ. We follow Him through death, burial and resurrection. We are crucified with Him, 6:6; Galatians 2:20; we died with Him, II Timothy 2:11; we are buried with Him, Colossians 2:12; we are made alive with Him, Ephesians 2:5, Colossians 2:13; we are raised with Him and made to sit in the Heavenly places with Him, Ephesians 2:6; we are co-heirs with Him, chapter 8:17; we are sharers of His glory, 8:17; and we will reign with Him, II Timothy 2:12.

4. God is involved with us in Christian living. We see this act of God in Titus 2:14, "Who gave Himself for us, to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for Himself a people that are His very own, eager to do what is good."

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### *Student Worksheet*

## Dead *And* Alive

=It is awful to think of sinning carelessly. Sinning as if it doesn't \_\_\_\_\_ is unthinkable. Sin breaks God's \_\_\_\_\_.

=Paul says that it is not possible for someone who has truly received \_\_\_\_\_ to enjoy sin as a way of \_\_\_\_\_.

=The second thing that Paul wants us to \_\_\_\_\_ about is that the person who becomes a \_\_\_\_\_ enters into a totally different life than he or she lived before. We \_\_\_\_\_ to the old life, but we are not dead. We are \_\_\_\_\_ "in Christ."

=Just as the glory, the revealed \_\_\_\_\_ of God in action, is evident in \_\_\_\_\_'s resurrection, it is evident in our \_\_\_\_\_ life.

=Any way you look at \_\_\_\_\_, any way you are confronted by \_\_\_\_\_, you may be absolutely sure that Jesus Christ, God's unique \_\_\_\_\_, dealt with it victoriously \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_.

**Scripture Memory: "If we have been united with Him like this in His death, we will certainly be united with Him in His resurrection." Romans 6:5**

#### **A Roman Road to Salvation:**

**Romans 3:23** "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Everyone is a sinner and needs salvation.

**Romans 6:23a** "For the wages of sin is death." The law of God is unchangeable. If someone sins the penalty must be paid, the payment is death.

**Romans 5:8** "But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners Christ died for us." God loves us so much, according to John 3:16, that He sent His Son, Jesus, to die for our sins.

**Romans 6:23b** "But the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." The penalty for sin is spiritual death, but God, through the death of Jesus on the cross, took the penalty for the sins of all people, and now everyone can have eternal life. See also, II Corinthians 5:21

**Romans 10:9, 10** "That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved." To personally receive the gift of God, eternal life in Christ Jesus, you trust God to be what He says He is. Believing that "God raised Him (Jesus) from the dead" is to accept all that the Bible says about God and His Son, Jesus. Then you speak (confess) the words, "Jesus is Lord," as a statement of faith. Believing "with your heart" means that you believe with your mind and with everything that you are.

**Romans 10:13** "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." You have the promise of God Himself that if you do what Romans 10:9, 10 says, you will become God's child and have eternal life.

**Romans 12:1, 2** "I urge you brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will." Becoming a Christian is a life-long act of faith and worship.