

Dead, Dunked and Delivered

Rom 6:1-10

I would like to welcome everyone again to our Friends and Family Day. One of the things we decided several years ago was to let you see what we are like every Sunday. Pretty much everything but potluck will be the same any time you come to visit. And potluck will be the same the first Sunday of every month! The main reason we do this, is so you know what you see today is what and who we are. A group of Christians trying our best to honor God in our worship.

Six weeks ago, we started a series of sermons going through the book of Romans and I preach from various passages in this book. It's a very deep book and I am only covering a small part of what could be preached on. Today we are entering chapter 6.

We in the churches of Christ have quite a reputation for spending a lot of time on baptism. It's the center piece of our commitment to God, so I think we should, but sometimes we lose sight of everything else and only focus on baptism.

I read a story about a young preacher that just started working for a congregation and every sermon he did was on baptism. Well, pretty much everyone there on Sunday mornings were already baptized, and the elders asked him to preach on something else for a change. One of the elders thought he could challenge him said preach a sermon on Genesis 1:1. The next week the preacher gets up and says, I will be preaching from the text, "in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth," Now we all know that the earth is 2/3 water, so I want to talk about water baptism....

Well, guess what, I'm going to talk about baptism today in the context of this series and remind us of what it means to be baptized into Christ, a phrase that is used only twice in the entire New Testament.

PRAYER

I. Dead

A. Life and Death

1. Paul talks about being baptized into Christ, which is about eternal life, but he puts in the context of death!
2. We are baptized into Jesus' death
3. We are dead to sin
4. We are united to Christ in his death.
5. What do all these concepts mean to our salvation?

B. Dead is dead...or is it?

1. When we discuss death on the physical side, that usually means the end of things.
2. Just like Rover, we're dead all over as the saying goes.
3. I have done many funerals over my time as a minister and so far, none of the people I have done funerals for have got up out of the casket and resumed their life!
4. When we say someone is dead. That's the end.
5. Spiritual death is a little different
6. If left alone it's eternal, but if corrected, it's taken off the table forever.
7. In my class last Sunday, I asked several people to tell about becoming a Christian. Most were like me; they had been raised in a church setting and so their lifestyle didn't change dramatically, but something did. Each of them realized that they had sinned and because of that they were cut off from God until they did something about that.
8. It meant a change in their lives. A desire to serve God more than the desire to live however they pleased. They had to die to sin.
9. dying to sin means keeping ourselves from doing things we know are wrong.

C. Dead to sin

1. The Roman Christians thought that if they sinned more, they would get more grace!
2. Paul had to tell them in no uncertain words that wasn't how it worked!
3. Romans 6:1–2 (ESV) — 1 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?
 - a) You can't live in sin and in Christ at the same time.
 - b) You have to be dead to one or the other.
4. So many people look at this passage and others like it and rightfully think "I can never be perfect. I know I will sin"
5. While they are right in that thinking, they forget that God cleanses us and helps us to grow in our faith.
6. It's a process as well as an event.
7. Dead to sin means we do all we can not to sin.
8. When we do sin, we ask God to forgive us, and try to keep growing, not just wallow in our sins.

D. Dead in Christ

1. It's hard to understand how you can be baptized into someone's death, unless you understand what the picture is all about.
2. When Jesus was sentenced to die by crucifixion, he was forced to carry his cross to the place where he would be executed. There, he lingered on the cross until he died.
3. When Jesus tells us to take up our cross and follow him, it's a death sentence.
4. When Paul tells us we are baptized into his death, he is saying we are accepting a death sentence.
5. We need to die to sin, die to our natural desires, die to our self-centeredness.

6. When we do that we are able to die in Christ and live in Christ at the same time as verse 8 talks about

II. Dunked

A. Imagery

1. This theological discussion is wrapped in the imagery of Jesus death, burial and resurrection.
2. Romans 6:4 (ESV) — 4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.
3. Jesus died for our sins, was buried, but rose again conquering death and sin!
4. When we die to our sins, we are buried with Christ in baptism and come up out of the water having conquered spiritual death and sin.
5. It's an imagery that isn't lost on people even when the circumstances are tricky. My brother was at a lecture at OVU and the speaker was telling a story about a very unusual baptism he had last summer. The speaker was about my size and had been studying with a park ranger as they hiked a trail together at a state park. As they crossed a bridge the ranger looked down and said, "Look, we have some water, I want to be baptized." The preacher tried to talk him out of it because it was a fast moving stream and the ranger was about the size of Matt. But the man really wanted to be baptized, so they carefully waded into the water. It was a rocky bottom not a sandy bottom, so when the preacher dipped him under, they lost their footing on the stones and went floating down the river, getting repeatedly baptized until they could gain their footing again!

B. Why immersion?

1. So many people ask, "why do we immerse rather than sprinkle or pour?"
2. This passage right here is a main reason; the imagery of baptism ties us to what Christ has done for us.
3. Second, the original word means to dip, plunge, or immerse

4. It wasn't until about 1400 AD that people were baptized any other way than immersion.
5. My lesson today is to focus on this passage, not get technical about baptism so I want to concentrate on the imagery.
6. Jesus died, willingly giving up his life.
 - a) We die to sin willingly giving up our old way of life.
7. Jesus was buried
 - a) We are buried in the water of baptism
8. God brought Jesus to life and resurrected him to a new life.
 - a) God brings us to life by forgiving our sins.
 - b) He also resurrects us to a new life where all that sin has been removed from us.
9. Death, burial and resurrection.
10. It really is that simple, folks!

III. Delivered

A. We have been freed

1. The whole purpose of baptism is to signify the most important event you will ever experience; the freedom from the slavery of sin.
2. Romans 6:6–11 (ESV) — 6 We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. 7 For one who has died has been set free from sin. 8 Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. 9 We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. 10 For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. 11 So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

3. Paul Berkley wrote - In 1863 the Emancipation Proclamation was proclaimed in America. The word spread from Capitol Hill down into the valleys of Virginia, and the Carolinas, and even into the plantations of Georgia, Mississippi, and Alabama. The headlines read, 'Slavery Legally Abolished!' However, the greater majority of slaves, in the South, went right on living as though there had been no emancipation. They went on living like they had never been set free. In fact, when one Alabama slave was asked what he thought of the Great Emancipator, whose proclamation had gone into effect, he replied "I don't know nothing about Abraham Lincoln except they say he set us free. And, I don't know nothing about that neither."

4. How tragic. A war was being fought. A document had been signed. Slaves were legally free. Yet they didn't understand what that meant to their lives, so they kept living in slavery when they didn't have to.

5. How many unsaved people have the same understanding of what Christ did for them as they live enslaved in a world of sin.

6. One of the best parts of this passage is reminding us we have been set free!

7. But we need to understand what that means and then choose to quit being a slave to sin.

B. Living free from Sin

1. Does it mean we won't sin anymore if we are Christians?

a) We are human; we are going to sin even with God residing in us.

b) The difference is that because of the sacrifice of Christ, God no longer holds our sins against us.

2. Does it mean we can sin all we want because we know grace covers those sins?

a) Paul reminds his audience and us, that we had better not cheapen that Grace.

b) Christ didn't suffer and die, so we can go around saying "oh grace will cover it."

c) We need to live a life that desires to sin as little as possible.

- d) We want to honor God with our lives.
- e) But it's good to know is grace covers our weak moments.

3. Do we get more grace if we sin more?

- a) Paul answers that thought with a very emphatic "NO" in vs 1-2
- b) Grace isn't something you can stockpile. It's a gift from God to keep you from going to hell like you deserve.

C. Live like you mean it

1. Verses 12-14, Paul reminds us to live a life that understands what God has done for us.

2. Romans 6:12–14 (ESV) —12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. 13 Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. 14 For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

- 3. We need to be as fully committed to him as he is to us.
- 4. Don't let sin reign in your body, let God reign in you.
- 5. Offer yourself to God not sin.
- 6. If you do, sin won't control your life; God's grace does.
- 7. Dead, Dunked, Delivered
- 8. It's what salvation is all about.