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Go and make disciples!

E-votional 55

Baptized into His Death

Romans 6:2-7 (ESV)

By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 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. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. 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. For one who has died has been set free from sin

This passage of scripture really is the most promising conclusion of our common salvation. If you were to read and then reread it you would see the definitive nature of salvation that it reveals. In saying this, let's take a look to see just how.

Well, to start, Paul declares, 'how can we who died to sin still live in it?' In today's culture, the definitive nature of this statement can seem puzzling to say the least. I say this because we have been taught that salvation is this really long drawn out thing that eventually bears fruit. Now in exposing this, I will say that I am totally in agreement with the work of sanctification by the Holy Spirit. But I would like to add that immediate and full surrender to this is first necessary and is in fact the object of what I believe Paul is trying to get at here. Along with this idea, it is important that although there is a work of sanctification that there must be a turning away from all known sin, for this is the whole point of salvation. In saying this, Jesus did not come to die for some long drawn out process, but in fact, came that we might have life and more abundantly at that.

This life begins where we end. So of necessity, the idea of self-renunciation and repentance is the very beginning of the new creation just as the death of Jesus Christ was necessary before He was raised from the dead. Likewise, Paul is directly saying that we who have officially been baptized into His death have also

been officially raised to newness of life by His supernatural working. Praise God!

Let us fully grasp what the Lord wants us to realize here. The moment we come to Jesus we are shown to be sinners in need of a Savior. At this point, we deeply realize our need for a complete transfer of authority. In regard to this, we are immediately taken off the throne and Jesus takes His rightful place. We have been baptized into His death, please let this sink in, for it is detrimental to our spiritual wellbeing. It is so because Paul says that when we are dead with Christ we are no longer enslaved to sin. O such a foretaste of glory divine!

This is intended to be the relief the sinner bogged down by their sin's needs. It is self-renunciation that speaks about the death of Jesus and resurrection that follows every time.

Self-renunciation in true faith is not some legalistic principle that bears no fruit. It is, however, a spiritual discipline applied through prayer that relies wholeheartedly upon the merits of Jesus Christ and what He accomplished on the cross. This principle is important because sin leaves us hanging and causes us pain and separation from God in life. To renounce the sinful state of our humanity is to experience the refreshment of God's Holy Spirit in our lives.

I remember a time when I was going through a temptation to sin and felt the heavy weight of it laying upon my heart. I felt like all hope was lost. At this point, I recall going to Romans 6:7 (ESV),

For one who has died has been set free from sin.

I remember just spending a moment in prayer just meditating and declaring this word over my life. It truly was a remarkable experience because as I began to die to myself and align my faith with God's word. His power became a reality in this temptation. I began to visualize myself as being dead to all sin and alive by the newness of life through the Holy Spirit. It was at this moment, as well as at other moments that I began to experience the goodness and power of God. I am so thankful for His truth that truly sets sinners free.

O Lord, let us be like the man who goes out to build the tower, who first sits down to figure out how much it will cost so that when he begins this project he will know what it will take to finish (Luke 14:25-30). Likewise, let us understand the full measure of Your salvation so we can live by Your power alone. Father, draw the sinner to the full work of salvation. We just stand in confident prayer now Lord that You would have Your way in our life so that we can go out in the power of this message to bring the lost of this world to You. In Jesus name.

In Christ's Love,
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