

ROMANS: PART 28  
FEBRUARY 18, 1996

*Baptized Into Christ*  
Romans 6:3-4

In Rom 6:3-4 "baptism" does not mean Sacramentalism:

1. Sacramentalism means:
  - ◆ Water baptism incorporates us into Christ (baptismal regeneration)
  - ◆ Water baptism (along with faith) saves us.
2. Sacramentalism is a completely anti-biblical concept:
  - ◆ People are saved when they *believe*. 100x's in NT. Cf. I Cor 1:13-17
  - ◆ People were saved *before* they were baptized. Lk 23:39-43; Acts 10:1-48; 16:29-34.
  - ◆ Christ baptizes us with the Spirit, not water. Mt 3:11; Lk 3:16; Jn 3:5; 7:37-39; Acts 11:16
  - ◆ People are saved thru faith w/out works. Eph 2:8,9; II Tim 1:9; Ti 3:5; Rom 2:25; 3:28f.
  - ◆ Water baptism does not save. Acts 8:12,16,20-23.

In Rom 6:3-4 "baptism" means more than our Baptismal Vows or a Public Sign:

1. Vows: In Water baptism we declare our faith, repudiate our sin, pledge a new way of life
  - ◆ Yes! But the emphasis here is on something that's happened to us, not something we do.
2. Public Sign: In Water Baptism we signify what has occurred to us spiritually.
  - ◆ Yes! But the text here goes beyond that and tells us something that's occurred *spiritually*.
  - ◆ We actually died & rose in Christ. Water baptism is only the *sign*, here it's the *reality*!

In Rom 6:3-4 "baptism" does not mean a "Second Blessing":

1. The Baptism of the HS phenomena first occurred at Pentecost at the birth of the NT Church.
  - ◆ Joel prophesied it (Joel 2:28-32). John said it would occur thru Jesus Christ (Mt 3:9-12).
  - ◆ He said it would occur after His res. (Jn 14:15f). Peter said it was *now* (Acts 2:16f).
2. The NT epistles say that every believer is baptized by the HS into Christ -- *at conversion*.
  - ◆ I Cor 12:13; Eph 4:1-3; Gal 3:26-27; Col 2:9-14.
  - ◆ Christians do not need to seek HS baptism -- they already have it.

In Rom 6:3-4 "baptism" means union with Christ in His death & in His Resurrection:

1. Grk: βαπτώ (bapto) "dip," "immerse." βαπτίζω (baptizo) may mean "immerse" & other things. This is typical for Greek: the shorter word usually conveys the most straightforward meaning. Longer words add specialized & sometimes metaphorical meanings.
2. The emphasis of "baptizo" is *change* not immersion into water (Greek: 400 BC.-200 AD.).
  - ◆ Josephus described the crowds that *flooded* into Jerusalem & "wrecked" the place.
  - ◆ Others use it to describe dyeing a cloth, or drinking too much wine & becoming drunk.
  - ◆ Nicander (200 BC): Dip βαπτώ the pickle in boiling H2O & baptize βαπτίζω it in vinegar
  - ◆ In each case "baptism" βαπτίζω describes *change*.
3. The meaning of baptism in the NT is the *change* that occurs thru our identification w/ Christ.
  - ◆ I Cor 10:1-2: The Israelites were joined to Moses' leadership. They could not go back!
  - ◆ Gal 3:27: We are *clothed* with Christ (not water). We *Identify* with Him. Cf. Mk 10:38-39.
  - ◆ Mark 16:16: One must believe in Christ & be *ID'd* with Him - intellectual assent won't do!
  - ◆ See I Cor 12:13; Gal 3:27; Col 2:21; I Pet 3:21.

The Meaning & Application of Romans 6:3-4:

1. When Christ died, I died. When Christ arose, I arose. The *old* you died, the *new* you lives!
2. "Buried"? Because it is *final*. Your old sinful life is *gone*. To go back is to exhume the body!
3. If you go back to your old sinful life -- it won't work. E.G. Peter's denial.
4. If you go back to your old sinful life -- God will stop you. Heb 12:5-7.
5. If you go back to your old sinful life, and succeed at it -- you were never saved. Heb 12:8.