

## Romans 6:8~14

This passage of scripture has to be one of the best *explanations* of what the cross is all about...specifically as it relates to the believer.

We know, that at the heart of the gospel message, is “*Christ sacrificial death*” death on the cross, Jesus was the “*Spotless Lamb*” that was sacrificed for the sins of the world.

Thus to “*believe*” in Christ...is to be identified with his *death*...

<sup>3</sup>*Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?*

The word “*baptize*” means *to immerse*...to submerge. Many have taken this passage to argue “*baptismal regeneration*,” that through the act of baptism, one is saved. But I trust, as we continue to look closely at this passage, we’ll see that’s certainly not what Paul is saying.

The unmistakable and clear context of the passage here is **DEATH**. In these 14 verses, Paul uses the word **death** in one form or another, 16 times...

Here in this section, Paul is speaking to our “**Identification**” with Christ...

<sup>6</sup>*Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.*

***When Christ died...I died...***

Paul makes an awesome statement in verse 8... One that defines the “**Heart**” of the Christian faith...

<sup>8</sup>*Now if we **be dead** with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:*

Paul says...“***Our belief is...if we be dead with Christ...we shall also live with Christ...***”

Paul understood the Cross... He declares the Cross to be man’s only hope!

In answering his question in verse 1...

<sup>1</sup>*What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?*

In Paul’s answer... <sup>2</sup>***God forbid***. How shall we, that are **dead to sin**, live any longer therein?

Paul says, we cannot continue in SIN, because we are “**dead to sin.**”

What does he mean by... ***Dead to sin?***

To answer that question, is to answer another question... What is SIN?

<sup>4</sup>*Whosoever commits sin transgresses also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.*

We’ve all “*Broken the Law*” right? We’re all guilty...

The penalty of breaking the Law is...**DEATH!**

**The wages of sin is...DEATH... (Without the shedding of blood, there is NO remission of sins...)**

Paul “*understood*” the Cross...<sup>9</sup>**Knowing** that Christ being raised from the dead dies no more; death hath no more dominion over him. <sup>10</sup>For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he lives, he lives unto God.

When Paul looked to the Cross, he didn't see a man hanging there... he saw the Messiah, the Savior of all men, dying for the sins of men!

We believe, that he took our place, and paid the price for our sins!

We believe, he took upon himself, the penalty of the Law! (The wages of sin is...Death!)

We believe, the Cross is the only way to God...

We believe, that to be identified with Christ sacrificial death on the cross is man's only hope!

Because we believe...that whosoever does not identify with Christ Death...will pay the wages of sin himself! **He will DIE for his sins...**

But God offers “*Eternal Life*” to anyone who “*Gives his or her life to Christ.*”

“*Surrendering our lives to Christ*” fulfills the Righteousness of God!

<sup>11</sup>Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. <sup>12</sup>Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. <sup>13</sup>Neither 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.

Paul makes it clear... The standard is still a “*Life of Righteousness*...”

We cannot continue in sin that grace may abound...

The gospel simply reveals how true righteousness is attained...

Through *dying to the Law*...and *Living to Christ*...

(Matthew 5) <sup>20</sup>For I say unto you, That *except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.*

The righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees wasn't righteousness at all... They thought it was, by conforming to the Law. But there's no greater sin than that...because it is *the righteousness of men!*

To be “***Dead to SIN***” is to be “***DEAD to the Law***...”

<sup>14</sup>For *sin shall not have **dominion** over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.*

**We no longer “*identify with the Law*” as the means of justification...but “*identify with the Cross of Christ.*”**

The “*Way to Life*” is by “*Way of the Cross...*”

(Galatians 5:24) <sup>24</sup>And they that are Christ's have *crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts*.

(Galatians 6) <sup>14</sup>But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.

(Ga. 2) <sup>20</sup>*I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ lives in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*

The call of the gospel is to surrender one's life to Christ... All who do, receive eternal life, the life of Christ... But those who choose to “*keep their life*” will lose it!

*Whosoever will save his life, shall lose it, and whosoever shall lose his life for my sake shall find it...*