## Buried With Him

Romans 6:1-7

"What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace might increase? May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?" (Romans 6:1-2).

 The idea of "death" is key here. One is either living in sin or dead to it – no middle ground (Galatians 2:20, Ephesians 4:20-24).

 Do we ever try to justify a sinful situation by arguing that grace will cover everything?
While I would never say that His grace is *not* limitless, it does have boundaries. Consider...

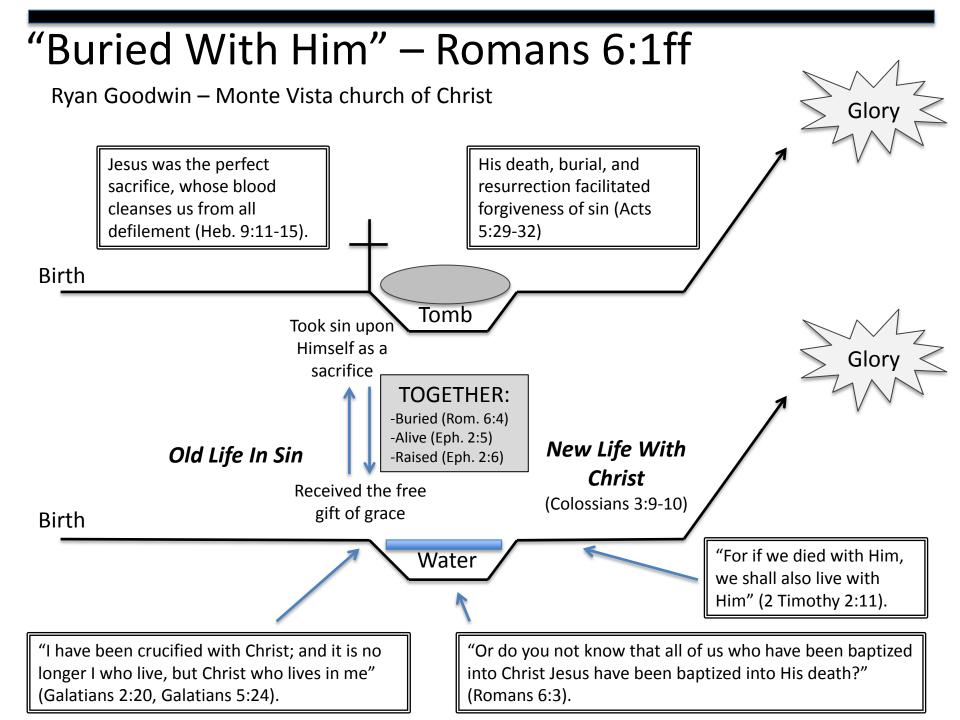


Inexhaustible, but still bound? "Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?" (Romans 6:3).

- Baptism into Christ is the same as baptism into His death. It is the same death already mentioned in verses 1-2.
- Notice that baptism is not an initiation ceremony into a denomination. It is also not a purely physical act (1 Peter 3:21). It is a spiritual connection, like nothing else, to the culminating act of Jesus' earthly ministry.

"Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised up from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:4).

"In baptism there is a burial, an immersion in water. No other act would so fitly represent the complete ending of a life of sin. If there was no other source of knowledge as to how baptism was performed, this text should settle the matter beyond doubt. There is no burial in sprinkling and pouring a little water on a person's head, but there is burial in immersion in water" (Whiteside, p. 130).



"For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection; knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, that our body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin; for he who has died is freed from sin" (Romans 6:5-7).

 We are united with Christ in baptism. We share in the death, burial, and resurrection. One cannot enjoy the resurrection without first passing through the grave (of water, in our case).

## **Freedom From Sin?**

 "Freedom from sin" is not "impossibility of sin", since even God acknowledges our occasional failures (1 John 1:8-10). The expectation is that we strive to keep His commandments (1 John 2:1-6). We are "free" from sin when we model our lives after the example of Jesus Christ. His path will never lead to sin, therefore, when we follow Him we are free from sin.