

Study notes based on Graeme's talk on 23 April 2017

Romans 6:1-10 NIV What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? (2) By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? (3) Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? (4) We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. (5) For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. (6) For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin-- (7) because anyone who has died has been set free from sin. (8) Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. (9) For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. (10) The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.

1. At the baptismal service Graeme distinguished between symbol and actual lifestyle, implying that baptism symbolises a change which has taken place and will continue as the candidates choose to follow the life of discipleship. What is the actual reality which baptism symbolises? See v4, but also v6b
2. What does it mean in practical terms for us to have passed from death to life? Can you recall other biblical expressions for entering into new life in Christ? e.g. 1 Peter 1:3; 1 Peter 2:9; Romans 8:15; Colossians 1:13. What realities are associated with these illustrations?
3. What is God's part in this change? See e.g. Colossians 1:19-22.
4. What is our part? See Ephesians 4:24; Ephesians 6:11; Colossians 3:14; Colossians 3:5
5. How do you respond when someone asks you 'Are you religious?'
6. Graeme said 'Religious form will not save you...After you are saved some religious forms may or may not be helpful. How do you respond?'
7. What religious forms have you found to be helpful in expressing your new life in Christ?

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