

BURIED WITH CHRIST

Romans 6:3-11

Introduction: There is no doubt that Jesus expects His followers to witness about/for Him. There is also no doubt that most of His followers of today called Christians don't. A story has been told about a remark a follower of another religion that worshipped an idol made when he said that he wanted to believe in Jesus but had never seen Him in those who professed Him, so how could he believe in someone whom he had not seen? How true that is today. There are countless who say they are Christians but whose lives don't resemble that of a real Christian. If this person who made the previous remark had known you, could he still have made that same statement? The great preacher Paul stated that the Christian has been buried with Christ. What does that mean?

I. THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. The Christian prays "fill me" often but usually with little result. Why? Is God to blame? Who?
2. *"He shall glorify me"* said Jesus, *"for he shall receive of mine and show it unto you."*
The Holy Spirit's work is to see that Jesus Christ is "formed" within the believer.
3. All Christians will say that "Jesus Christ is in my heart," but is Jesus in the whole heart?
4. How many of YOU are in this condition? You have never experienced overflowing life, life provided by Jesus?
5. We struggle, wrestle with sin and we fail. We must remember ONLY Jesus Christ has ever conquered sin.
6. Jesus Christ didn't have to conquer sin for Himself for He was sinless, but He did it for us! He doesn't expect us to do ever again what He has already done. We cannot conquer sin by struggling against it. So how then is sin conquered in our lives? We must let Jesus Christ do it. But how?

II. THE SECRET OF CONQUERING SIN

1. Pagans assign human vices and passions to different gods. Our God came to us first! He is the head - we are the body. He is the vine- we are the branches. He lives His life in us.
2. How can He do this? How are we made a part of Him? (*Text*) What does all this mean?

IV. JESUS CHRIST IS RECEIVED

1. Instantly, eternal life is given the moment a person asks Jesus into his/her heart. That person is made a part of Jesus, a member of His body, in that instant.

2. A Christian woman was once asked why she believed in being saved eternally and not worried about slipping between God's fingers. She replied, "Why, I'm one of His fingers."
3. Christian, that's so true! Christians make up the very existence of Jesus Christ on earth. For the Christian to live is Christ!

IV. THE BELIEVER IS BAPTIZED INTO JESUS CHRIST

1. **Romans 6:3** - Every believer died with Jesus on the cross and every believer has been buried in a tomb for three days with Jesus Christ.
2. Every believer has died and has been buried. Sin has no more power over a dead person.
3. Death could not hold Jesus Christ nor can it hold the believer. What then? Crucified, buried, then God raised Jesus Christ. It was God who raised Jesus Christ.
4. **Romans 6:4** - The believer has been crucified with Jesus, buried with Jesus and by the power of God he/she too has been raised into a new life, just like Jesus.

V. THE NEW LIFE IS A GIFT TO BE TAKEN

1. All the power Jesus Christ had is now at the Christian's disposal. It is a gift from God.
2. Look once more at the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ:
 - A perfect God, perfect man was nailed to a cross.
 - Like a magnet, all sin was drawn to that center cross. That cross was covered with all the sin ever to exist.
 - God cannot die nor tolerate sin, thus the "god-part," the Spirit withdrew from that body of clay and "He gave up the ghost."
 - Now a dead man hangs on the cross and it was buried.
 - On the third day God raised Jesus from the dead. What happened?
 - SIN had been conquered. Therefore the Spirit of God once again entered that human body that was now free from sin and once more Jesus was a perfect God and a perfect man.
3. That is what God wishes to do for every human being. He doesn't want us to be imitators of Jesus but to be "born again," given a new life, filled with His Holy Spirit. What a privilege, what a responsibility, to think "it pleases God to reveal His Son in me."

VI. SELF HAS TO BE DESTROYED

1. How in the world can "self" be destroyed? It's not necessary to understand HOW God works, but just to believe that He will and does perform what He says He can and will do.

2. The question, therefore, is this:
 - Are you willing to give up all known sin and to put yourself ABSOLUTELY at Jesus Christ's disposal?
 - That means your total self - talents, possessions, work, future, your entire self. Are you willing to be made willing?
3. Surrender must be absolute and entire, no part left unsurrendered to Jesus Christ.
4. Satan wants to keep his hand on some part of your life and if he is successful, you cannot live the wonderful, overflowing life Jesus Christ has for you/us.

CONCLUSION:

1. To be buried with Jesus Christ is to be filled, to live a life overflowing, to have access to the power of God but absolute complete surrender is necessary.
2. Do you think you can trust Jesus? Do you think you can trust Him so He can give you a life free from the habit of sin. Jesus wants ALL, will you let Him have ALL of you?