

April 15, 2018
HOPE RISING - Part 3
"Hope, for Change"

Romans 6:3 (ESV): "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?"

In being immersed under water, it was like being buried, not to a physical death but to the death of the power of sin in their lives and the death it leads to.

"Being baptized into Christ Jesus" doesn't mean we can't sin anymore, but that our souls aren't so corrupted that we can't help sinning.

Romans 6:4 (ESV): "We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life."

The celebration of Easter wasn't just that Jesus was risen from the grave, but that when we commit our lives to him, we, too, will be "raised from the dead" to "walk in newness of life."

Colossians 2:12 (NLT): "For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized. And with him you were raised to new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead."

In our baptism with Christ, we now enter into a new life, since sin no longer rules in us - we are made new!

2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV): "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."

"In Christ," we aren't locked into our old desires, thoughts and practices.

Romans 6:5-7 (ESV): "⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For one who has died has been set free from sin."

Romans 6:8-11 (ESV): "⁸Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus."

The word translated from the original Greek language as “consider” can also be translated think, count, or calculate, and was commonly a bookkeeping term.

The bookkeeper’s calculations comes up with answers that aren’t *created* by the math – they’re actually revealing what is already there and true.

Faith calls us to open our eyes to what already *is* – that Jesus died but was also resurrected, and that has ushered in a new reality *for us* when we believe.

Our baptism tells us is that we must calculate that we are *already* “dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.” (*emphasis added*)

The challenge for those of us who are already “in Christ Jesus,” is to remember who we *already are*, not to take some new leap of faith.

Galatians 2:20 (ESV): “I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”

The spiritual act of accepting God’s truth into my life, which I symbolize through baptism, means my identity has changed – I really am a “new creation.”

Every day I need to be reminded by God of who He says I am by reading His Word.

Genesis 1:27 (NLT): “So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.”

Ephesians 1:3-5 (NLT): “³All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. ⁴Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. ⁵God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.”

Psalms 8:3-5 (ESV): “³When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, ⁴what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him? ⁵Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor.”

Romans 6:23 (ESV): “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Romans 8:1 (ESV): “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”

2 Corinthians 1:20 (NLT): “For all of God’s promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding ‘Yes!’ And through Christ, our ‘Amen’ (which means ‘Yes’) ascends to God for his glory.”

Galatians 3:26-28 (NLT): “²⁶For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁷And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on Christ, like putting on new clothes. ²⁸There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

Ephesians 2:10 (NLT): “For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.”

Philippians 4:7 (ESV): “And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

Hebrews 13:5-6 (NIV): “⁵Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, ‘Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.’ ⁶So we say with confidence, ‘The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?’”

1 Peter 2:9 (NIV): “But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.”

John 1:12 (ESV): “But to all who did receive [Christ], who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God”