

The Normal Christian Life

The Cross of Christ

Some Further Distinctions

- Two aspects of the resurrection are mentioned in the two sections of Romans.
 - Rom. 4:25 – Who was delivered for our offenses and was raised for our justification.
 - Here the matter in view is that of our standing before God.
 - Rom. 6:4 – We have been buried therefore with Him through baptism into His death, in order that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so also we might walk in newness of life.
 - Here the matter before us is behaviour.
- Two aspects of peace are mentioned in the two sections of Romans.
 - Rom. 5:1 – Therefore having been justified out of faith, we have peace toward God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
 - Tells of peace with God – the effect of justification by faith in His Blood.
 - Rom. 8:6 – For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace.
 - Tells of inward peace of a walk in the Spirit.
- The first half of the section deals generally speaking with the question of justification.
- The second half has as its main topic the corresponding question of sanctification.
- Objectively the Blood deals with our sins.
 - The Blood can wash away our sins. It cannot wash away our “old man.”
- The Blood deals with the sins, but the Cross must deal with the sinner.

Man's State by Nature

- In Romans 5:12-21 grace is brought into contrast with sin and the obedience of Christ is set against the disobedience of Adam.
- At the beginning of our Christian life we are concerned with our doing, not with our being.
 - We try to please the Lord but find something within that does not want to please Him.
- We are sinners because of Adam. We cannot do anything to alter this.

As in Adam so in Christ

- In **Adam** we receive **everything that is of Adam**; in **Christ** we receive **everything that is of Christ**.
- Through the **obedience of Christ** we may be **constituted righteous**.

The Divine Way of Deliverance

- Since we came in by **birth** in Adam, we must go out of Adam by **death**.
 - **Rom. 6:2,3** – For the wages of **sin** is **death**, but the gift of God is **eternal life** in **Christ Jesus our Lord**.
- The way out is not by trying to kill ourselves, but by recognizing that *God has dealt with us in Christ*.
- How are we to “get into” Christ? We need not try to get in, for **we are in**.
 - **1 Cor. 1:30** – **But of Him you are in Christ Jesus**, who became wisdom to us from God: both righteousness and sanctification and redemption,
- When the Lord Jesus was on the Cross all of us died—not individually—but, **being in Him, we died in Him**.
- The Lord God Himself has put us in Christ, and **in His dealing with Christ God has dealt with the whole race**.
- When Christ was crucified we were crucified.

His Death and Resurrection – Representative and Inclusive

- The Lord did not die only to shed His Blood: He died that **we might die**.
 - He died as *our* Representative. In His death He **included** *you and me*.
- It is the “inclusive” death of the Lord which puts us in a position to **identify ourselves**.
- In **1 Cor. 15:45** and **47** the Lord Jesus is spoken of as the **last Adam** and the **second man**.
 - As the last Adam, Christ is the **sum total of humanity**.
 - As the second Man He is the **Head of a new race**.
- We **died** in Him as the **last Adam**; we **live** in Him as the **second Man**. The Cross is the power of God which **translates** us from Adam to Christ.

(The Normal Christian Life – Chapter 2)