

Alive Unto God

Give me one hundred preachers who fear nothing but sin and desire nothing but God, and I care not whether they be clergymen or laymen, they alone will shake the gates of Hell and set up the kingdom of Heaven upon Earth.

John Wesley

Background

Quote: John Wesley was an Anglican minister and the erzats founder of the United Methodist Church, though he did not intend to begin a new denomination. He is noted for placing scripture as the primacy of his principles as contained in Wesley's Quadrilateral who's other sides were Tradition, Reason, and Experience.

Passage: The book of Romans is a Pauline Epistle (letter from Paul). The Apostle Paul wrote it roughly about 56-57 A.D. The key personalities in the book of Romans are the Apostle Paul and Phoebe who delivered this letter. Paul wrote the letter to the believers in Rome, hence the name "Romans". He wrote it to give them a concrete theological foundation on which to construct their faith and to live for and serve God effectively.

The book of Romans reveals the answers to important questions and supplies information on many topics, such as salvation, the sovereignty of God, judgment, spiritual growth, and the righteousness of God. Many scholars also describe it as *The Gospel and the Righteousness of God*, which can be received only by faith in the atoning death of Jesus Christ.

Paul explains the fundamentals and foundations of the Christian faith. This is the Gospel Message, which all believers are commanded to share with the entire world. Some of the most popular and precious memorization passages about Salvation can be found in the first several chapters of Romans, "*For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord*"(6:23). Paul teaches about the sinful nature of all men in the eyes of God, justification by faith in Jesus Christ, freedom from sin, and victory in Christ.

Key Verse: v11

Point: If we are dead to sin why do we continue to willingly embrace it again in our lives, in our churches, and our relationships?

Passage

¹ What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?

² God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

³ Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

⁴ Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

⁵ For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also *in the likeness of his* resurrection:

⁶ Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with *him*, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

⁷ For he that is dead is freed from sin.

⁸ Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:

⁹ Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.

¹⁰ For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.

¹¹ Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 6:1-11 (KJV)

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Lesson Notes

Joys and Concerns

Pray

Read the lesson verse

Cover the Background

Ask: Where does Repentance fit into the Christian life?

Point: Repentance is that part of our effort to improve our living to conform more to God's ways and less to Man's ways. It is the fruits we bear in our walk with God.

First Reading: Matthew 3:7-12 (NASB)

Read the Greek Definition for Repentance in the Definitions

Appendix

Ask: Where is love in repentance if the consequence for failure is "...hewn down and cast into the fire."?

Second Reading: Matthew 22:34-40 (NASB)

Point: If I were making such a grievous error that I was in danger of dying, I would want someone to do what they could to stop me and help me correct whatever it was that I was doing that put me in danger. Loving our neighbor means trying to warn them of the danger they are in through sin in a gentle and kind manner.

Read v3 of the lesson's passage

Ask: What does it mean to be "...baptized into his death."?

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Third Reading: Romans 6:22-23 (NASB)

Point: The wages of sin is death. The sins we carry in our lives had to be paid for which was done by Jesus but for us to benefit from that we have to be in that payoff with Him. The only way we become covered in the blood of the Lamb is to declare faith and fealty to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. This imputes His righteousness onto us for His sacrifice paying for our sins. Our baptism becomes an outward sign of our inward change, that belief, and faith in Jesus. We become baptized into His death so that we might also share in His resurrection and life.

Ask: If we are then resurrected in Christ just as He rose on the third day, what does that do for us?

Point: Re-read the end of verse 4.

Ask: What should "...walk in newness of life" mean to us as followers of Jesus Christ having been baptized into His death and resurrection?

Point: Fourth Reading: Ephesians 4:20-24 (NASB)

Ask: Baptism and expressing faith in Jesus doesn't magically make life's problems disappear, a heap of money appear, and smooth out all the bumps in the road...so what does it do?

Point: It opens the doors to a wider gathering of faith in which those who have gone before comprising the Church who are there to walk with us as individuals, to help us carry our burdens; and to lend us their skills, wisdom, and experience in dealing with those problems.

Closing Statement

Christ died once, but He lives again each time we as followers of His turn from our sins to find a better way through following God thanks to the Holy Spirit's leading. It is through our repentance that we

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demonstrate fruit within our lives but that fruit then becomes seeds for other's lives as they see us live out a better way. This leads them to want to know more about why we are doing what we are doing. This opens up the opportunity for each of us to witness to those around us through our unique gifts, life experiences, and the wisdom rought through the refining fires of those experiences.

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Scripture

First Reading

⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?"

⁸ "Therefore bear fruit in keeping with repentance;

⁹ and do not suppose that you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham for our father'; for I say to you that from these stones God is able to raise up children to Abraham.

¹⁰ "The axe is already laid at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ "As for me, I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

¹² "His winnowing fork is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clear His threshing floor; and He will gather His wheat into the barn, but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

Matthew 3:7-12 (NASB)

Second Reading

³⁴ But when the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered themselves together.

³⁵ One of them, a lawyer, asked Him *a question*, testing Him,

³⁶ "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?"

³⁷ And He said to him, " 'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.'

³⁸ "This is the great and foremost commandment.

³⁹ "The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.'

⁴⁰ "On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."

Matthew 22:34-40 (NASB)

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Third Reading

²² But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life.

²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6:22-23 (NASB)

Fourth Reading

²⁰ But you did not learn Christ in this way,

²¹ if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus,

²² that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit,

²³ and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind,

²⁴ and put on the new self, which in *the likeness of* God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

Ephesians 4:20-24 (NASB)

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Definitions

Greek Strong's Number: 3341

Greek Word: [μετάνοια](#)

Transliteration: metanoia

Phonetic Pronunciation: [met-an'-oy-ah](#)

Root: from [<G3340>](#)

Cross Reference: TDNT - 4:975,636

Part of Speech: n f

Vine's Words: [Repent](#), [Repentance](#)

Usage Notes:

English Words used in KJV:

repentance 24

[Total Count: 24]

from [<G3340>](#) (metanoeo); (subject) **COMPUNCTION** (for guilt, including **REFORMATION**); by implication **REVERSAL** (of [another's] decision) :- repentance.

James Strong, *Strong's Talking Greek & Hebrew Dictionary*, (Austin, TX: WORDsearch Corp., 2007), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, Under: "3341".