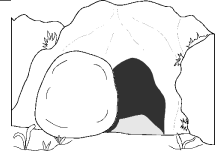


## The Resurrection of Jesus

### *Evidence from Baptism (10 of 12)*



The teaching of baptism after the resurrection of Jesus Christ is an evident fact. Soon after His resurrection, Jesus taught the necessity of baptism to His disciples (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16). His apostles and disciples taught baptism to the first Christian converts too. The book of Acts records the history of the early church as it spread throughout the world. Repeatedly, baptism is taught as churches are planted from city to city (Acts 2:38; 8:12, 36-38; 9:18; 10:47-48; 16:15, 33; 18:8; 22:16). Many of the epistles written to these established churches reflect upon baptism (Romans 6:3-6; 1 Corinthians 1:13-17; Galatians 3:27; Ephesians 5:26; Colossians 2:12; Titus 3:5; Hebrews 10:22; 1 Peter 3:21). Yet, perhaps none of these passages more clearly connects baptism to the resurrection than Romans 6.

Romans 6:3-6 says, “Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin” (NKJV).

This passage is pivotal for several reasons.

**First, it is pivotal for unbelievers because it ties baptism to the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.** Of course, many unbelievers want to deny the resurrection claiming it as fiction. Yet, if the resurrection never occurred why base one of the most fundamental rites of Christianity on a non-existent event? Further, if the resurrection was a hoax how were thousands of first-century Christians convinced to be baptized in hope of “newness of life?” Paul wrote the book of Romans in approximately 56-58 A.D. If the body or occupied grave of Jesus could be found then this passage would be a laughingstock. Yet, it was not. Converts to Christianity were baptized by the thousands because the evidence for the resurrection was undeniable. Therefore, baptism became a meaningful monument to the resurrection of Jesus within the lifetime of the eyewitnesses of the risen Savior!

**Second, this passage is valuable to believers because it connects baptism to new life.** It is the false belief of many “Christians” that one is saved prior to baptism. The doctrine of “faith only” salvation is widely taught and accepted by sects of the religious world. However, this doctrine does not mesh with Paul’s teaching here in Romans 6. In this passage, the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus is a direct parallel to the death of our “old man of sin” as we are “buried with Him through baptism” and then raised from the waters to “walk in newness of life” (Romans 6:3-6).

If we accept the doctrine of salvation before baptism this parallel becomes a perpendicular since it is not parallel at all! Was Jesus resurrected to “newness of life” before He was buried? No. He was buried first, then three days later was risen! Likewise, salvation is granted to the believer after he acts in obedience to the faith in baptism. Only then do we have the new life the Bible offers!

*Joshua R Welch*

