

**Outlines of the Messages  
for the International Chinese-speaking Conference  
February 14-16, 2025**

**GENERAL SUBJECT:  
CHAPTERS 5 THROUGH 8 OF ROMANS—  
THE KERNEL OF THE BIBLE**

**Message Three  
The Likeness of the Death and Resurrection of Christ**

DK KL Hymns: 631

Scripture Reading: Rom. 6:3-5; 5:17; Gal. 3:27

Rom 6:3      Or are you ignorant that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?

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.

Rom 6:5      For if we have grown together with Him in the likeness of His death, indeed we will also be in the likeness of His resurrection,

Rom 5:17      For if, by the offense of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

Gal 3:27      For as many as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

**I. “All of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death”—Rom. 6:3:**

A. Baptism is not a form or a ritual; it signifies our identification with Christ—v. 3.

Rom 6:3      Or are you ignorant that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?

B. Through baptism we are immersed into Christ, taking Him as our realm, that we may be united with Him as one in His death and resurrection.

C. We were born in the sphere of Adam, the first man (1 Cor. 15:45, 47), but through baptism we have been transferred into the sphere of Christ (1:30; Gal. 3:27), the second man (1 Cor. 15:47).

1 Cor 15:45      So also it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living soul"; the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit.

1 Cor 15:47      The first man is out of the earth, earthy; the second man is out of heaven.

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,

Gal 3:27      For as many as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

D. When we are baptized into Christ, we are baptized into His death—Rom. 6:3.

Rom 6:3      Or are you ignorant that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?

E. His death has separated us from the world and the satanic power of darkness and has terminated our natural life, our old nature, our self, our flesh, and even our entire history.

**II. “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”—v. 4:**

A. Our old man has been crucified with Christ (v. 6), and it has been buried with Him through baptism into death.

Rom 6:6      Knowing this, that our old man has been crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be annulled, that we should no longer serve sin as slaves;

- B. In the natural realm, a person first dies and then is buried, but Paul's word indicates that in the spiritual realm, we are first buried and then die.
- C. We do not die directly; we enter into Christ's death through baptism.
- D. Christ and His death are one.
- E. Apart from Christ we could never be baptized into His death, for the element of His effective death is found only in Him, the resurrected, all-inclusive One—cf. John 5:29; 11:24-25; Acts 1:22; 2:31.
  - John 5:29 And will come forth: those who have done good, to the resurrection of life; and those who have practiced evil, to the resurrection of judgment.
  - John 11:24 Martha said to Him, I know that he will rise again in the resurrection in the last day.
  - John 11:25 Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes into Me, even if he should die, shall live;
  - Acts 1:22 Beginning from the baptism of John until the day on which He was taken up from us, one of these should become a witness of His resurrection with us.
  - Acts 2:31 He, seeing this beforehand, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that neither was He abandoned to Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption.
- F. *The glory of the Father* in Romans 6:4 refers to the manifestation of divinity.
  - 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.
- G. After baptism we become a new person in resurrection—Phil. 3:10.
  - Phil 3:10 To know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,
- H. Resurrection is not only a future state; it is also a present process.
- I. To walk in newness of life means to live today in the realm of resurrection and to reign in life—Rom. 6:4; 5:17.
  - 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.
  - Rom 5:17 For if, by the offense of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.
- J. This kind of living deals with all that is of Adam in us until we are fully transformed and conformed to the image of Christ—12:2; 8:29.
  - Rom 12:2 And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect.
  - Rom 8:29 Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers;

### III. “If we have grown together with Him in the likeness of His death, indeed we will also be in the likeness of His resurrection”—6:5:

- A. *Grown together with Him* denotes an organic union in which growth takes place, so that one partakes of the life and characteristics of the other—v. 5a.
  - Rom 6:5a For if we have grown together with Him in the likeness of His death, ...
- B. In the organic union with Christ, whatever Christ passed through has become our history.
- C. His death and resurrection are now ours because we are in Him and are organically joined to Him; this is grafting—11:24.
  - Rom 11:24 For if you were cut off from what is by nature a wild olive tree and were grafted contrary to nature into the cultivated olive tree, how much more will these who are the natural branches be grafted into their own olive tree!
- D. Such a grafting discharges all our negative elements, resurrects our God-created faculties, uplifts our faculties, enriches our faculties, and saturates our entire being to transform us.
- E. The likeness of Christ's death is the baptism mentioned in Romans 6:4; the likeness of

Christ's resurrection is the newness of life mentioned in verse 4.

**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.

F. *In the likeness of His resurrection* (v. 5) does not refer to a future, objective resurrection but to the present process of growth.

**Rom 6:5** For if we have grown together with Him in the likeness of His death, indeed we will also be in the likeness of His resurrection,

G. When we were baptized, we grew together with Christ in the likeness of His death; now, through His death we are growing into His resurrection.

H. Just as the element of Christ's death is found only in Him, so the element of Christ's resurrection is found only in Christ Himself; He Himself is resurrection—John 11:25.

**John 11:25** Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes into Me, even if he should die, shall live;

I. After experiencing a proper baptism, we continue to grow in and with Christ in the likeness of His resurrection, that is, to walk in newness of life—Rom. 6:4.

**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.

#### IV. “Many...were baptized into Christ”—Gal. 3:27:

A. There are four aspects of baptism: baptized into the name of the Father, Son, and Spirit (Matt. 28:19), baptized into Christ (Gal. 3:27), baptized into the death of Christ (Rom. 6:3), and baptized into the Body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:13).

**Matt 28:19** Go therefore and disciple all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

**Gal 3:27** For as many as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

**Rom 6:3** Or are you ignorant that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?

**1 Cor 12:13** For also in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and were all given to drink one Spirit.

B. Baptism brings the repentant people out of their old state into a new one by terminating their old life and germinating them with the new life of Christ and in Christ—Rom. 8:2, 10.

**Rom 8:2** For the law of the Spirit of life has freed me in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and of death.

**Rom 8:10** But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is life because of righteousness.

C. Baptism has two aspects—the visible aspect and the invisible aspect:

1. The visible aspect is by water, and the invisible aspect is by the Holy Spirit—Acts 2:38, 41; 10:44-48.

**Acts 2:38** And Peter said to them, Repent and each one of you be baptized upon the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

**Acts 2:41** Those then who received his word were baptized, and there were added on that day about three thousand souls.

**Acts 10:44** While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those hearing the word.

**Acts 10:45** And the believers who were of the circumcision, as many as had accompanied Peter, were amazed, because on the Gentiles also the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out;

**Acts 10:46** For they heard them speaking in tongues and magnifying God. Then Peter answered,

**Acts 10:47** Can anyone forbid the water so that these would not be baptized, who have received the Holy Spirit even as we?

**Acts 10:48** And he charged them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.

2. Without the invisible aspect by the Spirit, the visible aspect by water is vain, and without the visible aspect by water, the invisible aspect by the Spirit is abstract and impractical; both are needed.

D. To be baptized into the Triune God is to be baptized into Christ—Gal. 3:27:

**Gal 3:27** For as many as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

1. We are sons of God because we are in Christ, and we are in Christ because we have been baptized into Christ—Rom. 8:10, 14; Gal. 3:26; 4:7.

**Rom 8:10** But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is life because of righteousness.

**Rom 8:14** For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

**Gal 3:26** For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

**Gal 4:7** So then you are no longer a slave but a son; and if a son, an heir also through God.

2. To be baptized into Christ is the way to be in Christ—3:27.

**Gal 3:27** For as many as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

3. Because we have been baptized into Christ, we now enjoy an organic union with Him, which is able to transform our whole being—Rom. 12:2.

**Rom 12:2** And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect.

4. It is significant that at the end of chapter 3 of Galatians Paul concludes with a word about being baptized into Christ and putting on Christ—v. 27.

**Gal 3:27** For as many as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

5. The fact that Paul concludes with a word about baptism indicates that what is covered in this chapter can be experienced only if we have been baptized into Christ and have put on Christ—v. 27.

**Gal 3:27** For as many as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

6. As many as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ—v. 27.

**Gal 3:27** For as many as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

7. We have been baptized into Christ, and now we have Christ covering us.
8. On the one hand, in baptism we are immersed into Christ; on the other hand, in baptism we put on Christ.
9. Many of us can testify strongly that we have been baptized into Christ and that we are wearing Him as our clothing, our covering—v. 27.

**Gal 3:27** For as many as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.