

INCLUDED

A JOURNEY THROUGH ROMANS



Note: There are only four questions this week, but the content of the message this week is some of the most important theological concepts that every Christian must understand, so take plenty of time to discuss each question thoroughly. You could spend a couple of weeks on this information.

1. Read Romans 6:1-4. This passage says that we were baptized into Christ and his death. It says we were buried with him through baptism and then we rose with him. What baptism is this referring to, water baptism? Are there other baptisms in the Bible other than water baptism? When does this baptism occur?
2. What are the three phases of our salvation? What are the characteristics of each phase? Our salvation is not complete until the third phase is complete, so when are we “fully saved”? If a person never reaches the third phase of salvation, what does this mean?
3. What did Pastor Rick say are the three ways to break the power of sin (sanctification) in my life?
4. Was God’s law given to us as the means by which we are to live so that God will allow us into heaven? Why was it given? When it says in Romans 6 that we are free from the law, what does that mean and what does it not mean?

ANSWERS: Note, in all these questions, the NIV version of the Bible is being used. If there is something in these answers that you do not understand, contact Pastor Mark if you have any questions at markschweitzer@gracechurchco.com. In your discussion, make sure to talk about each idea in the answers.

- 1. The baptism being referred to in Romans 6 is not water baptism but the baptism by the Holy Spirit. When we put our trust in Christ as our savior, the Bible tells us that the Holy Spirit baptizes (immerses) us into the body of Christ, read 1 Corinthians 12:13 to your group. Water baptism is actually a symbol of this spiritual baptism and is us letting everyone else know that we have been spiritually baptized when we became a Christian. We did not decide to be spiritually baptized, God decided for us. We would not even realize it had happened unless God told us because it is spiritual and cannot be perceived by our five senses. This passage is teaching that spiritually we have been placed into the body of Christ so when he died it is as if we died and when he rose from the dead it is as if we rose from the dead and we are now spiritually where Jesus is because we are in Christ. Read what Ephesians 2:6 says about this.*
- 2. What are the three phases of our salvation? What are the characteristics of each phase? Our salvation is not complete until the third phase is complete, so when are we “fully saved”? If a person never reaches the third phase of salvation, what does this mean? **The three phases are: a. Justification; b. Sanctification; and c. Glorification.** **Justification**—To be justified means to be declared righteous or innocent, it is actually a legal term, it is what a judge does in a trial when a person is found innocent. It is a declaration that God makes in regard to our sins based on the fact that Jesus bore the penalty of our sin on the cross. The moment we put our trust in Jesus as our savior, God declares us innocent of all sin we have committed. It is a spiritual transaction done by God alone because Jesus delivers us from the guilt, or penalty, of our sin. It is why we can know for sure that we will go to heaven when we die because Jesus paid for our sin and God no longer holds us guilty for our sin, thus we do not suffer the penalty for sin, which is death in hell. This is the first phase of our salvation. **Sanctification**—To be sanctified literally means “to be set apart for a purpose” from the rest of humanity. We have been sanctified by God spiritually and now God wants us to be set apart from the rest of humanity practically, in the way we live our lives. This is the discipleship/spiritual growth aspect of our lives as Christians. This is accomplished as the Holy Spirit, who now lives inside of us, frees us from the power and slavery to sin in our lives. It is the process of learning to resist the temptation to sin on a daily basis. Romans chapters 6,7, and 8 describe how this process works and is literally the road map of how to become like Jesus in our daily lives. This process will be occurring for the rest of our lives and we will never be 100% successful because we still have a sinful nature and we cannot become perfect. The vital thing to understand is that the requirement to be justified and the requirement to be sanctified **are not the same!** Justification is a free gift that we receive by faith, sanctification happens when we choose every day to obey Christ and yield to the Holy Spirit. When someone makes the requirement to be justified the same as the requirements to be sanctified, you then have a works based religion. (Galatians 1:6-9) **Glorification**—Glorification is when God delivers us from the presence of sin in heaven and we are perfect and exactly like Christ. We have not experienced our salvation completely until this third phase, so in truth as long as we are alive on this earth we are still in the process of being saved. If a person never reaches this part of salvation it is because they never experienced the first phase, justification. Whether or not you reach this phase has nothing to do with how successful you were in the sanctification phase. If you are justified, you will be glorified.*

3. What did Pastor Rick say are the three ways to break the power of sin (sanctification) in my life? *The first way to break the power of sin is to make sure you are trusting in Jesus alone for your justification. If you have not been freed from the penalty of your sin by faith, you do not have the Holy Spirit living inside of you (read Ephesians 1:13,14) and cannot be freed from the power of sin (sanctification) in your life. The second way to break the power of sin in your life is that you must surrender your life to the Holy Spirit so that He can empower you to become free from your sinful habits and replace them with godly habits. Read Ephesians 4:22-30. Galatians 5:16,17 says that when are controlled by the Holy Spirit, we will not give in to the sinful desires of our sinful nature but will do what God wants us to do. The third way is to embrace your victory over sin because of Christ's resurrection. Read Romans 6:8-11. You must be totally convinced that Christ defeated the power of sin which was demonstrated by his resurrection. You must believe that his power is now inside of you so that you are no longer a slave to obey the desires of your sinful nature, as you were before you were justified. If you do not believe this, then you will remain enslaved to the desires of your sinful nature. Read Romans 6:15-17. You are still a Christian, but you are a defeated Christian who will not grow spiritually as long as you remain in this condition.*
4. No, God never gave the law as a means of earning eternal life in heaven. The law was given to: *a. show how holy and righteous God is and his standard of right and wrong and b. to make us realize we are sinners who could never measure up to that standard of righteousness, therefore we need God's help if we are going to live in heaven with him. That is why Romans says that the law's purpose was to bring us to Christ, to make us aware we need a savior. When Romans says we are free from the law, it is saying that if you have trusted Christ as savior, then the law's purpose was accomplished in you and you are not bound by the civil and ceremonial parts of the law. We are still bound by the moral part of the law, the ten commandments, so we are not free to just begin living contrary to God's standard of right and wrong.*