

Message Guide

Baptism Series

This Message Guide may be a little different from those that you have used before.

The purpose of these Notes is not an in-depth study of the scriptures used, but rather to assist you or your Study Group as you reflect on these messages given by Charles Price.

We present questions in order to stimulate discussion. Sometimes we will give you the answer ... sometimes not. At other times a statement or a theme is presented for your consideration.

As you allow the Holy Spirit to guide the direction of your study and discussions we pray the flexibility of this Message Guide will help you as you delve more deeply into Charles' message, and that you will unearth more lessons from the Lord than may not have been immediately obvious.

Message Guide & Questions

Baptism Part 1 – Dying With Christ Romans 6:1 - 8

1. There were 2 ordinances given to the New Testament Church.
Do you know what an 'ordinance is?

2. What are these 2 ordinances?

B _____ and C _____

3. What do these ordinances have in common?

4. What is the major difference between these two ordinances?

5. What evidence do we have to support the claim that the New Testament very clearly teaches Baptism.

6. The following verses in the Book of Acts speak of specific Baptisms.

Chapter 2:4	On the Day of Pentecost.
Chapter 8:12–16	Samaritan men and women.
Chapter 8:36	Ethiopian Eunuch.
Chapter 9:18	Saul of Tarsus.
Chapter 10:47–48	Cornelius' household.
Chapter 16:15	The household of Lydia.
Chapter 16:33	Philippian jailer's household.
Chapter 18:8	The household of Crispus. [Synagogue ruler in Corinth]
Chapter 19:5	12 men in Ephesus [already baptized with John the Baptist].

There was, however, one significant difference with these baptisms compared to baptisms today. Can you see what that difference is?

7. Read and consider Matthew 28:19 and Mark 16:15

For a person not to be baptized is –

N _____ on the part of a church.

D _____ on the part of a Christian.

8. Baptism is a portrayal of our ‘union with Christ’ in 3 areas.

D _____ with Christ:

Being B _____ with Christ

Being R _____ with Christ

9. Now read and consider Romans 6:1 – 8

There are 2 things in the character of God that made the sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross necessary. They are –

J _____ and M _____

These 2 qualities are, in fact, incompatible. Can you explain them?

10. The important question here is; are we saved on the basis of His justice, or on the basis of His mercy? Read and consider 1 John 1:9

11. What does it mean to have ‘died with Christ’?
Read Romans 6:2 – 6, 8 and 11.

Final Thoughts

From Romans 6:9 – 11 we learn that –

Christ was raised from the dead, He cannot die again ...

- neither can you.

Death no longer has mastery over Him ...

- nor over you.

He died to sin once for all ...

- so did you.

In the same way. count yourselves dead to sin,
but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Realize that your sin has been dealt with
because you have died with Christ.

Message Guide & Questions

Baptism Part 2 – Buried With Christ Romans 6:1 - 4

1. From our previous study on this subject how would you define Baptism?

2. What are the 3 areas in which Baptism portrays our Union with Christ –

D _ _ _ _ with Christ

Being B _ _ _ _ with Christ

Being R _ _ _ _ with Christ

3. In our last study, we learned that to be baptized into His death is to recognize that He not only **died for me**, but that **I died in Him**. Therefore my legal standing before God is that I am declared to be 'justified'; meaning, that I have met the just requirements of the law in the person of a Substitute - Christ. **I have died with Christ!**

From Romans 6 & 7 we learn about 3 kinds of death –

Romans 6:2 We died to S _ _

Romans 6:8 We died with C _ _ _ _ _

Romans 7:4 WE died to the L _ _

4. As we consider the Burial of Christ, read and consider –
Romans 6:4a Colossians 2:12a 1 Corinthians 15:3 & 4
5. Clearly, the burial of Jesus is an important element in the gospel, but what kinds of burial are we talking about here?
- a. The P _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ burial _ _ Christ
- b. The S _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ burial _ _ _ _ Christ
6. What is unusual about the fact that Jesus was buried?

7. What was the role of Joseph of Arimathea. Read Luke 23:50 & 51
What was the role of Nicodemus. Read John 3:1

8. What was the significance of these actions?
Read Isaiah 53:9 and Matthew 27:57 – 58

9. Read again Romans 6:4. Where do WE come into this?

Final Thoughts

The physical burial of Jesus is not just a piece of historical detail.
It was significant enough in the counsels of God
for Him to inform us in advance.

Christ's burial had a purpose;
so what does it mean for us to be 'buried with Christ'?

Some of us recognize that we have died with Christ,
but we are not buried with Him.
We still interact with our sin, our guilt and our past
as if they are still alive.

But BURIAL separates us from our sin!
Go right under the water! Your old self is BURIED!

But for what purpose? Read again Romans 6:3 – 4
This is the end purpose; that we may live a NEW life.

Message Guide & Questions

Baptism

Part 3 – Risen With Christ

Romans 6:3 - 4

1. To recap from our previous studies on this subject, can you remember what the definition of 'baptism' is?

2. And what were the 3 movements attached to this?

3. The outward act of baptism by immersion into water is designed to portray the inward reality of our union with Christ which is called what?

4. There are two words that describe two different aspects of salvation. They are –
 - a. R _____
 - b. R _____
5. In the Bible 'redemption' means 'deliverance from evil by payment of a price'.
To R _____ is to literally B __ B ____
6. In the Old Testament this referred to the redemption of –
 - a. S _____
 - b. P _____
 - c. F _____
 - e. A _____
 - f. P _____
 - g. N _____
7. In the New Testament redemption refers to an A __ of S _____

8. Read and consider Romans 3:24, Titus 2:14 and Mark 10:45
Notice the words 'redeem' or 'redemption' in these verses.

Note that this 'act of redemption' is portrayed in the first two movements of baptism in that . . .

Our D _ _ _ _ with Christ and B _ _ _ _ _ with Him

R _ _ _ _ _ us, R _ _ _ _ _ us, R _ _ _ _ _ us.

But for what end? R _ _ _ _ _

9. Regeneration is the 're-imparting' of life.

The reason why we are redeemed, rescued and reconciled is not only that we come out of our S _ _ , G _ _ _ _ and F _ _ _ _ _ , but that we become the recipients of a N _ _ L _ _ _

10. Read and consider Romans 5:10

Final Thoughts

Obedience to the outward act of baptism is to testify
that an inward spiritual change has taken place.

Sadly, it is possible to receive a new life,
but continue living the old life.

Read the KJV of Romans 8:5

Christ's death reconciles us, but it is His life that saves us.
The tragedy is that many Christians only have half the gospel.

Are you living in the power of this new life?

Have you been baptized.

Please read again Romans 6:4. It's all there in that verse.

This will lead you into –

A Life of Intimacy with God

You cannot experience this without spending time WITH Him.

A Life of **Obedience** to God

Constant surrender of your agenda to His.

A Life of **Dependence** on God

Recognizing that apart from Him we can do nothing.

A Life of **Service** for God

To find out what God is doing, and to be involved with Him.

Are you living in the power of the New Life?

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

This Leader's Guide is prepared to help the Study Group Leader to keep the discussions moving along. Maybe your people will come up with different answers, or perhaps they will need a little prompting from you.

Remember, you want to encourage your people to fully participate. This is not a 'teaching session' by the Group Leader, but rather a discussion group. This may at first seem like a contradiction, but you will need the Lord to give you wisdom to keep the discussions 'on track' while also allowing the Holy Spirit to direct your path.

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

Baptism **Part 1 – Dying With Christ** **Romans 6:1 - 8**

1. An 'Ordinance' is an outward physical act that portrays and inward spiritual experience.
2. These 2 ordinances are: Baptism and Communion [also know as The Lord's Supper]
3. They both focus on the death and resurrection of Jesus.
4. The major difference is –

Baptism is performed **only once** in the Christian Life.
It signifies a 'once and for all' event of being united with Christ.

The Lord's Supper [Communion] is **repeated**.
It reminds us of our need for ongoing cleansing and communion with God on the basis of the cross.

5. 11 Books of the New Testament talk about Baptism.
In the Book of Acts – the history of the early church – there were 9 separate occasions when people were Baptized.
6. The one significant difference with baptisms in the Book of Acts compared to baptisms today is that in each case in Acts, the baptisms took place **immediately after they were saved**, there was no period of waiting for a few weeks, months or years.
7. For a person not to be baptized is –

NEGLIGENCE on the part of a church,
and **DISOBEDIENCE** on the part of a Christian.

To not be baptized could well be the blockage to growth in the lives of many Christians.

8. Baptism is a portrayal of our 'union with Christ' in 3 areas.
 - DYING with Christ
 - Being BURIED with Christ
 - Being RISEN with Christ

This study will focus on the first of these – **Dying With Christ**

9. The 2 things in the character of God that made the sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross necessary are –

JUSTICE and MERCY

These 2 qualities are incompatible because:

Justice - is giving people what they deserve.
Mercy - is NOT giving people what they deserve.

10. On the cross the just demands of a Holy God were met by the death of Jesus our Substitute. It was God's mercy towards us that caused Him to send His Son to be crucified in our place.

It is important to understand that if God could forgive on the basis of mercy alone, the cross would not have been necessary.

If we appeal to mercy alone we are appealing to the whim of God – maybe He will forgive, maybe He won't. But by appealing to God's justice, He is morally – legally - obligated to forgive – because Christ has already paid the price!!!

11. This means that what happened to Christ on the cross happened to us also.

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

Baptism

Part 2 – Buried With Christ

Romans 6:1 - 4

1. Baptism is defined as an “outward physical act that portrays an inward spiritual truth”.
2. The 3 areas in which Baptism portrays our Union with Christ –

DYING with Christ

Being **BURIED** with Christ

Being **RISEN** with Christ

Today's study will focus on being BURIED with Christ.

3. From Romans 6 & 7 we learn about 3 kinds of death –

Romans 6:2 We died to SIN

Romans 6:8 We died with CHRIST

Romans 7:4 WE died to the LAW

4. Clearly, the burial of Jesus is an important element in the gospel.
5. Clearly, the burial of Jesus is an important element in the gospel, but what kinds of burial are we talking about here?
 - a. The **PHYSICAL** burial **OF** Christ
 - b. The **SPIRITUAL** burial **WITH** Christ
6. Having been crucified as a criminal, Jesus should not have been accorded the dignity of a burial. Instead he should have been thrown into the Valley of Gahanna – the garbage dump of Jerusalem –and left to rot and be incinerated.
7. Read and consider John 19:38 - 42
8. The significance is that these actions fulfilled a prophecy dating back to the 8th century before Christ's birth – over 700 years before.
9. There is a FINALITY that comes with burial.

When a person dies, the time between the death and the funeral is difficult; but we often still speak in the present tense about the individual. However, after the burial, we speak in the past tense. It is over, it is finished.

So it is with us. The burial of Christ says, *He took my sin to the cross. He died my death and was buried. IT IS OVER!*

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

Baptism

Part 3 – Risen With Christ

Romans 6:3 - 4

1. Baptism is “an outward physical act that portrays an inward spiritual truth”.
2.
 - a. **Dying with Christ**
 - b. **Being Buried with Christ**
 - c. **Being Risen With Christ** (which we will study today)
3. The Gospel
4. There are two words that describe two different aspects of salvation. They are –
 - a. **REDEMPTION**
 - b. **REGENERATION**
5. To **REDEEM** is to literally **BUY BACK**.
6. In the Old Testament this referred to the redemption of –
 - a. SLAVES
 - b. PROPERTY
 - c. FIELDS
 - e. ANIMALS
 - f. PEOPLE
 - g. NATIONS
7. In the New Testament redemption refers to an **ACT** of **SALVATION**
8. Note that this ‘act of redemption; is portrayed in the first two movements of baptism in that . . .

Our **DEATH** with Christ and **BURIAL** with Him

REDEEMS us, **RECONCILES** us, and **RESCUES** us.

But for what end? **REGENERATION**
9. The reason why we are redeemed, reconciled and rescued is not only that we come out of our **SIN, GUILT** and **FAILURE**, but that we become the recipients of a **NEW LIFE**.
10. So there is much more than just Redemption; that leads to Regeneration ... a new life.