

1) Is the Second Death a Literal “Hell!”

2) What Does it Mean to be “Under Grace” And NOT “Under the Law?”

Romans 6

“In Romans 5, we learned that as sinners we are enemies of God, but are reconciled, that is, freed from sin, by receiving the righteousness of Christ’s life, which has no limit. No matter how greatly the sin may abound, grace does much more abound.” Waggoner, Ellet J., Waggoner on Romans, p 6.109

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

How often we, who believe in Universal Restoration, hear from other Christians, “Well, if God is going to save everyone, then I can sin as much as I want and still be saved.”

Obviously Paul heard this same response from “Christians” in his day. Here he repeats the question. “Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? “Shouldn’t we sin as much as we want so God can show how gracious He is and ignore our sin? After all, the more we sin, the more God can demonstrate His graciousness,” according to these “Christians.”

But Paul has a clear answer.

2 God forbid! (Certainly not!) How shall we, who died to sin, live any longer therein?

If we have been born again (literal translation: born from above), we have died to sin. How, then, can we continue to live in sin? If we choose to continue our old ways, then we have NOT been “born again.”

The way “grace abounds” if we continue to sin, is this: The more we sin, the more trouble we bring upon ourselves. (We reap what we have sown.) Eventually, the trouble will be so severe that we will realize we cannot run our own life. We will finally understand our need for Christ and ask Him to run our life for us.

For some, that reaping and subsequent “understanding” will happen in this life. For the rest who don’t understand now, that “understanding” and “reaping” will happen at the Judgment, after the Second Resurrection. (See, “What Happens at the Judgment?”)

3 Don’t you know that as 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 just as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

The first thing Paul tells us here is that Christ’s death and Resurrection are memorialized by **Baptism** (by immersion). Many Christians believe that Sunday Worship is the memorial of Christ’s Resurrection. But that is NOT Biblically sound. The Bible tells us here, In Romans, Chapter 6. that **Baptism** is the memorial of Christ’s death and resurrection – **NOT** the keeping of Sunday as the day of worship.

The Pope of the Catholic Church has declared that “since Christ was resurrected on Sunday, then Sunday Sacredness is the memorial of Christ’s death and resurrection.” But the Pope is ignorant of the following facts:

- a) Jesus was NOT resurrected on Sunday (See: “Was Jesus Really Resurrected on Sunday?”),
- b) God instituted the Seventh-day Sabbath (Saturday) and made it HOLY at Creation (Genesis 2:1-4), and
- c) No human being, INCLUDING the Pope, has the authority to change the day God ordained as HIS Holy day!

The Pope and the Catholic Church have tried to change God’s law. This is blasphemy! God says,

Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy. Six days thou shalt labor and do all they work but the SEVENTH DAY is the Sabbath of the Lord Thy God. Exodus 20:8-10

Sunday Sacredness and Sunday Worship are found NOWHERE in the Bible. The word “Sunday,” and the words “First Day of the Week” appear NOWHERE in the Bible in the original Scriptures. They have been “written in” by the translators, obviously to support a false doctrine that virtually all churches have erroneously accepted as true – the False doctrine of “Sunday Sacredness.”

The Protestant Reformers (those who “Protested” against the Catholic Church’s belief that Tradition was equal to the Bible) and virtually ALL present Protestant denominations (with few exceptions) have **accepted the ERROR** popularized by the Catholic Church, the error that Sunday Sacredness is in honor of Jesus’ Resurrection on - - - - Sunday.

The Protestants who claim *Sola Scriptura*, (the Bible and the Bible ONLY) as the basis of their doctrines, have fallen totally for the deceit of the Catholic Church in regard to the doctrine of Sunday Sacredness! The “Protestants” claim to be “Protesting” against the doctrines of tradition accepted by the Catholic Church, while at the same time **embracing** the FALSE doctrine of “Sunday Sacredness,” a doctrine based **solely** on Tradition!

How BLIND they are!

Baptized into Jesus Christ

Baptism is the symbol of “putting on Christ.”

For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.
Gal 8:27

For as the body is one, and has many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body; so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews (literally Judeans – meaning those who believe in the true God) or Gentiles (literally “nations” – meaning those who previously did NOT believe in one true God, but believed in many pagan gods.) 1 Cor 12:12,13

Buried with Him by Baptism

“Baptism, therefore, is burial. If people were content to follow the plain reading of the Scriptures, there never would be a question concerning the ‘mode of baptism.’ No one, from reading the Bible, could ever get any other idea than that baptism is immersion. ‘Buried with Him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with Him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised Him from the dead.” Col 2:12. Baptism represents the death and resurrection of Christ, and by it we show our acceptance of His sacrifice; and the very act is an actual burial, in order to make the lesson the more impressive.

Why the Change in Baptism?

“How is it that there has been a change from Scripture baptism to sprinkling? The answer is very easy. **Baptism is a memorial of the resurrection of**

Christ. But 'the church,' by which is meant the bishops who loved the praise of men more than the praise of God and who wished to curry favor with the 'better class' of the heathen, adopted the pagan sun festival. And in order to appear to justify themselves in so doing, they claimed that the rising sun that was worshipped by the heathen was a symbol of the resurrection of 'the Sun of Righteousness,' namely, Christ, and that by observing Sunday they were celebrating His resurrection.

"But they did not need two memorials of the resurrection, and **so they dropped the one that the Lord had given.** In order, however, not to appear to throw baptism away, they claimed that the heathen sprinkling with 'holy water;' which they very naturally adopted with the heathen sun festival, was the baptism enjoined in the Scriptures." Ibid p 6.112

Unfortunately, the people trusted in their church leaders instead of reading the Bible for themselves, so it was very easy to make them believe that the Bible was being obeyed.

A New Life

"It was impossible for the grave to hold Christ. Acts 2:24. Therefore, just as surely as we are baptized into the death of Christ, so surely shall we be raised from a life of sin to a life of righteousness in Him." Ibid. p 6.110

5 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly 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 (rendered inoperative), that henceforth we should not be slaves to sin.

There is a difference between us and our sins when crucified. We are crucified in order that we may live again.

I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless, I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me. Galatians 2:20

Christ said, "Because I live, ye shall live also." John 14:19

Christ separates the sin from the sinner. That was shown to us by God thousands of years ago when He provided the Sanctuary service to teach the Israelites the Plan of Salvation (even though they really never understood it in the wilderness.)

The lamb, representing Christ, was brought by the sinner (the Israelite) to the Outer Court of the Sanctuary, as a sacrifice for sin. The Sinner, the Israelite, put his hands on the head of the lamb and symbolically transferred his sins to the lamb.

Then the lamb, representing Jesus Christ carrying the sin of the world, was sacrificed and burned.

Please Note a VERY important point. The Israelite did NOT get burned up. Instead, the Israelite's SIN (symbolically placed on the lamb) was burned up.

God's fiery law "burns" the sin out of our life. God CAN and DOES separate us from our sin by allowing us to bring terrible troubles on ourselves, then we learn hard lessons by reaping what we have sown!

7 For he that is dead is freed from sin.

8 Now if we died 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 domination over Him.

The "Second Death"

In this Chapter, Chapter 6 of Romans, Paul is writing repeatedly about the SECOND DEATH – Dying to Sin! This is not a literal, physical death, everyone agrees. It is "dying" to sin – a Spiritual death to sin.

We must remember that, in the Bible, the "First" is always physical (literal) and the Second is always Spiritual (NOT literal). Jesus tells us that in John, Chapter 3, during His talk with Nicodemus.

Jesus said to Nicodemus, "You must be born again."

Nicodemus was confused.

He asked Jesus, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?"

Jesus explained to Nicodemus that the **First birth** is a Physical birth, one that can be seen, touched, and heard, with the physical senses. However, the **Second birth**, or being "born again" is a Spiritual re-birth – one that can only be

experienced Spiritually. It cannot be seen, touched or heard with the physical senses. It is a Spiritual “happening.”

Paul confirmed this rule (that the First is physical – and the Second is Spiritual) in 1 Corinthians 15:44-47:

And so it is written, the first man Adam was made a living soul (physical and literal); the last Adam (Christ) was made a life-giving Spirit. (Spiritual)

Howbeit that was NOT first which is Spiritual, but that which is natural (physical): (The FIRST is ALWAYS natural!)

and **afterward** that which is spiritual. (The SECOND is ALWAYS Spiritual!)

The first man is of the earth, earthy (physical); the second man is the Lord from heaven (spiritual).

The Bible reveals this “First = literal or physical – and Second = Spiritual” principle in the story of the Fiery Furnace. (Daniel, Chapter 3)

The three Israelite young men were **literally** thrown in the fiery furnace when they would not bow down to Nebuchadnezzar’s statue. They were not touched by the fire, but their ropes were burned off. THIS story of the fiery furnace in the Old Testament represents the “First” – the literal or physical burning.

The New Testament tells of the Second – the Spiritual “burning,” what is erroneously translated as “Hell.”

In the story in Daniel – the Old Testament, the burning away of the ropes that bound the three young men represents - in the New Testament - the burning away of the bonds that bind us in sin. God’s “fiery law” (Deuteronomy 33:2) burns the SIN out of our lives but does not physically burn us.

THIS is the Spiritual “burning” written of in the New Testament. This is NOT a physical, literal “Hell,” because we must remember the Biblical principle taught by Jesus and Paul, that “the First is always Physical, and the Second is always Spiritual.”

10 For in that He died, He died unto sin ONCE for ALL: but in that he lives, He lives unto God.

What blasphemy it is for Evangelical (and other) “Christians” to condone the building of a Third Temple in Jerusalem by the Jews to begin again the sacrificing of animals.

This is the most abominable insult any “Christian” could give to Christ!

Christ died ONCE for ALL sin!

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

Here Paul is writing about the **SECOND DEATH** – dying to sin!

It’s no wonder that the “Christian” Church finds Paul’s writings “hard to understand.” They are blind to this principle of the “First being physical” and the “Second being Spiritual.”

12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.

13 Neither present your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin; but present yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.

14 For sin shall not have dominion over you; for ye are not under law, but under grace.

Not Under the Law, but Under Grace:

The majority of Christians believe this verse means that the Law no longer applies to us. We often hear that “the Law was done away with at the Cross!” Christians are free to ignore the Ten Commandments, they say, at least the Fourth one - the Sabbath Commandment, because Christians are “Under Grace – and NOT the law.”

But Paul explains what he means in the very next text!

15 What then? Shall we SIN, because we are not under law, but under grace? God forbid! (Certainly not!)

The Bible tells us that

“Sin IS the transgression of the LAW! (1 John 3:4)

Therefore, Paul is telling us that we must **KEEP** the Law!

When Jesus Christ is truly in our heart, when His disposition has taken over our life, then we will automatically keep the law. When one “keeps” the law automatically, one is not “under the law.”

Here is an illustration. If the speed limit is 60 mph and a driver is traveling at 55 mph, he is not “under the law.” In other words, the law cannot convict him because he is “keeping” the law.

However, if he increases his speed to 70 mph, NOW he is “under the law.” The “law” has jurisdiction over him because he is NOT keeping the law.

When Jesus is running our life, when He is making every decision in our life, we will be keeping the Law automatically. In that situation, the Law has no authority over us because we are already “keeping” it.

This can only happen by Jesus Christ “graciously” putting in our hearts His disposition, and putting His mind in ours.

“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 2:5)

What terrible consequences Christians will bring on themselves, when they have accepted the erroneous interpretation that it is no longer necessary to keep God’s law.

Jesus made it very clear:

“If you LOVE Me, KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS.” (John 14:15)

16 Do you not know that to whom ye yield yourselves as servants to obey, his slaves ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

“All of us are slaves, however much we may vaunt our liberty. We are controlled either by Sin or by Obedience. It is a cause of thankfulness that we all have had service under Sin, for only so could we realize the nature of such slavery.”

Concordant Commentary, p 236

In other words, we are the slaves of whomever we follow. If we follow Christ, we are His slaves. If we follow our own lusts, we are actually following the Adversary, Satan.

17 But God be thanked, that ye were the slaves of sin, yet you obey from the heart the type of teaching to which you were given over.

18 Now, being freed from sin, you are enslaved to Righteousness.

19 As a man I am saying this, because of the infirmity of your flesh. For even as you present your members as slaves to Uncleaness and to Lawlessness for lawlessness, thus now present your members as slaves to Righteousness for holiness.

20 For when you were slaves of Sin, you were free as to Righteousness.

“Slaves of righteousness have a brighter outlook. Even though ashamed of their lawless deeds, they look for life eonian.” Ibid.

21 What fruit had you then? – of which you are now ashamed, for indeed, the consummation (end) of those things is death.

22 Yet now, being freed from Sin, yet enslaved to God, you have your fruit for holiness. Now the consummation is life eonian. (See: “Does Forever Really Mean Forever?” for the definition of “eonian.”)

Once we are freed from Sin by Jesus Christ, He can put His life – eonian life – in us. That is the consummation (or the result) of “dying to sin” – eonian life – the life of Christ in us!

23 For the wages (rations) of sin is death, yet the gracious gift of God is life eonian, in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

“Sin, like slave holders, does not pay wages, but only supplies rations. This consists, at present, in an attitude toward God that is the equivalent of death, for all Sin’s slaves avoid God’s presence. Hence their deed will result in destruction.” (Concordant Commentary, p 236)

But the destruction is NOT a physical destruction – it is the destruction of the “Old man of Sin” so God eventually can make them “New Creatures in Christ.”

God says,

Behold, I make ALL new! (Revelation 21:5)

It is true that sin leads to physical death. As soon as we are born we begin to die. That is the FIRST death – it is in us when we are born. It is a physical death.

But EVERYONE will be resurrected – the righteous in the resurrection when Jesus comes, and the unrighteous will be resurrected after the millennium – at the Judgment.

God defines the “Judgment” as a “turning back to righteousness (right-doing)” AFTER the wicked have “reaped what they have sown.”

But judgment shall return unto righteousness. Psalm 94:15

When Thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn RIGHTEOUSNESS. Isaiah 26:9

Those who are “Judged” at the Great White Throne Judgment will learn how to do RIGHT – that is righteousness – right-doing – AFTER they have reaped what they have sown.

Immortality vs Eternal Life

Don’t confuse immortality with “eternal life.” They are NOT the same. The words “eternal,” “eternity,” “forever,” and “everlasting,” NEVER appear in the Bible. They are mistranslations of the word “eonian” or “eon.”

The word “eon” is a period of time with a beginning and an end. (See the evidence in “Does “Forever” Really Mean Forever?” “Eon” does NOT mean eternity.

God DOES tell us that once we develop a character like Jesus Christ, we WILL live forever, but that promise is found in 1 Corinthians 15:22-28. In that passage, we are told that DEATH will be abolished. Therefore, EVERYONE will be alive for eternity, and God will be ALL in ALL.