

Take-Home 7: Buried with Him in Baptism

Romans 6 · Keep this sheet; bring it back each week

What We Found

Continue in sin so grace may abound? "By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?" (6:2). The death has a place and a means: "buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life" (6:4). Ezekiel saw the font coming: clean water, a new heart, God's Spirit put within, and the walking that follows (Ezek 36:25-27).

And a five-week promise closed tonight: the heart-circumcision God promised in Deuteronomy 30:6 and Paul preached in Romans 2:29 has an address: "circumcised with a circumcision made without hands... buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the working of God" (Col 2:11-12). The order of chapter 6 is the order of the gospel: what God has done, then what we must do: consider yourselves dead to sin (6:11), let sin not reign (6:12), yield to God (6:13). "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (6:23).

Voices of the Church

VOICE OF THE CHURCH: ST. CYRIL OF JERUSALEM

Catechizing the newly baptized beside the empty tomb, St. Cyril told them: in the same moment you were dying and being born, and that saving water was at once your grave and your mother, in image the dying and in truth the salvation (Mystagogical Catecheses 2). Not a picture of a death: a death, with an exit.

VOICE OF THE CHURCH: ST. GREGORY NAZIANZEN

"Baptism is God's most beautiful and magnificent gift... We call it gift, grace, anointing, enlightenment, garment of immortality, bath of rebirth, seal, and most precious gift" (Oration 40, quoted at CCC 1216). Each name is a real effect. Find the date of yours and keep it like a birthday; by this chapter's logic, it is one.

VOICE OF THE CHURCH: ST. AMBROSE OF MILAN

St. Ambrose, instructing the newly baptized of Milan (the catecheses handed down as *On the Sacraments* and *On the Mysteries*), teaches in substance that what the eyes saw at the font was the least of what happened there: the visible washing was the instrument of an invisible work of the whole Trinity. The water has no power of itself; that was never where the power lay.

Live It This Week

- Find the date of your Baptism this week (ask family or call the parish of record). Write it down, and plan to mark it yearly.

- Each time you bless yourself with holy water this week, pause two seconds and say: I am baptized; I died and rose with Christ.
- Take one concrete step of yielding (6:13) in the place sin still reigns strongest: remove the occasion, tell a trusted friend, or bring it to Confession.
- BRING YOUR SEALED MY GUESS SHEET NEXT WEEK. It opens at the start of Session 8.

Memory Verse

"We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life."

Romans 6:4 (RSV2CE)

Before Next Session

Read Romans 7 once, slowly, and do not be alarmed by it. Catechism references for this session: CCC 1214, 1227, 1265.