



## Part 3: Rewiring the Switch

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### **Baptism: A living picture of Christ transformation**

#### **Romans 6:4-23**

<sup>4</sup> We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

<sup>5</sup> For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. <sup>6</sup> For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— <sup>7</sup> because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.

<sup>8</sup> Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.

#### **Rewiring the Switch**

<sup>9</sup> For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. <sup>10</sup> The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.

#### **Know - Be convinced of this reality**

<sup>11</sup> In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

#### **Count yourselves (reckon) - Hold this conviction deep within you**

<sup>12</sup> Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. <sup>13</sup> Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness. <sup>14</sup> For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace.

#### **Yield - Do not let sin reign - Stop offering yourself up to sin**

<sup>15</sup> What then? Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? By no means! <sup>16</sup> Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? <sup>17</sup> But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance.

#### **Embrace your freedom in Christ - offer your obedience to God**

<sup>18</sup> You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.

<sup>19</sup> I am using an example from everyday life because of your human limitations.

Just as you used to offer yourselves as slaves to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer yourselves as slaves to righteousness leading to holiness. 20 When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. 21 What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! 22 But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life.

### Live as one who is dead to sin and alive to Christ

<sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### Be thankful for the gift

#### **Next Steps:**

**Baptism.** Baptism is an outward way of expressing that we have accepted Christ and given ourselves to God. If you have accepted Jesus Christ as your personal savior, declare your choice to follow him through water baptism during any weekend service in Bellingham on October 12 and 13. ***A required baptism class takes place Saturday, October 5 from 7:15-8:15 PM or Sunday, October 6 from 12:45-1:45 PM. More details on the yellow insert inside your program.***

#### **Small Group Questions**

- 1) Have you ever played with electricity? What did you learn?
- 2) Have you been baptized? Why or why not?
- 3) Have you ever held to a belief that was eventually proved false? How did you handle that?
- 4) In what ways do you “offer yourself up” to sin on a daily basis? How do you offer yourself up to God on a daily basis? How could Christ transform that process?
- 5) Read Romans 4:6-23 again. What have you learned about your old life and how God wants you to live a new life?
- 6) How can we pray for you right now?

**OUR MISSION** | To create an authentic Christian community that effectively reaches out to unchurched people in love, acceptance and forgiveness so that they may experience the joy of salvation and a purposeful life of discipleship.