

## Session 2

July 23, 2023

### SET APART BY CHRIST

#### Romans 6:5-14

What God does, He does completely.

When He created everything, He finished it in six days and then He rested; not because He was tired, but because He was finished! Nowhere is this more evident than in our salvation. When Jesus said, "It is finished" (John 19:30), He meant it; everything that was needed for our eternity, He had provided. To be saved, is to be set apart by Christ, for Christ. In this text, we see how that works through time.

**Set apart in the past (vv. 5-7).** Nothing sets anyone apart from others more than death. In fact, in the Bible, death *always* means separation. Physical death is the separation of the soul from the body; and spiritual death is the separation of the soul from God. In these verses, we see one of the great paradoxes of truth: in order to live, someone must die. In order to enter heaven, the physical body needs to die (see 1 Corinthians 15:36). The same truth applies to our spiritual lives. When we identify with Christ, we must necessarily identify with His death (v. 6) as well as His resurrection. For this reason, Paul said, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless, I live; yet not I, but Christ lives in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me" (Gal. 2:20). By the act of dying to self, we (1) demonstrate the ultimate act of submission; (2) secure the promise of future bodily resurrection (see 1 Cor 15:20ff) and (3) are delivered from the penalty of sin (v. 7). For reflection: *If believers are chosen in Christ, "before the foundation of the world," and Christ secured that position by His death on the cross, why do you think we still need to "die to ourselves?"*

**Set apart in the present (vv. 8-11).** Whereas the previous verses refer to the past, this section deals with the present. Yes, we are to die with Him (v. 8); and yes, we will be raised with Him (v. 9). That's great...but what do we do in the meantime? Well, just as we are to emulate Christ in His death and resurrection, so we are to emulate His present state. Christ died one time for all sin for all eternity (that's in the past), but when He arose, He came back not to die, but to live "to God" (v. 10); that is to promote God's will, expose His character, and manifest His glory. Hence, the Christian duty is just that: to shed ourselves of the effects of sin, promote the Kingdom of God, expose His divine person and plan, and manifest His glory in a sin-darkened world. If we do that, we will be seen for who we are: those set apart for His divine purpose. For reflection: *How well do you think today's church is doing at "set apart-ness? What are some ways that the lines are getting blurred between being like the world and being set apart from it?*

**Set apart in the future (vv. 12-14).** The construction of Paul's prohibitions here assumes that those things he warns against are already happening and need to be stopped. In 1 Corinthians 12, he calls believers to be *living sacrifices*. Here he calls us to offer ourselves as *living weapons* for righteousness. In both cases, the living part can only happen after the dying part has taken place (v. 13). Notice that these actions only occur as an act of our will. God has provided the means,

but we are the ones who are called to die to self and live for Christ. For reflection: *Verse 14 introduces the difference between the law (which exposes our sin) and grace (which forgives our sin). How does that verse relate to those verses that come before it? How does it relate to those that follow? Does it relate to holiness at all?*