



Daily Verse and Comment

Romans 6:4

(4) 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.

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The word "with" will be the focus of our attention as we seek to understand more thoroughly our identification with Christ. The scripture says we were buried "with" Christ. [Jesus](#) was literally buried [in the heart of the earth](#) in a tomb because He was dead. The apostle Paul states in [Romans 7:9](#), "For I was alive once without the law, but when the commandment came, [sin](#) revived and I died." Like Paul, we are buried "with" Him by means of [baptism](#).

We tend to take the word "with" for granted because we use it so commonly; it is a little preposition we stick in front of another word and hardly notice. But what does it mean? It means "in the company of." Every time we see the word "with" preceding Christ in a context that includes us, we are "in the company of" Him. According to the *American Heritage College Dictionary*, the preposition "with" has 27 other usages, among which are "a member or associate of," "characterized by" and "possessed of."

[Romans 6:6](#) adds to being baptized with Christ, "Knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin." We are not only baptized with Him, we are also crucified with Him. Christ became sin to pay for our sins, suffered crucifixion, and died. We die when [God](#) reveals to us the knowledge of sin and we [repent](#), accept the blood of Christ, and commit ourselves to be His disciples.

Our relationship with Christ is so close that we are perceived as sharing with Him His experiences. His experiences were literal and physical, and ours are every bit as literal and individually meaningful to our fulfilling God's will but are spiritual. Each "with Him" statement shows we are on the same path in His company.

The relationship is of such closeness that Paul describes it in [Galatians 2:20](#) as, "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by [faith](#) in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

Paul expands further on this in [Colossians 2:12-13](#):

[You were] buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses.

Thus, resurrection with Him is added to the experiences we share as members of Christ.

However, all of this places us under certain obligations. Paul continues with this theme in [Colossians 3:1](#), "If you then were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God." Becoming new men in and through Christ, we are charged with making the [Kingdom of God](#) our top priority in life. Even in this, though, we seek the Kingdom in His company.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

To learn more, see:

[The Offerings of Leviticus \(Part Eight\): Conclusion \(Part One\)](#)

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