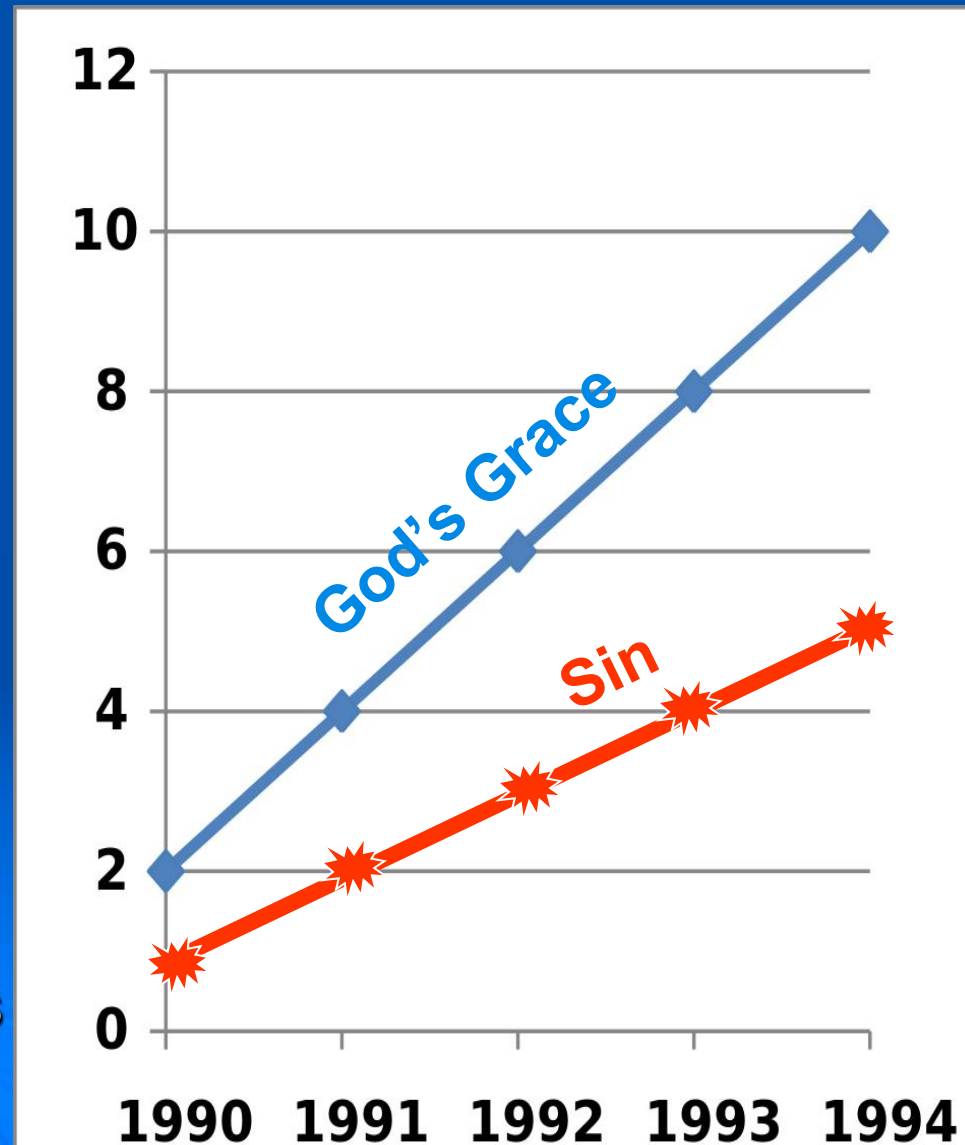# AHEAD OF THE CURVE

- Romans 5:20

- Law given so sins increase; but God's grace increases more

- Straw man says: if more sin equals more grace, then Believers should sin more !

- Romans 6:1, 2 address this absurd assumption

- Paul is surmising about these Roman Believers whom he has never met

- Bible not divided into chapters until the 13th century

THE TRUE MEANING OF GRACE

➤ Hebrew *chen* = grace   *chesed* = loving-kindness

➤ Greek *charis* = grace, favor, kindness, well being

➤ Biblically, "grace" = unmerited favor

➤ Grace needs to be connected to a particular action of God in order for it to have applicable meaning

➤ In Romans 6, grace is connected to God righteousing people (justifying people) who don't deserve it
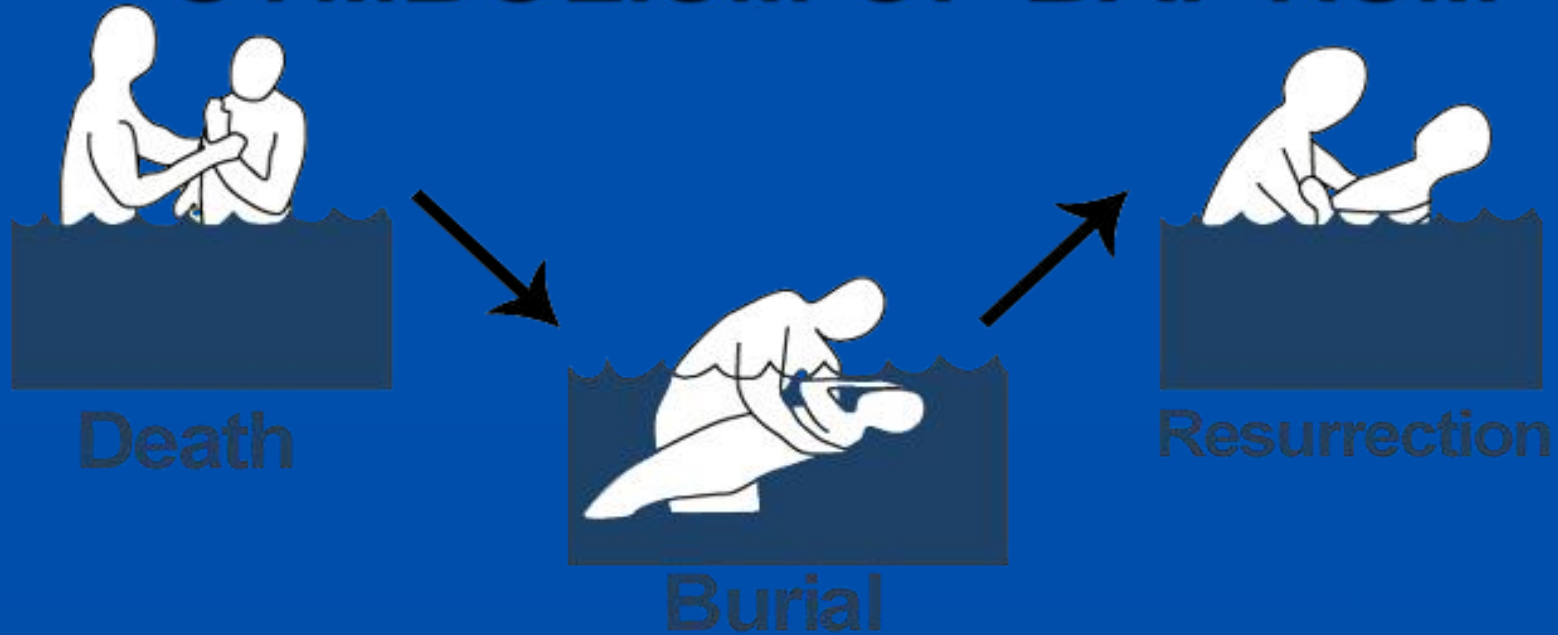
- ➢ Romans chapter 6:1 – 2   *"....keep on sinning so that there can be more grace?"* <u>HEAVEN FORBID!</u>
- ➢ **"Dying to sin"**   Best to understand it in the commonly held Jewish view of Paul's day
- ➢ *Yetzer ha tov* = good inclination
- ➢ *Yetzer ha rah* = evil inclination
- ➢ We are mastered either by one or the other
- ➢ Pharisees: Doctrine of the Two Ways
- ➢ Essenes: Doctrine of the Two Spirits
- ➢ Yeshua accepted this same philosophy: Matt. 6:24

BAPTISM

- Concept of baptism as a symbol of dying to sin is connected to the death of Christ
- *Baptizo* = baptize = immerse
- Also means to take on the characteristics of the liquid the cloth is immersed into
- When a Believer is immersed in Christ, he/she absorbs His qualities
- Baptism had become a ritual for gaining membership into the community of Believers
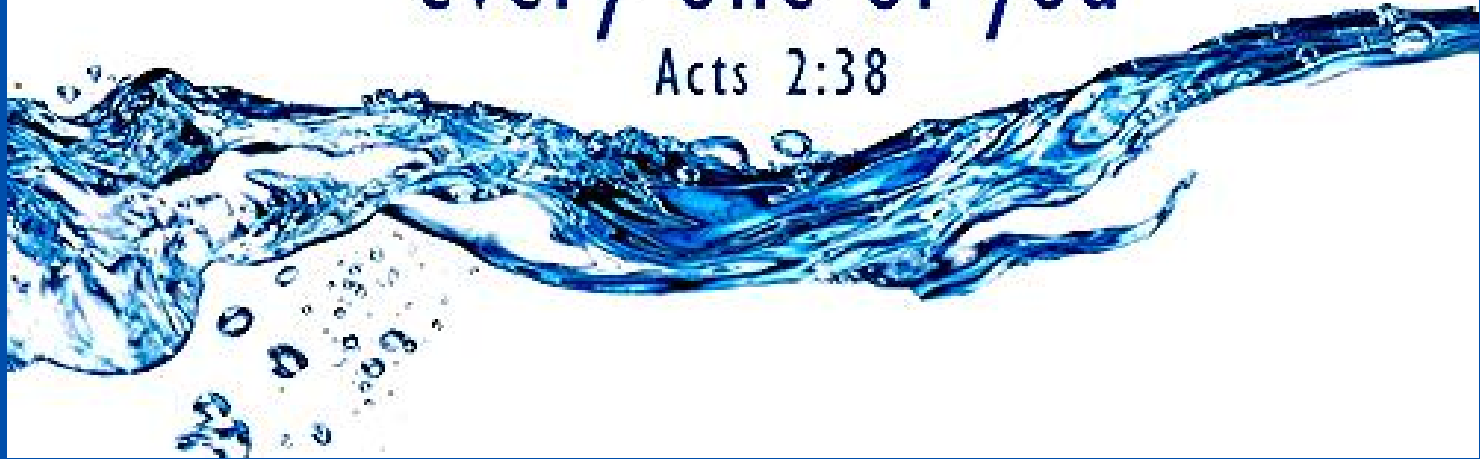
SYMBOLISM OF BAPTISM

Death

Burial

Resurrection

➤ Death is one thing; burial is another

➤ Burial signals the end of life, the official end of the "old life"

➤ We identify in baptism with His death and burial so that we can take the next step: Resurrection!

➤ The Resurrection in Christ that Believers experience is twofold:

➤ 1) The here and now.....a new quality of life

➤ 2) The future......bodily resurrection into a glorified new body

be baptized,
every one of you
Acts 2:38

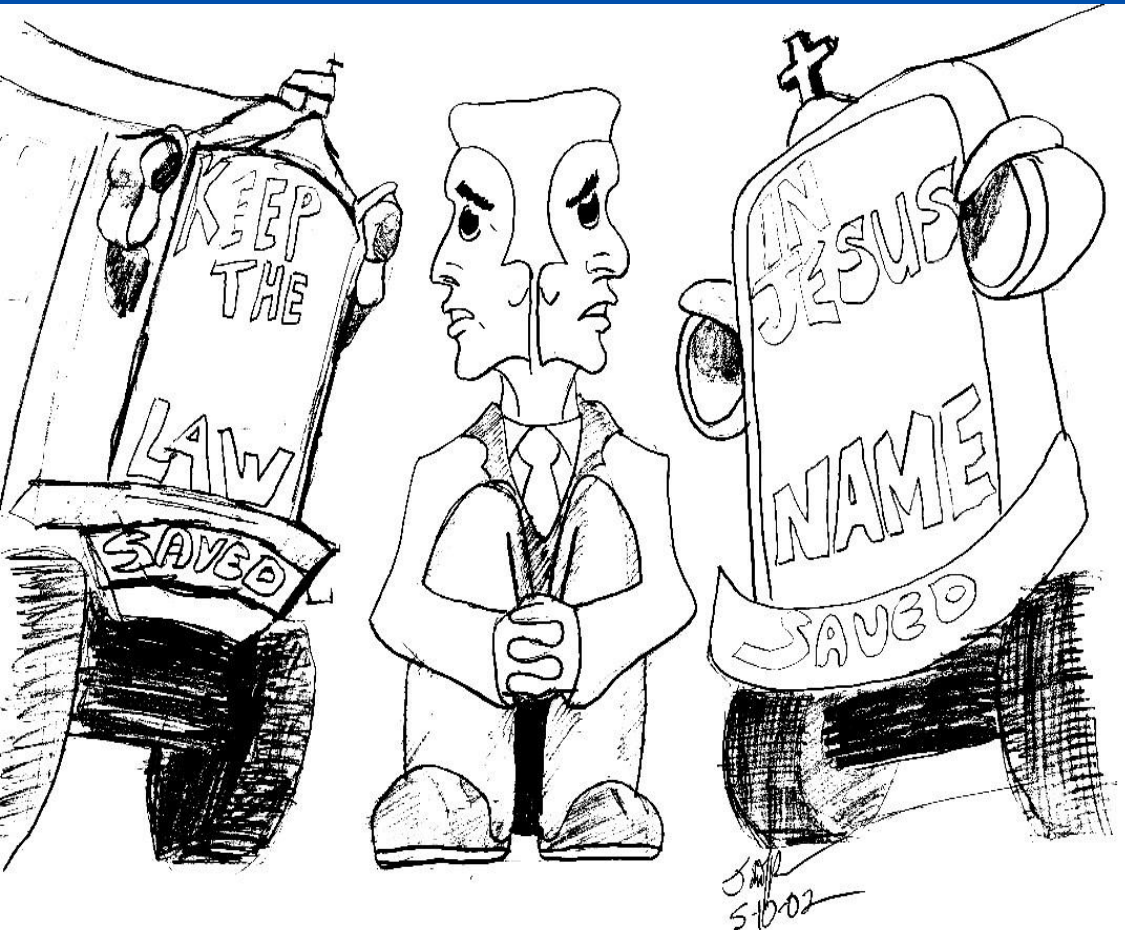➢ What about professed Believers who aren't baptized?

➢ For Paul, baptism is the indispensable ritual moment for Jews and gentiles when we leave our old sin life

➢ Faith in Christ is assumed BEFORE baptism, so salvation occurs at the moment we believe

➢ But salvation and all of its effects are NOT immediate

➢ Baptism is part of the salvation sequence and carries real and tangible consequences with it

- The "old self" means ALL of us....our whole self
- But our "old self" still exists and lingers on to challenge us daily
- Death and resurrection in Christ is a process
- Yeshua no longer burdened by a fragile body and links to this world....be WE are
- Our new life and identification with Christ can increase daily, but WE are responsible for making that happen

DEAD PEOPLE CAN'T SIN

BELIEVERS' PTSD

- After learning how to think about our faith on a spiritual level, the next step is our behavior on a physical level
- We must not let sin reign in our bodies
- Why do Believers still allow sin to rule our lives?
- Being under the power of sin since birth, we don't know how to act in our new reality and instead act on instinct and knee-jerk reactions
- We are no longer pawns to the master of our evil inclination
- We must control what our bodies see, hear, touch, say, eat, drink and do
- The responsibility is ours!

UNDER LAW OR UNDER GRACE ?

- CJB *"under legalism"*
- NAS *"under law"*
- KJV *"under The Law"*
- Definite article "the" is not present in the Greek so is not under "The Law" but rather "under law"
- Paul is NOT placing the Law of Moses in opposition to grace

REDEEMED FROM THE CURSE

➢ This verse is not saying that grace replaced The Law
➢ If Paul meant that the Law was abolished, he has set himself against Yeshua   Matt.5:17 – 19
➢ C.E.B. Cranfield   Commentary of the Book of Romans
➢ The curse of the Law comes from disobedience
➢ Disobedience is sinning
➢ God's wrath applicable to Jews and to gentiles
➢ But righteousness, as a free gift from God, exempts us from God's wrath