

Romans New Lord, New Life

Interpreting the Text:

1. How does Paul use the Roman Christians' recollection of their baptism to make his point about the way they ought to conduct their daily lives?
2. Do you see how Paul sees resurrection implied in both daily life and future afterlife? What behaviors might lead Paul to emphasize a future element of salvation through resurrection?
3. What is the difference between being *like* Christ and being *in* Christ for Paul? Why is this nuance important for the Roman church in particular?

Applying the Text:

1. In what ways does the Christian life tempt us to irresponsibility? Does our confidence in God lead us to moral and spiritual excesses? What would Paul say about this concern based on his address to the Romans?
2. Language of slavery is frequently used by Paul to explore the Christian life. In Professor Dale Martin's book, "Slavery as Salvation," phrases like Romans 6:19, "now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification" are explored. How available is this kind of language to you today? Do you find the claim that we are "freed for" rather than "freed from" obedience helpful in the practice of your faith?