

THE PASTOR'S *ESSENTIALS*®

OUR LIVES IN THE BIBLE - THE BIBLE IN OUR LIVES

¹³ "ENTER THROUGH THE NARROW GATE. FOR WIDE IS THE GATE AND BROAD IS THE ROAD THAT LEADS TO DESTRUCTION, AND MANY ENTER THROUGH IT. ¹⁴ BUT SMALL IS THE GATE AND NARROW THE ROAD THAT LEADS TO LIFE, AND ONLY A FEW FIND IT.
MATTHEW 7:13-14

es-sen-tials (ĭ-sĕn'shĕlz) – *noun* – those things that are necessary and basic to life. In biochemistry essentials are substances that are required for normal functioning but cannot be synthesized by the body and therefore must be included in the diet. Essentials are those things that are fundamental to the spiritual health of the professing Christian.

The Letter of the Apostle Paul to the Romans

A BIBLE STUDY

SESSION SEVEN

Romans 6:1-14

Questions for Session Seven

1. Examine Paul's question in v. 1. To what is he referring? How do we interpret this in our lives today? How is our interpretation today different than how we might have interpreted it in the first century? What is Paul's answer to the question in v. 2, and how does he address the situation?

2. In looking at justification and sanctification, which one represents purely the work of God, and which one represents our response to God? Explain the differences in and the significance of one's *standing* and one's *state* with respect to justification and sanctification.

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3. To what is Paul referring in vv. 3-4? As twenty-first century Christians what are we sharing with Jesus? Explain the symbolism of the baptismal water and death. For us to move forward, what must die? Explain v. 7.
4. Since we symbolically died with Christ, what else will we share with him? Does death have mastery over us as humans? Explain in some detail how this works from a theological perspective.
5. Explain the *once for all* phrase in v. 10. Why did Christ die, for whom, and for how long? How can we integrate this into our own personal good news story that we can share with others? What do we have to recognize before any of this can take place? Hint: "First, we were ..."
6. If we are dead to sin after justification, what happens during sanctification? If we are moving along a continuum, in what direction should we be moving? How could you illustrate this with a chart? Where are you on the continuum?

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7. How are we to behave after justification? What happens if we continue to give in to our body's evil desires, and if we continue to offer our bodies as instruments of wickedness? What should we be doing in this process, and how can we apply this to our lives here in the twenty-first century? Give examples.

8. As we look back toward the beginning of this lesson, under what are we living now if we are not living under the law anymore? Why do we resist the idea of having a new master in our post-justification lives?

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