



### Two Paradoxical Truths for Followers of Jesus

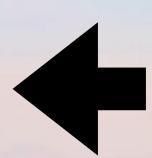
We are in Christ.
Christ is in us.

To be in Christ means that we were with Christ in his crucifixion, death, burial, resurrection, ascension and are currently with Christ in His enthronement.

# WITH CHRIST

We were with Christ in His:

crucifixion, death, burial, resurrection, ascension



If these happened over 2000 years ago, how is it that we are united "with Christ" in them?

We are currently with Christ in His: enthronement

# WITH CHRIST

Principle: Eternal actions bear eternal fruit.



30 A.D.

2020 A.D.



In this season of Lent,
we don't just acknowledge the crucifixion, death, burial,
resurrection and ascension of Jesus
but also our own.

Week 1: We were crucified with Christ.

We died with Christ.
We were buried with Christ.

#### Romans 6:1-11

What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 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.

For <u>if we have been united with him in a death like his</u>, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—because <u>anyone who has died has been set free from sin</u>.

We died with Christ.
We were buried with Christ.

#### Romans 6:1-11

Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.

In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:10

I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death...

What does it mean to count yourself dead to sin "in the same way" as Christ?

What does it mean to become like him in his death?

#### Romans 6:1-11

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In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

- 1. He died once so he will not die again. (If we die with him, we will not die again.)
- 2. Death has no mastery over Him. (Death-the threat of death, the fear of death-will have no mastery over us.)
- 3. He died to sin. (We have died to sin, so we consider ourselves dead to sin.)

λογίζεσθε (logi-dz-esthe)

# Count yourselves dead to sin [Consider yourselves dead to sin]

take into account

John 11:49-50

Then one of them, named Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, spoke up, "You know nothing at all! You do not <u>realize</u> that it is better for you that one man die for the people than that the whole nation perish."

consider, dwell on

Philippians 4:8

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—*think about* such things.

## What usually accompanies death?

#### 1. Grief

The death of chronic sin usually requires:

a shift in identity (we may need to grieve the old identity)

a shift in comforting mechanisms (grieve the old way of comforting ourselves)

a shift in our vision of the future (grieve the loss of our plan for the future)

Remember: the sin we grieve is harmful to us

# What usually accompanies death?

2. Transference of inheritance (we are co-heirs with Christ)

1 Peter 1:3-4

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.

Colossians 1:12

...giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light.

His death allowed Him to give us His inheritance.

Our identification with His death allows us to give away our inheritance to others.

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Colossians 1:12

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3. Release from the Law

#### What does it mean that we died and were buried with Christ?

1. We died to sin.

We are commanded to consider ourselves dead to sin.

2. We died to the Law (the principles of "being good")

Galatians 2:19

For through the law I died to the law so that I might live for God.

The law is why I was found guilty. The law is what put me on the cross with Christ and caused my death with Christ. But now that I've died with Him, the law does not apply to me anymore.

#### Colossians 2:20-23 (NASB)

If you have died with Christ, to the elementary principles of the world, why, as if you were living in the world, do you submit yourself to decrees, such as, "Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!" (which all refer to things destined to perish with use)—in accordance with the commandments and teachings of men? These are matters which have, to be sure, the appearance of wisdom in self-made religion and self-abasement and severe treatment of the body, but are of no value against fleshly (sensual) indulgence.

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Wisdom of self-made religion:

If I am hard on myself, I'll become a better person.

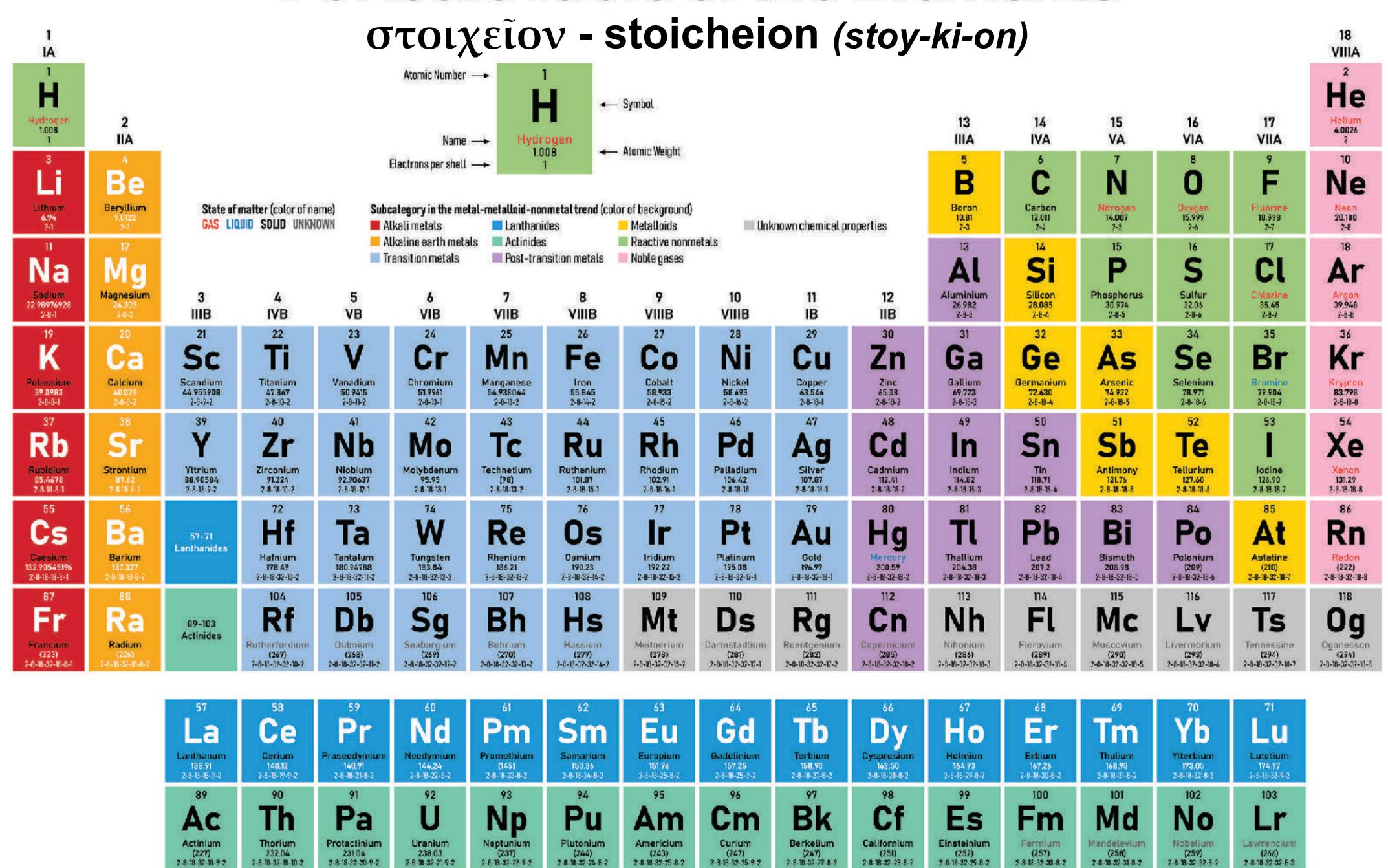
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#### στοιχεῖον - stoicheion (stoy-ki-on)

one of a row, a letter (of the alphabet), the elements (of knowledge) properly, *fundamentals*, like with the *basic components* of a philosophy, structure, etc.; (figuratively) "*first principles*"

#### Periodic Table of the Elements



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στοιχεῖον - stoicheion (stoy-ki-on)

Greco-Roman: philosophy of ethics, virtue

Jewish: The expanded Law

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We died to "trying to be good" because it has no power to transform us.

The gospel is not "do more, be better."
The gospel is "die so that you may live."

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Colossians 3:3,5

For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.

Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature...

#### What does it mean that we died and were buried with Christ?

1. We died to sin.

We are commanded to consider ourselves dead to sin.

2. We died to the Law (the principles of "being good")

Jesus held our sin in one hand and the Law in the other and put them both to death on the cross.

Our old self, our sin, and our attempts to be "good enough" were buried with Christ.

## The truth of dying with Christ and being buried with Him.

You are not your sin. Your old self has died. Reject the zombie identity. You are not the walking dead.

The truest thing about you now is not that you are a "sinner." The truest thing about you now is that you've been set free from sin.

You are commanded to consider yourself dead to sin. You don't have permission to think poorly about yourself anymore.

You may need to grieve your old life in order to step into your new one. Part of burying your sin might mean grieving it.

## Our Response

#### **Romans 6:2-4**

We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 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.

I was crucified with Christ.
I died with Christ.
I was buried with Christ.

I am dead to sin.

But I'm alive to God in Christ Jesus!

# Questions? Text Mark's Phone 410-746-2138