

Romans 6:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:

Analysis

Now if we be dead with Christ—the first-class conditional (ei de apethanomen syn Christō, εἰ δὲ ἀπεθάνομεν σὺν Χριστῷ) assumes the condition is true: "since we died with Christ" (not "if" in the sense of doubt). The aorist tense points to the definite historical reality of co-death at conversion. **We believe that we shall also live with him** (pisteuomen hoti kai syzēsomen autō, πιστεύομεν ὅτι καὶ συζήσομεν αὐτῷ)—the future syzēsomen (shall live together with) encompasses both present resurrection life and future glorified existence.

Paul establishes logical necessity: death with Christ → life with Christ. This isn't mere hope but confident expectation based on God's resurrection power demonstrated in Christ. The compound verb syzēsomen (live together with) again emphasizes union—believers don't just live like Christ but with Christ, sharing His resurrection life. The present tense pisteuomen (we believe) indicates ongoing faith conviction, not one-time assent. This verse bridges justification (positional life in Christ) and glorification (future bodily resurrection), with sanctification as the present outworking.

Historical Context

Greco-Roman mystery religions promised initiates would share the fate of their deity (often involving ritual death and rebirth), but these were symbolic. Paul proclaims historical reality: Christ actually died and rose, and believers actually share that death-resurrection through union with Him. The early church's

resurrection faith distinguished Christianity from Greek philosophy (which generally rejected bodily resurrection) and even from some Jewish sects (Sadducees denied resurrection; Pharisees affirmed it only eschatologically, not as present reality in Christ).

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does your 'belief' that you shall live with Christ affect your present experience of resurrection life?
2. What areas of your life need to be brought more fully into the reality of living 'together with' Christ now?
3. How does assurance of future glorification motivate present sanctification in your hardest struggles?

Interlinear Text

εἰ	δὲ	ἀπεθάνομεν	σὺν	Χριστῷ	πιστεύομεν	ὅτι	καὶ
if	Now	we be dead	with	Christ	we believe	that	also
G1487	G1161	G599	G4862	G5547	G4100	G3754	G2532
συζήσομεν	αὐτῷ						
live	with him						
G4800	G846						

Additional Cross-References

John 14:19 (Parallel theme): Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also.

2 Corinthians 13:4 (Parallel theme): For though he was crucified through weakness, yet he liveth by the power of God. For we also are weak in him, but we shall live with him by the power of God toward you.

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