

Biblical Notes – Romans 6:10

10 – For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. (10. ὁ γὰρ ἀπέθανεν, τῇ ἁμαρτίᾳ ἀπέθανεν ἐφάπαξ· ὁ δὲ ζῇ, ζῇ τῷ θεῷ)

It is important when evaluating passages that we look at the surrounding context, especially when trying to understand who the word "all" is.

Romans 6:1-7 NASB

What shall >>>we<<< say then? Are >>>we<<< to continue in sin so that grace may increase? [2] May it never be! How shall >>>we who died to sin<<< still live in it? [3] Or do you not know that >>>all of us<<< who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? [4] Therefore >>>we<<< have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so >>>we<<< too might walk in newness of life. [5] For if >>>we<<< have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly >>>we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection<<<, [6] knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that >>>we<<< would no longer be slaves to sin; [7] for he who has died is freed from sin. [8] Now if >>>we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him<<<, [9] knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him. [10] For the death that He died, >>>He died to sin once for all<<<; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. [11] Even so >>>consider yourselves to be dead to sin<<<, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Paul uses the words "we", "all of us", "yourselves" repeatedly throughout the passages. He is clearly showing the linkage between being dead to sin, and alive to Christ (this can only be in relation to the elect of God). Jesus died to sin once for all, who are the all here? The all are those considered to be dead to sin, not those who remain dead in sin (reprobate/unelect).

Paul also says in [vs.6] "knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him". Was the non-elect Crucified with him? Of course not, because then they would "live with Him". It is clear here, that those who are "alive to God in Christ Jesus" are those who are dead to sin, and those who are dead to sin, are those who shall also live with him. Those who live with him, are those whom he freed from the slavery of sin, and have been baptized into his death. This is the one that Paul is referring to here in the passage. The "all" means "all the elect" here.

See, there is absolutely no reason for Paul to make a statement about the non-elect at this point. It makes no sense with the flow of the passage. Clearly, Paul has in mind the believer, and that is the one that he cancelled the debt certificate for on the cross.

Colossians 2:14 NASB

having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.