

ROMANS – LIVING BY FAITH
MAN’S RUIN & CHRIST’S REDEMPTION – Chapters 4-7

LESSON 19 – THREE KEYS TO VICTORY – Romans 6:8-14

In this section of Romans 6, Paul shares his “how to” concerning the freedom from sin that every believer can enjoy because of all Christ has done.

Paul’s message from the beginning of Romans 6 has been the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus...for us...as us. The death of Jesus secured for us freedom from the penalty of sin and we should rejoice in that. In chapter 6, Paul goes on to show us that Christ’s death has done more than provide “fire insurance” to us. His death, burial and resurrection have freed us from the dominion of sin and have given us the ability to live lives that are pleasing to Him.

God’s purpose for us goes far beyond our initial salvation experience. His desire is that we become in practice what He’s already made us in position.

Philippians 1:6, “Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”

As Paul continues the discussion about the Christian’s sanctification, he gives us three keys to victory.

Key One...Know

Romans 6:8-10, “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.”

Paul has been reminding us that there are things as Christians that we must know...

Don’t you know (verse 3)

For we know (verse 6)

We believe (verse 8)

For we know (verse 9)

In a time when it seems doctrine is being thrown by the wayside by many churches, it’s important for us to see the way Paul emphasizes us “knowing.” Up to this point in Romans, Paul has been teaching doctrine. He doesn’t teach application of doctrine until Romans 6:11. Verse 11 is the first command that Paul gives and it’s based on the teaching that has come before it. Paul stresses how important it is to know!

We need to know that Christ died to sin and that we as believers have also died to sin. As we understand the meaning of Christ dying to sin, we will understand the application to our own lives. Of course Jesus’ relationship with sin was far different than ours. He knew no sin and was never able to sin. He was the sinless, spotless Lamb of God but Paul tells us that He died to sin.

Christ Died to the Penalty of Sin

By taking on the sin of all mankind, Jesus satisfied the penalty demanded by sin. This was done fully and finally. Notice the phrase Paul uses in verse 10, “he died to sin once for all...”

This means that Jesus won a victory that will never have to be won again. This, of course, is one of the central themes in the Book of Hebrews.

Hebrews 9:28, "Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him."

Hebrews 10:10, "We have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."

Christ Died to the Power of Sin

Jesus not only died to the penalty of sin...satisfying its demands once and for all; He also died to the power of sin, forever breaking its hold over those who are children of God.

Hebrews 2:14, "Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil..."

So if we've died to sin just as Jesus died to sin, what does that mean for us?

It DOES NOT mean that we've died to the reality of sin.

It DOES NOT mean that we've died to the reach of sin.

It DOES mean that we've died to the reign and control of sin in our lives.

So Paul says that we must know that we are identified with Christ, that we actually died with Him, that we were resurrected with Him and what this truly means is the control of sin has been broken and we are freed from sin.

Key Two...Count

Romans 6:11, "In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus."

This word count is an important term in Romans. It is used nineteen times throughout Paul's letter. It is Paul dealing with reality...things as they truly are. It has nothing to do with wishful thinking, nor is it an activity that makes something happen. It is acting on something that has already happened.

This doesn't mean that a Christian doesn't sin. Sin is a burden that we will have to bear until we are in the presence of Jesus.

Unfortunately, many Christians continue to live like they are still in bondage to sin instead of being free from it. To be victorious, we must accept the fact that we are no longer slaves to sin but have been set free!

Key Three...Yield

Romans 6:12-14, "Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness. For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace."

Now that Paul has told us we've died to the reign of sin and death and have come alive in the reign of grace and life, he finishes this section of chapter 6 with this conclusion...sin is not meant to be your master.

The Physical Principle Involved

Romans 6:12, "Do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires."

Here Paul is reminding us that even though we are no longer slaves to sin, Satan can still use our bodies to control us. Sin is still present and will absolutely control us...if we allow it.

1 Corinthians 9:27, "I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize."

The Moral Principle Involved

Romans 6:13, "Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness..."

When Paul talks about "any part of yourself," he means that we are not to allow our eyes, our minds or any part of ourselves to become tools for the purpose of sin. There are some who actually translate the word instrument as weapon. Later in Romans, Paul gives us this challenge...

Romans 13:14, "Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh."

The Spiritual Principle Involved

Romans 6:13, "But rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness."

Paul tells us that we must give in to God's will. He is essentially saying, "Don't keep on yielding yourself to sin. Instead, yield yourself to God and His will for your life."

Paul then tells us that along with giving in to God's will we must get hold of God's Word. Jesus told us in Matthew 6, that no one can serve two masters.

Christians have been made soldiers in the army of God. We are no longer helpless when we face sin's power. We have been promised ultimate victory and we can have daily victory as well. This is God's clear word to us and we must keep it in our hearts and minds.

Paul finishes this section by telling us to give in to God's will, get hold of God's Word and finally to go on in God's way.

Romans 6:14, "For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace."

This verse is really the introduction to the next section of Romans 6, but it is also a reminder that we are not what we used to be because of our relationship with Christ.

We are "in Christ" and our old self has died. We now have a new Master who has raised us to a new life and a new love. We need to commit ourselves to living lives that please Him.