

FAITH BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

Pastor Dave Evangelista ~ Romans 6:11-23 ~ 11.28.10

"Who is Your Master?"

In Romans, verses 1-10, we learned that we died with Christ, our baptism bearing witness of the same. In *Romans 6:11* we learn; "*In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.*" To count ourselves dead to sin while conscious of sin in our members, is faith indeed! It is walking according to God's Word instead of our feelings. Paul sees this as necessary for service to the living God. According to verse 12 we are not to let sin reign in our bodies so that we will obey its evil desires.

- Our present body is mortal, subject to physical death with sin present in our members and ready to reign as king if permitted to do so! It is through the lusts or desires of the body that sin is ready to assume control. The believer is directed to reject sin's 'reign'.
- In learning that we are dead to sin, we need to observe as God unfolds the fact that we were identified with Christ in His death, and in our hearts believe it (*see verse 13*). Man's will has nothing to do with this. When God says your 'old nature' [or 'old man'] was crucified with Christ; this is divine testimony, it is a *revealed* fact.
- But when it comes to the application of this fact, our wills are addressed; "...*let not sin reign.*" Someone asked: "*If I am **dead** to sin, how can sin still **reign** in my life?*"
- **Answer:** By presenting your bodily members unto sin for its use. Let us take a look at the use of the tongue for example. James calls the tongue, "*an unruly member*". If you hand it over to sin it can then express itself in words filled with anger, lying and profanity.

Now, what is God's way? "*Offer yourselves unto God as those alive from the dead.*" (*Verse 13*). This, of course will test your faith because you will not feel dead to sin! But God has commanded us to count ourselves dead unto sin and alive unto Him in Christ.

Next we observe a glorious promise and also a royal pronouncement in verse 14. "*For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.*"

The list below gives us some good "take-aways", check it out:

- Paul first announces the divine decree that ***sin's lordship over us shall be ended!***
- Second, Paul reveals the happy condition of things in which such a release is possible. We are not under legal principle, which first demanded duty and then offered blessing.
- We are under the ***grace principle*** which confers blessing first, and then fruit follows. The believer today is neither in the Old Testament with the patriarchs, nor with Israel at Sinai, nor walking with the disciples during the Lord's ministry. We live on the resurrection side of the cross and enjoy the full rights and power of all that Christ did there. We were (are) liberated!
- From verse 15 to 23, we find such encouraging truths such as:
 - Freedom from the law,
 - We have new obligations, (such as obedience to our ***new*** nature),
 - We have a new responsibilities, such as yielding to our ***new*** nature;
(over)

- Righteousness and rewards.
- We learn as we leave this section, that we reaped no benefits from obeying the old nature, we have left the things we are ashamed of and we have become slaves to the Lord God. The benefits of being His slaves will last forever!

A joy-filled summary: Note the results from serving the new Master.

- We receive the ultimate gift—eternal life!
- We are free from sin's power and penalty. (*See v. 14*)
- We can live in a perpetual mode of victory!
- We become God's servants; a high and holy calling.
- We are given a faith that glorifies God while empowering us.
- We receive reconciliation.
- We take part in doing good works that produce fruit unto righteousness.

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