

Romans 6... 7... 8

DEVOTIONAL STUDIES FROM THE
MEN'S MORNING FELLOWSHIP

Romans 6:8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him,

Romans 6:9 knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him.

Romans 6:10 For *the death* that He died, He died to sin once for all; but *the life* that He lives, He lives to God.

That last phrase, *the life that He lives, He lives to God*, reminds me of something Paul said elsewhere. In Galatians 2:20 he said,

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Jesus, having been raised from the dead, *lives to God*. If Jesus Christ lives in me, then I live to God. In other words, I live each day as if I were already raised from the dead. I can draw from the spiritual power of the resurrection of Jesus to live to God and walk in victory.

Let's see how this works out.

Now if we died with Christ... The spiritual facts, the reality, are that we are already dead in Jesus Christ. Since we are dead then we do not need to respond to the impulses of our flesh to sin.

These last verses complete Paul's thought. We not only died with Jesus but are raised from the dead with Him.

Romans 6:8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him,

We believe. *Know What You Believe* is the title of a book by Paul Little. It reminds us that there is spiritual truth to be discovered then believed by faith.

One of the things **we believe**, whether we realize it or not, is that **we shall also live with Jesus**. **Live with Him** certainly looks forward to the future after we are either resurrected or raptured. But it also applies now as we enjoy the benefits of our new nature, our born-again spirit.

He was talking about experiencing resurrection life right now on a daily basis. We often summarize this truth by stating that the same mighty power which raised Jesus from the dead is available in your life right now. You have the present indwelling power of the Holy Spirit to apply the blessings and benefits of Jesus Christ's resurrection.

Romans 6:9 knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him.

Knowing is a key word. As we've said in each previous study, we appropriate these truths by faith. These are spiritual facts that require only our believing for them to be activated in our lives.

Christ, having been raised from the dead... Just a reminder that we believe Jesus rose from the dead in a glorified physical body. It is a foundational doctrine of the Christian faith.

Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Jesus raised many from the dead during His earthly ministry. These all were raised in their regular physical body. These all died again.

When Jesus was raised from the dead, He was the first to be resurrected in a glorified human body. He was raised and will never be dead again.

Death no longer has dominion over Him. Death once held Jesus for a time. He first descended to Hades before ascending into Heaven. In Ephesians we read,

Ephesians 4:8 Therefore He says: "WHEN HE ASCENDED ON HIGH, HE LED CAPTIVITY CAPTIVE, AND GAVE GIFTS TO MEN."

Ephesians 4:9 (Now this, "HE ASCENDED" - what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth?

Ephesians 4:10 He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)

The illustration here is of a victorious king who has overcome his enemies. He is ascending a mountain, entering triumphantly into his city. He has freed the hostages held captive by the enemy. He is laden with spoils of war and bestows lavish gifts on his grateful people.

Jesus is our victorious King. On the Cross He overcame His enemies. He **ascended** triumphantly into heaven. Before He ascended, Jesus **descended into the lower parts of the earth**. This troubles some people, but it shouldn't.

Prior to the death and resurrection of Jesus, all people who died went to Hades. Hades was divided into two compartments – a place of torment, and a place of rest called Paradise. When Jesus died on the Cross, He descended into Hades, into Paradise. There He revealed Himself to all the righteous dead from all time as the Savior they had put their faith in. Then Jesus led them to heaven in triumph.

Paul quoted from Psalm 68:18. The Jews applied this verse to Moses when he ascended the mountain to give Israel the law. Paul tells us it was about Jesus, ascending into heaven and giving us the gift of the Holy Spirit.

When He was in Paradise, awaiting His physical resurrection, He was Lord. There is no basis anywhere in Scripture for thinking that Hades is some sort of kingdom over which the devil reigns. Demons are not in Hades torturing and tormenting the souls of deceased unbelievers. A few really bad demons are already incarcerated in Hell. They are chained there, being punished. The rest of the demons, and the devil, are on the loose.

There is an awful heresy among health and wealth preachers that says Jesus was tortured and tormented by the devil after He died and was in Paradise. Nope.

Romans 6:10 For *the death* that He died, He died to sin once for all; but *the life* that He lives, He lives to God.

Since Jesus was sinless, how is it **He died to sin**?

1. First, He died to the penalty of sin by taking upon Himself the sins of the whole human race. He met the legal demands of sin for all mankind who would trust Him for salvation.
2. Second, **He died to sin** in that He broke its power. A major point of this section is that sin has no power over us anymore.

Jesus did this **once for all**. What the Lord accomplished in His death, burial, and resurrection cannot be repeated. It need not be repeated.

By the way. This is one reason I don't like crucifixes, where Jesus is still hanging on the Cross. His work on the Cross is finished. The empty Cross is our symbol, not the suffering Christ.

The life that He lives, He lives to God. Of course Jesus, as eternal, always lived to God – He always lived in relation to His Father and the Holy Spirit.

But with His resurrection **He lives to God** in the fulfillment of all that the Scripture has prophesied of His comings. His successful completion of His mission at His first coming, punctuated by His resurrection and ascension, assures us that the rest of God's plan will unfold just as it is written.

Jesus **lives to God** as the One Who will step forward and take the scroll and unleash the Great Tribulation on the earth. **He lives to God** as the One Who will return to end the Battle of Armageddon; to rule over the earth for a thousand years; to create a new heaven and a new earth.

Since we are in Christ we also **live to God**. Spurgeon said,

“If God has given to you and to me an entirely new life in Christ, how can that new life spend itself after the fashion of the old life? Shall the spiritual live as the carnal? How can you that were the servants of sin, but have been made free by precious blood, go back to your old slavery?”

We'll begin to see more of that entirely new life as we begin the next section of this chapter.