

# Romans 6... 7... 8

DEVOTIONAL STUDIES FROM THE  
MEN'S MORNING FELLOWSHIP

**Romans 6:11** Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Romans 6:12** Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.

**Romans 6:13** And do not present your members *as* instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness to God.

**Romans 6:14** For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

You must appreciate your position in Christ before you can appropriate it in your daily practice.

In verses one through ten Paul has described what is true of us positionally. Now he turns to the practical outworking of this truth in our lives. He says to **reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

“I reckon” is something Jed Clampet might say to Jethro. We take it to mean “I guess,” or “I suppose.”

In reality the word **reckon** is far more confident and robust. It means:

1. To make a calculation.
2. To rely with confident expectancy.
3. To take into account.

The *fact* that your sin nature was crucified with Jesus and rendered inoperative allows you to *act* as a person who has died to sin. The presence of sin within and around you makes this truth hard to grasp. You are to act upon the fact by faith, regardless of your feelings.

That is the meaning of the word **reckon**. You are to count as being really true what God says - that you **are dead indeed to sin**. By faith you conclude what God has declared.

God does not command you to become **dead indeed to sin**. He tells you that you are already **dead indeed to sin** and alive to Him, and then He commands you to act appropriately.

God crucified your sin nature on the Cross, rendering it inoperative. Crucifixion is one form of death you cannot accomplish on your own! **You cannot crucify yourself!** This is why religion, with its rules, rites, and rituals, can never resolve the problem of sin in your life. Nothing you can do can crucify sin. God must do it for you on the Cross. Then, through a living, personal relationship with God through Jesus, you can by faith *act* on the *fact* that sin need no longer reign and have dominion over you.

You must *realize* that you are dead to sin and alive to God; that involves your mind. Then you must **reckon** that you are dead to sin and alive to God; that involves your heart. In verses twelve through twenty-three, you *regard* yourself as dead to sin and alive to God. That involves your will.

We **reckon** ourselves dead to sin by responding to temptation as a dead man would. The story is often told of Augustine being accosted by a woman who had been his mistress before his conversion. When he turned and walked away quickly, she called after him, "Augustine, it's me! it's me!" Quickening his pace, he called back over his shoulder, "Yes, I know, but it's no longer me!"

What he meant was that he was dead to sin and alive to God. A dead man has nothing to do with immorality, lying, cheating, gossiping, or any other sin.

Instead we are **alive to God in Christ Jesus**. This means that we are called to holiness, worship, prayer, service, and bearing fruit.

The next verses talk about your choice of master. You read of **presenting** yourself either to sin as your master, or to God as your Master. The NKJV uses the word *present*, while the KJV uses the word *yield*. *Regard*, the word I've chosen, encompasses the full meaning of what is intended - to present yourself by yielding your will to God.

**Romans 6:12** Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.

Several years ago Bob Dylan wrote a Christian song entitled, *You Gotta Serve Somebody*. The title captures an important spiritual principle. You were created in such a way that you must serve someone. You might not like to hear that, but it is true! Only in serving the one you were created for will you find true humanity, purpose, and meaning.

Adam believed he could get out from under the service of God and become his own sovereign. What did he find instead to be true? He found himself the servant of Satan, and sin began to reign in his mortal body. God promised him a Savior whom he could submit to, whom he could surrender to - whom he could serve.

You were once "in Adam," the servant of Satan, with sin reigning in your mortal body. Now you are "in Christ," dead to sin. Sin is still present, both within and around you. You are still on the earth, still in a corrupting body. Therefore you must daily choose whom you will serve, sin or the Savior, and whether you will let sin or righteousness reign.

**Romans 6:13** And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin...

- being changed to bring change -  
If a person lives in prison for years, and then is set free, they often still think and act like a prisoner. The habits of freedom aren't ingrained in their life yet.

Sin expresses itself through your physical body and its appetites. Your eyes, your ears, your mouth - all of the members of your physical body - can become the instruments of sin. *Don't let sin dictate to you!*

Since your sin nature was crucified you need no longer yield to its lusts. Instead you can choose to,

**Romans 6:13** ...present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness to God.

Scripture describes your body as God's *temple* and as God's *tool*. As His temple He wants to use you for His glory. As God's tool, you can build up believers and battle God's enemies.

**Romans 6:14** For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

Another reason is given why **sin shall not have dominion over** us as believers. The first reason was that our old man was crucified with Christ (6:6). The second reason is that we **are not under law but under grace**.

Sin has the upper hand over a person who is under law. Why? Because the law tells him what to do but doesn't give him the power to do it. And the law stirs up desires in fallen human nature to do what is forbidden.

**Sin** does **not have dominion over** the person who is under grace. The believer has died to sin. He has received the indwelling Holy Spirit as the power for holy living. And he is motivated by love for the Savior, not by fear of punishment. **Grace** is the only thing that really produces holiness.

**Not under law but under grace** is another way to describe the radical change in the life of someone who is born again. For the Jewish person of Paul's day, living life under law was everything. The law was the way to God's approval and eternal life. Now, Paul shows that in light of the New Covenant, we are not under law but under grace. His work in our life has changed everything.

D. L. Moody used to speak of an old black woman in the South following the Civil War. Being a former slave, she was confused about her status and asked: "Now is I free, or be I not? When I go to my old master he says I ain't free, and when I go to my own people they say I is, and I don't know whether I'm free or not. Some people told me that Abraham Lincoln signed a proclamation, but master says he didn't; he didn't have any right to."

Sin is still present. Daily you must present yourself to God and yield your will to Him if you are to dethrone sin. Sin still reigns, if you let it.