

9. Dead to Sin

Romans 6

Introduction

Do you think Christians today are as concerned about sin in their lives as they should be? Do we worry too much or too little about sin?

What should our attitude be to sin? In today's reading the apostle asks two questions which have to do with sin. The first has to do with sin when we live under grace (1). The second is virtually the same for it has to do with sin and not being under law (15). To be under grace is to not be under the law. In both cases the same issue is being raised. Does God's free gift of salvation through the grace of Christ promote sin? Can the believer go on sinning if grace reigns? Paul says 'no' (1,15) the believer can't. He justifies this answer by exploring the relationship of the believer to sin. Please read Romans 6 where Paul provides several reasons why God's grace doesn't promote sin.

Dead to Sin

The first reason the apostle provides is that we died to sin. "We died to sin: how can we live in it any longer? (2). Please read again verses 1 to 7 to understand how we died to sin and what it means for us.

1. How did we die to sin (3-4; 10)?

2. What benefits results from being united with Christ in his death (5-7)?

Think about it

Please explain in your own words what it means for you to be dead to sin?

Alive to God

In verses 8 to 14 Paul develops further what it means to be those who have been united with Christ to have been brought from death to life. Please read these verses.

3. Why does death no longer have mastery over Christ (8-10)?

4. What sort of life is Christ living now (8-10)?

5. We, in a similar way, are to be living our lives to God by counting ourselves dead to sin but alive to God. What does this practically mean (12-13)?

6. What therefore results from being under grace and not under law (14)?

Think about it.

Having died to sin we are no longer in bondage to it. How do we demonstrate the truth of this in our lives?

What does it mean for personally you to offer yourself to God?

If sin is no longer our master, why then do we still have problems with it?

Slaves to righteousness

Paul's argument continues to be developed in verse 15 to 23. Paul argues that if we are no longer slaves to sin it means that we are slaves to righteousness. Please read these verses.

7. Why are Christians no longer slaves of sin? How have we become slaves of righteousness (16-18)?

8. How are slaves of righteousness to behave (19-20)?

9. What benefits are reaped from each of the two types of slavery (21 - 23)?

Think about it

Having been set free from sin we have become slaves of God. How are we to live our lives to God? How should being an instrument of righteousness effect the way that we about our work or our life at home or our studies or the way we use our money?

Conclusion

Sin is no longer our master. Yet we are to still take sin seriously. We aren't beyond sin's influence. Sin can still have a powerful influence on us as believers. Our death to sin doesn't mean that our inclination to sin has been removed and we have been rendered incapable of sinning. Paul wouldn't need to tell the believers to not let sin reign in their mortal body (6:12) if this was the case.

Think about it.

Why do you think some believers are not tempted to take sin seriously?

What ought we be doing to ensure that sin does not reign in our bodies?

Going Further

1. Romans 6:23 is a great verse to memorize and use when talking to others about the gospel. Romans 6:11 is also a very helpful verse that reminds us of how we are to regard ourselves in Christ. Please choose one of these two verses (or both) and work at committing them to memory.

2. Please read Romans chapter 7 and the first four verses of chapter 8 in preparation for the next study and prepare the questions in the next study if possible.