

60. The Book of Romans 6:11-12

Paul's Epistle to the Romans
A message by Pastor Phil Ballmaier

(8-14-24)

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We are currently in the section of our Romans study that deals with **sanctification**—a section that covers Chapters 6 through 8.

With that in mind, tonight, we find ourselves in Chapter 6 where the theme is victory over sin—as in our 'fallen sin nature' that we inherited from Adam.

In this chapter, Paul builds his teaching on overcoming sin in our lives as Christians around 4 foundational principles or instructions—which are the keys to our victory:

- **Know—verses 3-10**
- **Reckon—verses 11-12**
- **Present—verses 13-19**
- **Obey—verses 16-17**

“When any of these is lacking or deficient, sin like a weed begins to grow again in our lives.”

So, Paul's first instruction for victory over sin is '**know**'—and that then brings us to his second instruction which is '**reckon**.'

I don't know if you realize that everything in the book of Romans up until this point, from 1:1—6:10, has been doctrine, teaching—knowing. It's not until you come to verse 11 of Romans 6 that you have the first exhortation—the first injunction to believers.

This is a common pattern in all of Paul's epistles—he first of all lays out *doctrine* before he admonishes the believer to apply the doctrine into everyday life where it becomes living and powerful.

Now after 6 chapters and 10 verses of teaching—in Chapter 6 verse 11 he finally tells us to:

2. **Reckon—verses 11-12**

Romans 6:11 (NKJV)

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

Paul has described what is true for us *positionally*—now he turns to the *practical outworking* of this truth in our lives.

The word **'reckon'** in the south means, *"I guess" or "I suppose"*—but that's not the meaning here. The word **'reckon'** is a translation of the Greek word *logizomai*.

Logizomai is used 41 times in the New Testament and 19 times in Romans—including 11 times in Romans 4 alone where it is translated as *"count", "account", and "impute."* The word *impute* is perhaps the best translation—meaning, *"to put to one's account."* And so, the word **reckon** means *"to put to our account"*—which simply means to believe ('reckon' is a faith word) that what God says in His Word is true in *my* life—it's a settled fact!

A lot of people in the Positive Confession/Word of Faith Movement use Romans 6:11 to teach that if you want something, like a healing or financial prosperity, what you need to do is to **"reckon"** it to be true because, when you *reckon* it to be true—you'll *make* it true.

But the word *logizomai* doesn't have anything to do with wishful thinking.

It's not an activity that *makes* something come to pass or happen because you *will* it to be so. It is understanding and appropriating (acting upon) something that is already true or has already happened.

You believing it doesn't *make* it true—it *is* true now believe it and act upon that truth!

The word is actually a bookkeeping or accounting term which speaks of recording in my ledger (check book) an amount that accurately corresponds to what exists in my account.

One author had this to say on the subject—

"If I only have \$100 in my checking account but using wishful thinking I write down \$1000—not only will that not make it true if I begin to write checks against that imaginary amount—I will get myself into financial and even legal trouble as a result!"

You see that isn't **"reckoning"** in the biblical sense, its wishful thinking or even worse—it's self-deception masquerading as faith.

To **reckon** means, *"To believe what God has said is true in your life. To believe what He has done for you. To believe that God has imputed something to you (placed into your account) and now you believe it and act upon it by faith!"*

It's not pretending something is true when in fact it isn't—it's not wishful thinking or positive confession or positive mental attitude stuff. ***It's believing what God says is true is true for your life—and when you do the power of that truth will be released in your life.***

Romans 6:11 (NKJV)

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

Colossians 2:6 (NKJV)

⁶ As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,

How did you receive the Lord Jesus Christ? By faith—how do you walk in Him? By faith.

But the devil comes in at this point and says, *"That's way too easy. You've got to work hard to have victory over sin. More reading, praying, evangelizing and churchgoing. Besides that, you'll need at least a year or so of intensive training in spiritual warfare..."*

Yet, the Bible says, *“Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might”* and *“The battle is not yours but the Lord’s.”*

Here’s the number one reason as to why more Christians don’t walk in victory with regard to the reckoning of something to be true in their life that God has said is true—they’re looking for a *feeling* or an *experience* to confirm what God said is indeed true.

The problem is that **reckoning** is not subject to our *emotions* but to our mind—in other words, it’s not a matter of feelings but of intellect. We get our word *“logical”* from the Greek word *logizomai*—and we often use it in *contrast* to emotion. We say, *“That person is thinking logically, not with their emotions.”*

Yet many Christians when they try to *reckon* something to be true in their life that God has said is true, and they don’t *feel* anything happen on an emotional level—they often begin to doubt the validity of that truth.

And what that does is to keep them from benefiting from a promise of God or a doctrinal truth because—everything we receive from God comes to us by faith and not feelings.

Now what is it that Paul wants us to reckon?

a. **“Reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin...” (verse 11a)**

This does not mean that we are immune to sin or temptation, nor does it mean that we will not ever sin again—it means that we are dead to the old life and can’t go back to it.

That is the reality that Paul opens up chapter 6 with—

- In verse 2 he states, **“We died to sin.”**
- In verse 3 and 4 he says it again, **“We were baptized into His death and buried with Him through baptism into death.”**
- In verse 5 he said, **“We have been united with Him in His death.”**
- In verse 6 again he said, **“Our old self was crucified with Him.”**
- In verse 7 once again he makes the point to tell us, **“We died with Christ.”**

Based on this truth, Paul now tells us to **“reckon”** ourselves as having died to sin in Christ.

D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones renders it: *“Consider, and keep constantly before you, this truth about yourself.”* In other words, learn to think of yourself as one who has been delivered from the realm and tyranny of sin.

Martin Luther—*“You can’t stop birds from flying around your head, but you can stop them from building a nest in your hair.”*

Look, we live in a world where sin is all around us and there is nothing we can do about it—but you can keep it from nesting in your mind—how? By staying away from it and running away when it comes looking for you!

One author said of Augustine that:

“One day Augustine was 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!”

b. Reckon yourselves... alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (verse 11b)

Romans 6:5, 8-10 (NKJV)

⁵ For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be *in the likeness of His resurrection...*

⁸ Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, ⁹ knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. ¹⁰ For *the death* that He died, He died to sin once for all; but *the life* that He lives, He lives to God.

I put those verses back-to-back because unless we take them together, we would be prone to think that—**“we shall also live with Him”** in verse 8 refers to our *future* resurrection—when these verses are actually talking about experiencing resurrection life right here and now.

Yes, there is a future resurrection coming for those who are in Christ (the rapture)—but that’s not what these verses are talking about.

Philippians 3:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death.

You are dead to sin, it’s a fact. You have been raised in Christ, that is also a fact—now reckon it to be true in your life.

One author illustrated it this way—

“Think of your life, as a biography that has been written in two volumes. Volume 1 is the old life, the old man, the old you before salvation; Volume 2 is the new life, the new man, the new creation.

Volume 1 ended with the death and burial of the old man through Christ—Volume 2 began with my resurrection in Christ. Volume 1 is over, done—Volume 2 will go on forever.”

You are no longer a slave of sin, believe it, and stop living like a slave and start living in the freedom with which Christ has set you free!

Chuck Swindoll in his book, *‘The Grace Awakening’* writes:

“On New Years Day in 1863, the Emancipation Proclamation was publicly stated. And on December 18th 1865, the Constitution of the United States officially abolished slavery in our country.

The word swept across Capitol Hill and down into the valleys of Virginia and the back roads of the Carolinas. It reached into the plantations of Georgia and Alabama and Mississippi and Louisiana.

Headlines of newspapers in almost every city read, “Slavery Legally Abolished.”

And yet as Swindoll goes on to report—

“Something happened that many would never have expected, the vast majority of the slaves in the south who were legally freed continued to live on like slaves. Most of them went right on living as though nothing had happened, though free they virtually lived unchanged lives throughout the entire Reconstruction Period.

Shelby Foot, in his monumental 3-volume work on the Civil War verifies this surprising aberration, 'The Negro was locked in caste system of race etiquette as rigid as any had known in formal bondage. Every slave could repeat with equal validity what an Alabama slave said in 1864 when asked what he thought of the great emancipator, whose proclamations went into effect that year,

'I don't know nothing bout Abraham Lincoln sept they say he set us free, and I don't know nothing bout that neither.' And he went on living continually in his slavery."

Swindoll concludes—

"And many Christians are like Civil War slaves. They have been emancipated from the slavery of sin by the greatest Emancipator of them all, Jesus Christ. But they continue to live as if they were still under bondage. They either haven't yet heard or haven't reckoned that truth to their lives."

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 been 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."

Of course, our old master, the devil is going to try to tell us that we haven't been set free—but don't listen to his lies—know, believe and act on what God has told you in His Word.

Romans 6:11–12 (NKJV)

¹¹ Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹²

Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.

When Paul uses the word '**Therefore**'—it means that he is now going to apply the truth he has just presented.

According to what you now *know* and *believe* to be true for your life—

"...do not let the sin nature reign (have control) over your physical body, that you should obey its cravings *and* be subject to its lusts *and* evil passions."

In other words, Paul is admonishing us to constantly remind ourselves every day and throughout the day that—

'The person that used to live in this body doesn't live here any longer. He's dead and gone. But there's a new man that has taken up residence in this body—a new man created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.'

Or as one author succinctly put it—*"My body is "Under New Management!"*

Romans 6:12 (NKJV)

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

The only thing left for my fallen sin nature to use as an instrument of sin—is my **mortal** (physical) **body**.

The word "**mortal**" in the dictionary means, *"transitory, subject to death, belonging to this world."* And as Paul said in 2 Corinthians 4:16 that even though our outward man is perishing, our inward man is being renewed day by day.

In other words, your soul (the inward man) has been redeemed, but your physical body (the outward man) has not been redeemed and therefore can still be manipulated by the sin nature through lust to lead us into sin.

But in verse 12 Paul said, “*Don’t let it happen—fight, resist!*”—

1 Corinthians 9:24, 27 (NKJV)

²⁴ Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain *it*....²⁷ But I discipline my body and bring *it* into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

Galatians 5:16-17 (NKJV)

¹⁶ I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.

Colossians 3:5-10 (NKJV)

⁵ Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶ Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, ⁷ in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. ⁸ But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, ¹⁰ and have put on the new *man* who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him.

If you would like to know more about what it means to be a Jesus-follower—please reach out to us. It would be our greatest privilege to lead you into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

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