

Because He Lives 4

Crucified With Christ

Romans 6:1-14

Memory Verses: Romans 6:13

MANUSCRIPT

Introduction (Me, We, & the Struggle)

Wow, that worship was powerful. Our moment of prayer was powerful. God is worthy amen? Let us worship him one more time with an offering of praise, give the Lord a hand.

And now, take a big deep breathe and settle in. Let me ask you something, "have you ever noticed how the worship set gets you energized and focused, and then we settle in for the sermon and it's like, 'well, I guess its time to zone out.'" We have this powerful moment and then as quickly as it came, its gone and we are right back to where we were before it began. It's like that camp high. You go to youth camp, you get on fire for Jesus, you're ready to storm the gates of hell with a super soaker, you're ready to run through a brick wall for the kingdom of God, and then you come back home and hook your IV back up to the screens and to the job and to the regular things of life... and that fire is gone. You thought you were living in a moment of change... but nothing has really changed. It was all empty emotions that amounted to nothing.

And this is why **Romans 6** is so important. Because for the last few weeks we've been celebrating the most inspiring, powerful moment in the history of the world; the resurrection. **We've seen that Jesus lives! And because he lives, we have a king, and Lord, and Messiah. Because he lives, we have an unshakable faith and assurance of our standing with God. Because he lives we have peace with God, victory in Jesus, and end to the struggle. Because he lives we have the greater Adam, the perfect man, a model for us all to live by!**

And we can celebrate the risen Christ and get all excited for Jesus... but then what? Then there's the temptation to settle back into complacency and spiritual mediocrity. Instead of living for Christ, we'd rather simply exist. And we must resist that temptation with every fiber of our being. Because He lives we can't go back to who we were. In Christ we are new and changed and transformed. The old has gone, the new has come!

But we will always struggle with **Romans 6:1** won't we. Maybe its okay to go back to who I was in my sin. I mean, God is graceful. He'll be okay with me living in sin again, won't he? And what's God's answer church! BY NO MEANS! Nope, notta, zilch, negative ghost rider, don't pass go, don't collect 200 dollars, you are not a winner on the price is right. Why? Why is the answer, BY NO MEANS? Simple. If you are

truly saved, then that question doesn't even make sense to you. Why? Cause you don't want to sin, you would never ask that. Why? Because **salvation wasn't just something that was done for you, it is something that happened to you!** When you were saved... you weren't just forgiven... YOU DIED! Romans 6:1 makes no sense to you cause you are dead to sin and alive in Christ!

Let's read this sobering truth, as we stand, **Romans 6:1-14**. What does that mean... it means this. Because he lives... you've been crucified with Him and now you are alive in Him. **Because Jesus Lives, The Old You Is Dead... And You Don't Have To Live Like It Anymore!** Today, I want to show you two ways the Gospel gives us new life.

Teaching (Expand on the Problem, God)

The first way the Gospel gives us new life is this... **Christ's Death Destroys The Grip Of Sin**. Let's look again at **Romans 6:3-4a**. First, Christ buries our sin in his tomb! I know we have talked about this a lot here in the first half of Romans, but I hope you aren't bored of hearing about sin. It is our constant enemy and we will never be completely free of it this side of eternity. But for now, know this... the eternal effect of sin... death, it is finished! Again, **Romans 6:23**, which we will look at in depth next week, says, "the wages of sin is death... but the gift of God is eternal life. When we put our faith in Christ... he immediately takes the punishment of sin... and buries it in the grave. Look at **1 Corinthians 15:54-57**. We will not experience spiritual death... we will live.

This is what baptism represents. Just as Christ was dead and buried, our sin and the effect of sin is also dead and buried in spiritual baptism... represented by physical baptism. Jesus put death in its grave!

But there's more. Christ sets us free from the effects of sin spiritually, but secondly, Christ sets us free from the chains of sin, practically! Look at **Romans 6:2, 6-7**. When we place our faith in Christ, we go through a spiritual transformation, called regeneration.

Think of the story of Dr. Frankenstein and his monster. If order for the monster to find new life, first, many men had to die. In order for you to have new life... first your sin must die. The chains of sin on you must be broken. This is what Christ has done. If we've been set free from sin, how can we live in it any longer. If we are dead to sin... dead things don't do that thing its dead to. Whereas before we had no choice...we were slaves to sin... now in Christ, through regeneration, we have a choice to reject the lure of sin in our lives... to not obey its call nor let it have dominion over our lives again. Sin used to own you and control you... but that master died... killed by Christ. **When Christ died for you! He took your sin to the grave with him!**

Look at **Romans 6:12-14**. So now you live differently. You live as though you are dead to sin. **Romans 12:2** calls you a living sacrifice.

Sacrifices are dead. So you live... dead to sin! You don't do what you used to do. You don't go where you used to go. You don't listen to what you used to listen to. You don't watch what you used to watch. You aren't influenced by what you used to be influenced by. Your body no longer deals with dead things. Remember **Matthew 16:24**. We deny ourselves sin. We take up the cross and die to ourselves daily. We follow him.

So question, "are you living as though you are dead to sin, or does sin still have a place in your life?" Where? What? What sin do you need to put to death today and ask Christ to take from you? **You can either kill your sin or your sin will kill your spirit. Because Jesus Lives, The Old You Is Dead... And You Don't Have To Live Like It Anymore.**

The second way the Gospel gives us new life is this... **Christ's Life Transforms Your Life, Now And Forever**. Let's look again at **Romans 6:4b**. First, we are called to walk in newness of life now. We often refer to this as the Christian walk... or Sanctification. Sanctification follows justification. If justification is the starting point of salvation and regeneration, then sanctification is the process of regeneration. Sanctification simply means to be set apart... or to be made holy; righteous. Our life in Christ is a constant process of being set apart for Christ and set apart from the world. For more on being set apart I would refer you to the message I preached a couple of months ago in Romans 1 called... Set Apart! In short, regeneration is the Holy Spirit's part in helping us live for Christ and sanctification is our part in striving to live for Christ.

Why do we live like this? Because the life we now live we live for God. Look again at **Romans 6:10, 11b**. One of my favorite verses in the Bible speaks exactly to what this feels like; **Galatians 2:20**. And then **Romans 6:13** shows us what this looks like. We use this life and these bodies, here and now, for righteousness... for God's glory. Look also at **1 Corinthians 6:19-20**. The bottom line is this. When we come to Christ in faith we have a new nature; one that wants to live for Christ. And living for Christ is awesome.

It's what the Bible calls in **John 10:10**, the abundant life. **A life lived in Christ is not a wasted life... it is an abundant one**. Full of fun, meaning, purpose, and satisfaction. And this life, this opportunity, doesn't last forever. As **CT Studd famously said**, "Only one life, twill soon be past, only what's done for Christ will last." Make your life for Christ count!

But again, the abundant life is not the only life Christ gives. He also gives eternal life. We will live forever with Christ. Look at **Romans 6:8-9**. We will forever live with him... we will never die again! Now I know we briefly talked about this a few minutes ago... so let me just finish with this... We haven't even scratched the surface of eternity yet. What will

heaven be like? Maybe a little like this... **Revelation 21:4**. We simply don't know all the details... but I can tell you one thing... it will all be focused on the same thing this abundant life is focused on... Christ. Look at **John 17:3**.

So what do we do with this? We die to our sin... and we live for Christ! Why? Because he has put death in the grave and given us eternal life! **Because Jesus Lives, The Old You Is Dead... And You Don't Have To Live Like It Anymore.**

Application

Are you dead to sin and alive to Christ? Have you been crucified with him in death and resurrected with him to new life? It's not easy... it's going to take the Holy Spirit regenerating our spirits and some hard work and discipline as work out our sanctification. Look at **verse 11** again. It uses the word consider. Consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God. Reckon it, count it, believe it is true. Even when you don't feel it. Even when you struggle. Even when you fail. Look at **verse 13** again. We present ourselves to God. We go to him and we walk with him and he helps us and motivates us as we try to live for him. **Because Jesus Lives, The Old You Is Dead... And You Don't Have To Live Like It Anymore**. You can live a new life!

Conclusion

Have you ever watched the Shawshank Redemption? It's one of my favorite movies of all time. I've probably seen it 20 times. There's a character in the movie who had been in prison pretty much his entire life. His name was Brooks. And finally the day came that Brooks was paroled and back out on his own. He was finally free... at 80 years old. But there was a problem, he couldn't figure out how to live on the outside. He had become institutionalized. For years he was told when to eat, when to sleep, and whether he could use the bathroom or not. Freedom didn't feel free to him and he couldn't adjust. Is that you? Have you been enslaved to sin for so long that you simply don't know how to live in the freedom of Christ. Don't get stuck. You are dead to that life. Live in the newness of the abundant life in Christ! You are free.. live free! **Because Jesus Lives, The Old You Is Dead... And You Don't Have To Live Like It Anymore.**