

ROMANS

THE GRACE OF GOD: A JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY IN THE BOOK OF ROMANS

Dead to Sin, Alive in Christ

• Romans 6 : 1 - 14 •

Week 10

DEVOTION

This passage ends with one of the great promises of the scriptures: "sin shall not have dominion over you: for you are not under the law, but under grace." The abundant life that Christ purchased for us with His own blood is a life of freedom and victory over sin and death.

How do we enter into this life? Through death. In that He died for us, (i.e. it was my punishment, my death that was died on the cross) and became our sin for us (i.e. the sin for which He was being crucified was not His own, but mine; the mockery of the image on God upon the cross, is me; I rebelled against God and fell short of His glory; I'm the failure, I'm the guilty one, not Him), we are crucified with Him. We are buried with Him in baptism - the old man is crucified with Christ - and as 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, "old things are passed away."

The second half of 2 Corinthians 5:17 "behold, all things are become new" follows the "old things are passed away." Being raised with Him is predicated on having died with Him. The abundant life, true life, eternal life starts with death - death to the old man, death to sin. Charles Spurgeon, the famous 19th century preacher, is quoted as saying "There must be a divorce between you and sin, or there can be no marriage between you and Christ." Thinking that we may continue in sin while being married to Christ is a deception. Continuing in sin is contrary to God's command and will for us. We are called to "walk in newness of life," God forbid that we should continue living in sin!

Much false doctrine in 'Christendom' has been formed to give confidence that the "Christian" that willingly continues in sin will still enter the kingdom of God. The scripture doesn't give such assurance. True doctrine always accords with godliness (1 Timothy 6:3, Titus 1:1); whereas false doctrine 'strengthens the wicked, that he should not return from his wicked way, by promising him life' (Ezekiel 13:22). Jesus said "if a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned." Though as long as we are in this body, 'sin lies at the door...desiring to have us;' however, through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and His indwelling Holy Spirit, we've been given power to rule over sin - it will not have dominion over us. Jesus Christ has given us power, through faith in Him, to become the children of God (John 1:12) and partakers of the divine nature (2 Peter 1:4) - what grace! Let us settle it in our minds not to settle for anything less!

Monday

Read James 1:13, James 3: 7-10, Romans 12:2

Reflect on God's character. The scripture says: "God cannot be tempted with evil." Sin is not attractive to Him, it has zero appeal. Questions:

1. Do the lusts of sin still grip us since we believed in Christ? How do we 'let not sin reign in our mortal bodies'? How do we stop obeying the lusts of sin? How do we obtain God's Spirit and mind towards sin?

Tuesday

Read Matthew 6:22-23, Job 31:1-3,7, Psalm 101:3

In Romans 6:13 we are told not to yield our members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin, but rather to yield them as instruments of righteousness unto God. Reflect on one member of our bodies today – our eyes. Are we honouring God with our eyes? What are we setting before our eyes? If our eyes have been evil in the past, how can they be made clean?

Wednesday

Read Proverbs 10:18, Psalm 34:12-14

In Romans 6:13 we are told not to yield our members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin, but rather to yield them as instruments of righteousness unto God. Reflect on one member of our bodies today – our tongue. Are we honouring God with our tongues? Do we allow our tongues to speak slander about others? Do we gossip? Do we say things we shouldn't when provoked? Is Jesus Lord of our tongue?

Thursday

Read Luke 9:23-25

Disposition towards sin: We are told to consider ourselves dead to sin. Do you consider yourself dead to sin? Like Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego (Daniel Chapter 3), have you resolved that it is better to die than sin against God? Are you done chasing the fleeting pleasures of sin? Do you now live to God?

Friday

Read Hebrews 3:13, Hebrews 10:25, James 5:19-20

What role do we have as members of the body of Christ in helping one another in the 'striving against sin' (Hebrews 12:4)? Are we functioning as we should in this way? Are we aware of someone erring from the truth that we should reach out to? Have we, or others we know, been deceived by false teachings that make us feel comfortable continuing in sin? The good Lord has grace for everyone that forsakes their sin and follows Him – let us encourage each other therein!