

EXPOSITION OF ROMANS

Message #22

Romans 6:11-14

What is the formula for victory over sin ? How do we win over sin in our life? How do we beat this evil monster that plagues us and gain victory to the level that before God we will finish a believer who was a winner ?

To make matters worse, religious people have come up with all kinds of ideas as to how to get victory over sin:

1. One group says deprive yourself of nice things (asceticism is key).
2. One group says isolate yourself from all sinful people, places and things.
3. One group says keep laws, make up rules and regulations - that is the key.
4. One group says don't admit sin - don't ever face it, just ignore it.

One can be aggressive, highly motivated, positive, real and brave and still never have victory over sin.

The great theologian of the first century was the Apostle Paul. He had personally been taught his theology by Jesus Christ (Galatians 1:11-12). When we read verses like these, it is obvious that Paul and Christ want us to defeat sin in our lives. They want us to be big winners over sin.

THE KEY TO LIVING A LIFE THAT HAS VICTORY OVER SIN IS TO CONSIDER WHAT HAS POSITIONALLY HAPPENED TO US UNDER THE GRACE OF GOD AND TO THINK PROPERLY CONCERNING SIN AND RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Now take a careful notice of this point. As long as we focus our attention on what we do - our works, our rules, our formula - we will not ever have victory over sin. However, the more we focus our mind on the Grace of God and our position, we are beginning to think in the way that will give us victory.

KEY #1 – Consider the positional theology of the Grace of God. 6:11

Now I want to draw your attention to the adverb “even so” that begins **verse 11**. This is a critical key to victory because it informs us that **we are to consider ourselves in regard to sin, the same way God considers us in regard to sin.** We are to consider that in the mind of God, we have been judicially calculated by God as being set free from sin forever. In fact, the word “consider” is a form of the word “reckon” which is used eleven times in chapter 4 (vv. 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 22, 23, 24) which means to make a judicial mental calculation.

What Paul is saying here is that a key to victory over sin is to make the same gracious, judicial mental calculation that God positionally makes of us the moment we believe - we have been “freed from sin” forever through the work of Jesus Christ which God has so graciously and completely identified us with Him.

A critical key to not sinning is focusing our mind on the Grace of God and our positional identification with Jesus Christ.

Now I draw your attention to the particle “therefore” that begins **verse 12**. According to G. Abbott-Smith, one use of this is to express a “simple sequence” (*Greek Lexicon*, p. 328). **Verse 11** is one key to victory over sin. Now, **verse 12** lists what is next in the sequence:

KEY #2 – Make the proper practical choices consistent with the Grace of God. **6:12-14**

Practical Choice #1 - The choice not to continually let sin reign. **6:12**

The verb “reign” speaks of allowing something to rule us. This particular Greek word was used of a king who had total authority over a kingdom. The particular tense of the verb (present) used with the negative prohibition, indicates that for many this action was in progress and needed to be stopped. Paul is challenging the believers to stop letting sin rule them continually.

The implication of the text is that there will be moments of sin but no believer should be ruled by sin. Now according to this verse, one critical way this rules a believer is through lusts. Lusts draw believers toward sinful things and if the believer does not let his mind focus on the Grace of God, those lusts can pull a believer into such sin that it is actually ruling the life.

This is not talking about sinless perfection, for there is no such thing realistically or Biblically:

- 1) I Kings 8:46 says - “When they sin against Thee (for there is no man who does not sin) ...”
- 2) Psalm 14:3 says - “... There is no one who does good, not even one.”
- 3) Proverbs 20:9 says - “Who can say, I have cleansed my heart, I am pure from my sin?”
- 4) II Chronicles 6:36 says - “... for there is no man who does not sin...”
- 5) Psalm 143:2 says - “And do not enter into judgment with Thy servant, for in Thy sight no man living is righteous.”
- 6) Romans 3:23 says - “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”
- 7) James 3:2 says - “For we all stumble in many ways ...”
- 8) I John 1:8 says - “If we say we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.”

No one is perfect. In fact, one of the great disciplines for godliness is knowledge of our potential godlessness.

Practical Choice #2 - The choice not to continually be involved in unrighteousness . **6:13a**

The verb “presenting” is one that carries with it the idea of continually standing beside something or continually appearing before something (G. Abbott-Smith, pp. 345-346). This particular word has to do with presenting something to the mind . The idea here is that we should not continually be feeding things into our minds that are unrighteous . We should not continually allow ourselves to stand before or to appear with unrighteous things.

In fact, the word “instruments” is one used in the N.T. world of a weapon or tool . The idea is that when we are focusing on the Grace of God, we will not be allowing ourselves to continually be a tool or weapon of unrighteousness .

Practical Choice #3 - The choice to continually be involved in that which is righteous . **6:13b**

The second verb “present” in this verse is not present but aorist. This is a command for immediate action. This is not something we need to pray about or think about; this is something we need to make an immediate decision to do. We have been commanded by God to present ourselves alive to God and His righteousness. The aorist verb indicates one time action. It only takes one choice to get us on the path of righteousness.

One might ask, “ How do I do this? I am so weak; how can I win?”

Look at **verse 14** . It begins with a conjunction “ for ” which explains how this works. When we take our minds and focus on the Grace of God and we make a one time choice to not allow ourselves to be ruled by unrighteousness, sin cannot master us. Sin will never reign over one who is focused on the Grace of God.

The law or trying to keep the law will not ever deliver one from fleshly lusts.

God wants us victorious over sin. The key is how we think. Focus your mind on God’s Grace - you will win!