LIVING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE SERIOUSLY AND VICTORIOUSLY A CLOSER LOOK AT ROMANS 6

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INTRO: We have come a long way so far in our study on LIVING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE SERIOUSLY AND VICTORIOUSLY. WHAT HAS THE HOLY SPIRIT TAUGHT YOU SO FAR? The foundational principle for LIVING THE CHRISITAN LIFE SERIOUSLY AND VICTORIOUSLY is being **EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT**. THE POINT IS, WHEN ONE IS TRULY SERIOUS ABOUT LIVING HIS CHRISTIAN LIFE VICTORIOUSLY HE WILL DEPEND UPON THE HOLY SPIRIT TO EMPOWER HIM. DO YOU? OR DO YOU TRY TO LIVE THE CHRISTIAN LIFE BY YOUR OWN POWER? REMEMBER THIS: You are convicted of your sin by the Holy Spirit. You are regenerated by the Holy Spirit. You are baptized with the Holy Spirit. You are indwelt by the Holy Spirit. You are sealed by the Holy Spirit. You are taught by the Holy Spirit. WHY WOULD YOU THINK YOU CAN LIVE THE CHRISTIAN LIFE ON YOUR OWN POWER? YOU CAN'T! I CAN'T! NO ONE CAN! That leads us to the WONDERFUL GRACE OF GOD! He knows we cannot live the Christian life on our own strength and so He has given us the GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT TO DO SO! GOD IS SO GOOD! In our last few studies, we have been considering the command by WALK IN THE SPIRIT as is given in Galatians 5:16. This involves SAYING NO TO SELF AND SIN AND YES TO THE WORD OF GOD. Romans 6 teaches us how and why we can say NO TO SIN! It teaches that in Christ, we have died to sin and through His power do not have to yield to sin! Let's continue to study!

IN ROMANS 6:1-12 WE SEE FIVE PRINCIPLES THAT ENABLE US TO SAY NO TO SIN!

I. THE CHRISTIAN IS DEAD TO SIN THROUGH CHRIST - VSS. 1,2

- A. Be careful in interpreting vs. 1. It asks, "SHALL WE CONTINUE 'IN' SIN....NOT ... "SHALL WE CONTINUE 'TO' SIN."
 - 1. "In Sin" speaks of a condition...the condition of THE OLD NATURE!
 - -The OLD NATURE is the CONDITION OF SIN into which we were born...Romans 5:12,18,19.
 - 2. "To Sin," (which is how many interpret the verse) speaks of an action...the action TO COMMIT INDIVIDUAL SINS!
 - B. The Christian will commit individual sins...Note 1 John 1:8-10.
- C. The Christian will NOT remain in the condition of sin, that is, through Christ, He will not allow the old sin nature to RULE OR REIGN in his life! IT JUST WILL NOT HAPPEN! WHY? BECAUSE HE IS "DEAD TO SIN" AND THUS SEPARATED FROM THE POWER OF SIN THRU CHRIST!

ILLUSTRATION: THE GOVERNMENT'S AUTHORITY OVER A DEAD PERSON IS NONE!!!!

II. THE CHRISTIAN IS BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST – VSS. 3,4

- A. "Water Baptism" is NOT the PRIMARY SUBJECT here. Note that Paul does not say, "BAPTIZED INTO WATER." He says "BAPTIZED INTO JESUS CHRIST." (Water baptism is a physical symbol of being spiritually baptized into Christ).
- B. The PRIMARY SUBJECT here is being baptized into the death of Christ at the point of our salvation!
- C. "BAPTISM" was a common Greek word that had a two-fold meaning. It was used in reference to Greek ladies changing the color of their cloth.
 - 1. The first meaning was "to dip."
 - 2. The second meaning was "to change appearance."

The Greek ladies would dip their cloth into a vat of dye, and when they brought the cloth up, it was a totally different color. (Same cloth-different color).

- D. At salvation, we go into Christ spiritually filthy, black in sin. But by being dipped into Christ's crucifixion, we come out spiritually clean, white in righteousness. Note 2 Cor. 5:17 (Same person-different quality).
 - E. The result is the ability to walk in THE NEWNESS OF LIFE!
 - 1. Before salvation, we walk in the ways of Satan Eph. 2:1-3
- 2. After salvation, we walk in the ways of Christ Eph. 4:1-3 ILLUSTRATION:

III. THE CHRISTIAN IS CRUCIFIED IN CHRIST VSS. 5-7

- A. "Planted with Christ" means the Christian has died to sin through his substitute, JESUS CHRIST. That occurred positionally when Jesus died on the cross and was experienced practically when we trusted Christ!
- B. In Christ, the "OLD MAN" (Sin nature or body of sin) dies, and the "NEW MAN" (Divine Nature) is born in us, that is we become born again.
 - 2 Peter 1:3,4
- C. The result is that the "OLD MAN" (the body of sin) is destroyed, which means "RENDERED INOPERATIVE." Consequently, believers are FREED FROM THE DOMINION OF SIN AND CAN WALK IN THE NEWNESS OF LIFE, WHICH IS CHRIST LIKENESS! AMEN!!

As we do nothing to die with Christ, but trust Him and His power, neither do we do anything to defeat sin in our life but trust Him and His power. SALVATION IS OF THE LORD! Note Phil. 3:10a YES WE MAY SLIP INTO SIN, BUT WE WILL BE VICTORIOUS IN THE LONG RUN.

ILLUSTRATION: A HOMERUN HITTER DOES NOT ALWAYS HIT A HOMERUN....GET THE POINT?

IV. THE CHRISTIAN HAS RISEN WITH CHRIST VSS. 8-10

- A. Christ died ONCE unto sin and has risen once and for all and now death has NO MORE dominion over Him. HE WILL NEVER DIE AGAIN!
- B. Christians who are alive in Christ, will ALWAYS be alive in Christ and will thus have ETERNAL SECURITY! ILLUSTRATION:

V. THE CHRISTIAN IS DEAD UNTO SIN AND ALIVE UNTO GOD THROUGH CHRIST - VSS. 11,12

- A. Because Christians are dead unto sin and alive unto God through Christ, we are to "RECKON" ourselves, that is to CONSIDER IT A FACT that sin has no more rule over us because of the FINISHED WORK OF CHRIST ON THE CROSS!
- B. "RECKON" is a "BOOKKEEPING" TERM which means "TO BALANCE," or "TO COUND IT FINISHED."
- C. That means that our SIN DEBT was PAID IN FULL by Christ on the cross and our LIABILITY TO SIN IS CANCELLED THROUGH CHRIST!
- D. Therefore, we NEED NOT YIELD TO SIN AT ALL! THE DEBT HAS BEEN PAID. THE BOOKS ARE BALLANCED. THE JOB IS DONE. WE ARE VICTORS THROUGH CHRIST!

ILLUSTRATION: JUST LIKE PAYING OF AN OLD DEBT! IT HAS NO MORE EFFECT ON US!

LESSON:

In 1972 I purchased a 1965 Chevrolet Impala at the cost of \$700.00! I put \$100.00 down on it and paid it off at \$64.00 per month. It would be foolish for me to go back to the Second National Bank of Connellsville and start to pay it again. We have died to sin in Christ and alive from sin in Christ...WHY GO BACK TO IT! SAY NO TO SIN....AND BY THE POWER OF CHRIST THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT WE WILL HAVE VICTORY!