



8/13/25

*Romans 6:8-14 ~*

*I don't know why, but I'm always a little shocked when I see scripture about living for God rather than SELF. My natural old dead self would prefer knowing that I'm forgiven and that I get to go to heaven, but not that God wants me to live wholeheartedly for Him rather than SELF. Sin is simply choosing self over God. It doesn't matter how I justify it, when I go against what God wants, I am choosing to satisfy my selfish desires and I'm sinning.*

*From the first part of Romans 6, Paul gave me the reasons NOT to choose to walk in sin and self... I have died with Christ and been raised to new life in Christ. Now in vs. 8-14, Paul gives me a clearer picture of what that new life in Christ looks like.*

*Vs. 8 ~ "Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him." Do I believe that I've died with Christ and that I'll live with Him? If I do, how will that impact the WAY I live with Him? I know that I will live with Him in heaven. But do I really believe that I live with Him now? Ephesians 1:13-14 tells me that, because I have heard the gospel and believed that His word is true, I've been sealed with the Holy Spirit who dwells in me and whose power rests on me. I don't have to live this life on earth alone. He's with me even now.*

*Vs. 9-10 ~ "We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. For the death He died He died to sin, once for all, but the life He lives He lives to God."*

*When Jesus rose from the dead, He conquered death. The devil thought he conquered Jesus through death, but Jesus conquered the curse of death and sin on the cross. His life proves it. He is alive and He will never die again. His life is the evidence I need to trust the gospel. He promised He would rise from the dead on the third day... and He did.*

*When Jesus conquered death, He didn't just conquer it for Himself, He did it for me, too. Even my physical death won't conquer me. It will only usher me into the presence of God.*

*I was talking to someone who lost a loved one. It was so painful. But she said to me something*

*like, "Death is the last attempt Satan has to destroy us. That's why it's so painful. But in the end Satan loses." He loses because Jesus died to sin ONCE... for ALL. And now Jesus lives in heaven to God, for the glory of the Father. I am absolutely sure that Jesus is fully satisfied right now as He continues to intercede for me and help me through this broken world.*

*Vs. 11 ~ How do I respond to Jesus? "So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus." That means I need to consider myself dead to SELF. I need to count myself as being done with sin. I need to remember that I am alive in Christ! I have new life in Him.*

*This is massive for me. I can so easily get caught up in my failure to live for God perfectly. This will never help me live for God. It does not glorify God when I count myself alive to sin... either by claiming I have freedom to sin or by continuing to beat myself up for sin. The answer is not to focus on what's dead... but to focus on what's alive. I need to count myself alive to God... that's where my focus needs to be. O Lord, please help me to focus on my LIFE in You.*

*Vs. 12 ~ "Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions." While I'm still on earth, I have a mortal body that can either serve the Lord OR self. I have to CHOOSE, based on where I stand, who will REIGN in my life, who I will bow to. When I bow to sin, I become a voluntary slave of its passions. Nothing good comes from letting the sin of SELF take the throne.*

*Vs. 13 ~ How do I stop letting sin reign in me? How do I consider myself dead to sin and SELF? It's all about where I focus my attention. "Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness." If I present this mortal body of mine to be used for unrighteousness... anything and everything that goes against the character of God... even if I'm beating myself up for it... I am necessarily making myself a voluntary slave of sin. But if present myself to the Lord... as a living sacrifice as it says in Romans 12:1, I will also live for Him.*

*Even focusing on not sinning will eventually lead me to sin. Maybe not doing the same sin I would have done but perhaps choosing a different sin like arrogance or condemnation of those who struggle with the sin I gave up.*

*The only way to not let sin reign in my life is to let the Lord reign. I do that by first, remembering that He made me alive through Jesus, and He set me free from sin. And then, I focus on what He loves and what He hates. He loves all that is good and right and true, what encourages and loves... and He hates arrogance and selfishness and all that destroys unity. He wants me to enjoy the peaceful fruit of righteousness. I will have that as I continue to present myself to Him and allow Him to sanctify me so that I become more and more like Him.*

*Vs. 14 ~ How is it possible that I could live for the Lord and not keep getting ruined by my selfish sin? I have to live with the security of knowing that God is lavishing His grace on me,*

*and not judging me for the times I fail. "For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace." Sin WILL HAVE NO dominion over me. I have been set free from sin and it no longer has the power to destroy me. If I were to be judged by the law, I would surely be condemned. But "Christ redeemed me from the curse of the law by becoming a curse FOR me" (Galatians 3:13). Now I stand in grace by faith. I stand in believing that God is lavishing His favor on me even though I don't deserve it. Truly, on my absolute best days, I don't deserve His grace. But I'm not judged based on my righteousness. I'm judged based on the righteousness of Jesus. That is the beauty of grace.*

*Therefore... because I stand in grace... O Lord, please help me to stop focusing on my failures, and instead focus all my attention on You. You never fail. You never fail to forgive me... and You never fail to help me overcome all the reasons I need Your forgiveness. Your word says in Isaiah 48:17-18, "Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: "I am the Lord your God, who teaches you to profit, who leads you in the way you should go. Oh that you had paid attention to My commandments! Then your peace would have been like a river, and your righteousness like the waves of the sea." You are worth all my attention!*