

ROMANS: PART 31
MARCH 10, 1996

God's Instruments
Romans 6:12-14

Overview of Romans 6:1-11: The Doctrine of our Death & Resurrection in Christ.

1. The Thesis: We died to sin! Vs 1,2.
2. How we died to sin: Baptized into Christ's death & resurrection. Vs 3-4.
3. Our baptism into Christ explained. Vs 5-11.
4. Application. Vs 12-14.

Principles of Spiritual Growth

1. **Sin still remains in my body.**
 - ♦ I am a "saint." I am a new creation. Rom 6:2-5,6; 7:21-22,25; 8:10; II Cor 5:17
 - ♦ But sin still resides in my "body" or "flesh". Rom 6:6-12; 7:14ff; Gal 5:16f; ICor 6:13; 9:13
2. **If sin goes unchecked, it will reign in my body.**
 - ♦ Sin in me is never eradicated. It always seeks to dominate me thru my body. Rom 6:12.
 - ♦ Backslider: A (miserable) Christian who has allowed sin to dominate thru his body. Ps 32
3. **Sin does not *have* to reign in my mortal body.**
 - ♦ The command in Romans 6:12 assumes that it is not necessary
4. **Spiritual growth is not a "gift" that I merely receive. Nor is it a "deliverance" that I experience once & forever.**
 - ♦ I am exhorted to present my self & my members to God, strive, agonize, buffet my body & make it my slave, war, wrestle, run, fight, lay aside the old man & put on the new man, put to death the deeds to the flesh, take up myr cross daily & follow Christ, press on, not be conformed to this world, endure hardship, not entangle myself w/ the affairs of everyday life, confess my sins, pray for one another & at all times, study to show myself approved, make no provision for the flesh, flee from youthful lusts, etc.
 - ♦ I am commanded to do these things every day.
5. **Spiritual growth is very much based upon *what I believe* (Biblical doctrine).**
 - ♦ The "therefore" of Rom 6:12 (and in every other NT epistle) unites practice with doctrine.
 - ♦ Jesus Lord united practice and doctrine. Jn 13:17; 17:17.
6. **Spiritual growth is very much based upon *God working thru me* (Biblical practice).**
 - ♦ I cannot grow through *passivity*, It is *not* "let go and let God"
 - ♦ I work! Trusting in Him to work in me! Phil 2:12,13.
 - ♦ You can grow in '96 -- He has promised to help you. I Thess 4:3; Titus 2:14; Heb 12:6ff.

Romans 6:12-14:

1. The *negative* part of sanctification. Vs 12,13a. What you must cease from doing is...
 - ♦ No longer allow sin to reign in your mortal body. What characterizes *your* life?
 - ♦ No longer give your body parts to sin: mind, feelings, tongue, hands, eyes, sex, feet, etc
2. The *positive* part of sanctification. Vs 13b. What you must constantly do is...
 - ♦ Present *yourself* to God as alive, 'cuz you are! Vs 12:1,2. You're not your own you're His!
 - ♦ Present your members as instruments of righteousness to God.
3. The encouragement for sanctification. Vs 14.
 - ♦ Sin shall not be allowed to rule over you.
 - ♦ You were once under law (condemned & helpless) now under grace (forgiven & free)

Application.

1. Realize that you have come into an army (as a warrior) -- not a hospital (as a victim).
2. Realize that your growth is a matter of *service* to God -- not personal *success or failure*.
3. Realize that your love for God & obedience to Him are synonymous.
4. Realize that your growth is based upon a commitment of your *self* & your *members*.