

ROMANS: PART 32
MARCH 17, 1996

Principles of Spiritual Growth
Romans 6:1-14

You Are A New Creation -- Set Free From Sin's Dominion.

1. You are a "saint."
2. Rom 6:2-5,6; 7:21-22,25; 8:10; II Cor 5:17

Sin Still Resides In You -- In Your Flesh. If Sin Goes Unchecked It Will Reign In Your Body

1. Sin resides in your "body" or "flesh". Rom 6:6-12; 7:14ff; Gal 5:16f; I Cor. 6:13; 9:13
2. Sin in you is never eradicated. It always seeks to dominate you thru your body. Rom 6:12.
3. E.G. David, Abraham, Peter, Jacob

God Will Not Allow Sin To Go Unchecked In You -- In Love He Will Sovereignly Discipline You

1. Sin will not have ultimate dominion over God's people. God will bring His child back. Heb 12.
2. E.G. David, Abraham, Peter, Jacob
3. Backslider: A *miserable* Christian who has allowed sin to reign. Ps 32
4. Sin doesn't have to reign in your body. The command (6:12) assumes it's not necessary

The Pursuit of Holiness is Active, Continual, and Progressive.

1. It is active. It is not a *gift* that you passively receive (no "let go and let God"!). You are exhorted to present your self & members to God, strive, agonize, buffet your body & make it your 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 your cross daily & follow Christ, press on, not be conformed to this world, endure hardship, not entangle yourself w/ the affairs of everyday life, confess your sins, pray for one another & at all times, study to show yourself approved, make no provision for the flesh, flee from youthful lusts, etc.
2. It is continual. Heb 12:14. Is it not a *deliverance* that you experience once & forever. You cannot grow instantly. You are commanded to pursue it every day.
3. It is progressive. It contains highs & lows. Success & failure.

You Grow Spiritually Through *What You Believe* (Biblical Doctrine).

1. The "therefore" of Rom 6:12 (and in every other NT epistle) unites practice with doctrine.
2. Jesus Lord united practice to doctrine. Jn 13:17; 17:17.
3. What You believe gives you the right understanding, direction & motive (*love*). Rom 12:1,2.

You Grow Spiritually Thru Your Active Obedience (Your Work).

You Grow Spiritually Thru God's Sovereign Grace (His Work In You).

1. You work trusting in God to work through you. Phil 2:12,13.
2. He has promised to help you. I Thess 4:3; Titus 2:14; Heb 12:6ff.
3. You can grow in '96.