

## **DEMOLITION**

Tuesday, May 23

Reading: Romans 6:1-14

**Romans 6:6** *For we know that our old self was crucified with Him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—* **7** *because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.* **8** *Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him.*

We have come to the demolition phase of the Christian's 'extreme makeover.' Some might argue that since sin gives God a chance to demonstrate His grace in forgiveness, why not continue to sin so God can show more grace? Paul states in the strongest possible terms that this is a perversion of the grace of God. The believer is in effect dead to sin. For the believer to live for Christ, they must demolish the old sinful nature that still resides in them. Paul presents three steps in the demolition process.

First, we must **KNOW**. As believers, we are to know where we stand in relation to God and sin. This involves an act of the mind. We must know that:

1. We are identified with Christ (6:1-5). Thus we should "live a new life" that is patterned after His life.
2. We have died with Christ (6:6-8). Thus "we should no longer be slaves to sin." A dead person is not affected by the stimuli of his former life. Likewise, sin should not be a controlling influence in our lives.
3. We are free from death (6:9-10). Since Christ defeated death, we no longer need fear what happens after this life. We can live today for the glory of God.

Second, we must **COUNT**. The old English word is "reckon." It is a banking term that means to calculate or put on one's account. Having understood our new relationship with Christ, we can now "sign the check" and draw on the resources of God's grace. This involves an act of the heart. It does no good to merely understand who we are in Christ. We must apply that knowledge to our daily lives and live for God, not for our old sinful desires (6:11-12).

Third we must **OFFER**. Other translations use the words "present" or "yield." The idea is that we must choose who we are going to obey! This is an act of the will whereby we choose to obey our old sin nature or we choose to obey God (6:13-14).

### **POINTS TO PONDER:**

1. "Our Old Self Was Crucified With Him." Paul makes it clear that a true Christian cannot continue to live a sinful lifestyle. They are crucified with Christ, buried, and raised to new life. Baptism is a beautiful picture of this inward reality in our lives. Christ is now our example and we are no longer slaves to the sin that had bound us. Sin is no longer in control! How do these images help you understand your relationship and responsibility to Christ better?
2. "Offer Yourself To God." For God to "makeover" our lives, we must submit to Him – mind, heart, will, and body. Everything we are must be dedicated to living for Him. Are you willing to let God demolish the rotted parts in your life?