

Series through Romans: TRUTH: UNASHAMED, PART II

Sermon Title: Week 4, Dead to being dead

Principal Scripture: Romans 6:8-14 Date: August 26, 2018

- **Last week: Romans six, first part: we DIED WITH CHRIST, and thus we also DIED TO SIN. The result that Paul proclaims is at the same time one of our greatest promises of freedom in Scripture, but also most perplexing, or even frustrating promises we find in scripture....**

Romans 6:6-7 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.

- **WE have been set free from sin! What is problem? We don't feel that we have been set free from sin.**
- **THIS GETS TO a central crisis every believer faces at some point, if not as normal experience. There are things that scripture says is TRUE OF US, but that we don't experience as our real life.**
- **WHY? This is where Paul is taking us as we go on through chapters 6,7,8... but to a large extent, this boils down to a MATTER OF AWARENESS.**

† A matter of awareness

Myth: Daily Christian life could be chiefly described as a battle to overcome SIN.

- **For some, specific 'sinful' acts. For others, passivity. Still others, disobedience of God's call to trust, do good, take step of faith.**
- **HEAR! For many, many Christians across America and the world, this is what they are TAUGHT the Christian life is all about. BUT IT IS NOT!**

Reality! Daily Christian Life is Biblically described as a journey into FREEDOM.

Romans 6:6-7 For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin (**experience of life being 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.

- **THIS is the matter of awareness! For much of Christian teaching, especially when there is a focus on religious activity and law, the focus of daily life is on combating sin. BUT BIBLICALLY, the focus of daily life as a follower of Christ is RELATIONSHIP with Christ, the truth of who we are in Christ, the truth of God's goodness that is ours in Christ, and the calling of God's work, his will, that we have entered into IN CHRIST.**
- **TO PUT IT SIMPLY...**

Religion emphasizes SIN AWARENESS

The New Covenant emphasizes CHRIST AWARENESS

Heb. 12:1-3 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ² **fixing our eyes on Jesus**, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. ¹⁸ So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

- *Where is the focus? It is not behind us, on the struggle with sin, it is before us, into the new and greater reality of our union with Christ.*
- *Think of it this way: before we came to faith in Christ, in the natural state into which we were born, (family OF ADAM) what was our spiritual condition? DEAD! Because we were spiritually dead, we had no relationship with GOD, who is the author of LIFE. We were dead to God, and thus doing our very best to FIND LIFE in ourselves, and in temporary things (everything but God).*
- *BUT NOW, having believed, we have been MADE ALIVE... brought from spiritual death to life... SO NOW, having been made alive, we have DIED to sin, died to our old self... and thus we no longer have any relationship with that old dead life, because we now have entered into relationship with LIFE- with GOD.*
- *YOU COULD SAY WE ARE DEAD... to being dead*

† **Dead to being dead**

Romans 6:8-10 *Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. **Dead to sin, alive to God!... Now uses Christ as example-**for we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. ¹⁰The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.*

- *OKAY... consider... what is TRUE OF CHRIST because of His death, burial, and resurrection?*
 - *Cannot die again. WHAT if someone convinced you that you could not die. Would this change you, how you live? (maybe not in a good way! Hold that thought)... Since Jesus can't die again...*
 - *Death no longer has mastery over him.*
 - *DIED TO SIN once for all.*
 - *LIFE HE LIVES... he lives TO GOD. IN his relationship, his UNION, with His father.*
- *THAT'S JESUS! What difference does this make to me?... leads to one of most significant clauses in NT..*

† **In the same way...**

Romans 6:11 *In the same way, (just as true for Jesus) count yourselves (LIVE AS IF IT IS TRUE) dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.*

- *BY FAITH, CHOOSE TO BELIEVE, each day...*
 - *I've been raised from the dead, I cannot die again. Yes, this body will wear out, but that's just physical death. That will just be the introduction into the greater reality of life that is ALREADY mine!*
 - *THEREFORE, death has no mastery over me!*
 - *No fear of death*
 - *Not mastered by the things of death*
 - *Fear itself. Anger. Self-centeredness. Jealousy. Demeaning others. Addiction. Lust. These are attributes of death, not mastered by them, because no longer any relationship with them... we died to them.*
 - *SINCE we died to sin, IN CHRIST, WHO IS OUR VERY LIFE, we are now ALIVE TO GOD*
- *Okay... sounds wonderful! But how does this start to work itself out in my life, where it seems that all the old dead parts of me are still alive and well...*

- **Paul answers... four commands. Commandments of faith. Commandments, that as we begin to live in obedience to these, as a mindset, will open the door so that we actually EXPERIENCE, LIVE OUT OF, the amazing Good of what is already true. THIS GETS REALLY PRACTICAL**

✠ Commandments of Faith

Romans 6:12-13 *Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. ¹³ Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness.*

- **Do not let sin REIGN**

... do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires.

- **What does it mean for something, to ‘reign’? They have controlling influence. If someone reigns over me, it means I grant my submission to them.**
- **THIS IS KEY. Paul isn’t just talking about the mistakes we make, the stumbles that come. We fail, we fall, God picks us up and puts us back on the path. MUCH BIGGER, who has controlling influence in our life? THIS IS A CHOICE. When I get up in the morning, what is the spiritual focus I choose?**
 - **Prayer. LORD, this is your day, look to you**
- **Spirit abhors a vacuum. Something will fill us. What are we granting influence? Because whatever we grant influence, that is what we will obey. (most people are average of 5 closest friends)**

- **Do not OFFER yourself to sin**

Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness

- **Image of a traitor, entering the enemies camp, offering to be used against his own people. We think, WHO would do that? But we do, when we allow our mind to rest in an orientation toward ourself, our flesh, instead of actively orienting our minds, will, emotions to God.**
- **By the way, when we choose to try and defeat sin on its terms, fight our sin in our own strength, even tho we are opposing ourselves to sin, we are still offering ourselves to sin! WE ARE DEAD TO SIN... NO RELATIONSHIP TO IT, that includes fighting it.**
- **OUR ONLY AND GREAT HOPE- the way we DON’T offer ourselves to sin, is TO OFFER OURSELVES TO GOD.**

- **DO offer yourself to GOD as one brought from DEATH to LIFE**

but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life;

- **If I was dead, and someone brought me to life, what role will that person play in my life? LORD! I’M WITH THEM! Satan comes a’ tempting... my flesh, my old man calls out... “no disrespect, but I was dead, and Christ made me alive... I’m going with HIM”**
- **THIS IS OUR MINDSET we cultivate, each day, not just in the heat of the moment, but as WHO WE ARE. THAT DOESN’T HAPPEN BY ACCIDENT.**

- **DO offer all of who you are to God as an instrument of RIGHTEOUSNESS**

and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness.

- **All of who you are. How you think, feel act. How God has created you. Shaped you. Interests. Your experiences. Your strengths... weakness! LORD, this is me, I AM YOURS. LIVE your life through me.**

– **THIS is the power, the miracle of the LIFE OF CHRIST in us, as we live in the reality of our UNION with God.**

† The great counter-intuitive

Romans 6:14 *For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law (sin awareness), but under grace. (Christ Awareness) (NEXT WEEK)*

Charles Trumbull (Victory in Christ) testified of the blessings he experienced when he understood and appropriated by faith his union with Christ:

"To begin with, I realized for the first time that the many references in the New Testament to Christ in you, and you in Christ, Christ our life, and abiding in Christ, are literal, actual, blessed fact, and not figures of speech... What I mean is this: I had always known Christ was my Saviour; but I had looked upon Him as an external Saviour, one who did a saving work for me from outside, as it were; one who was ready to come close alongside and stay by me, helping me in all that I needed, giving me power and strength and salvation. **But now I knew something more than that.** At last I realized that Jesus Christ was actually and literally within me; and even more than that: that He constituted Himself my very life, taking me into union with Himself — my body, mind, and spirit — while I still had my own identity and free will and full moral responsibility... It meant that I need never again ask Him to help me as though He were one and I another; but rather simply to do His work, His will, in me, and with me, and through me."

In light of this spiritual union, "the Christian is a mind through which Christ thinks; a heart through which Christ loves; a voice through which Christ speaks; a hand through which Christ helps." Fellow believer, do you reckon this true for yourself?