
Victory over Sin for the Christian

Radio Message by Dwight Porter, D.D.

LISTEN to the tolerance of sin among today's Christians: "We sin in word, thought, and deed every day. We still have the old man within us. The only reason I do not commit dastardly sin is the grace of God." Away with these unscriptural concepts. One reason for the lack of conviction of sin among the unsaved is its toleration within most churches.

Not many people believe the Word of God. Listen to the finality of Christ's work: "And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not (does not continue); whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him. Whosoever is born of God does not commit sin (practice); for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God" (I John 3:5, 6, 9). The big distinction between sinners and Christians is our action: "In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever DOETH not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother" (I John 3:10). "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus UNTO GOOD WORKS, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them" (Ephesians 2:10). "And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them; and they were judged every man ACCORDING TO THEIR WORKS" (Revelation 20:13).

In Romans 5:19 and 21, the Apostle Paul states facts provided for believers in God's grace: "For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous." The contrast here is between sin and grace. The issue is not the *Son* question, but the *sin* question.

Following the question asked in Romans 6:1, Romans 6:2 says: "God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?" Evidently upon hearing of grace that takes away sin by Calvary, they thought more sin would mean a great manifestation of grace. Here is the question in verse 1 that verse 2 answered: "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? The answer was LOUD AND CLEAR – GOD FORBID!

Dead to Sin

These are not my choice of words. "Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin" (Romans 6:6). Many ask, *What has happened to the old man?* It is easily understood if we comprehend and believe the Word of God. The old man is to be declared dead – crucified. The old man denotes man's unregenerate self. "That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts" (Ephesians 4:22).

Our former sin-possessed and sin-dominated personality has been crucified (declared dead) with Christ. We Christians are now free from sin and living with the

resurrected life of Christ within. "For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection" (Romans 6:5).

"Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death; that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we ALSO should walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:4). What baptism is referred to here? Water? This baptism means a total identification of the believer with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection. We must be united with Christ on the cross and in an empty tomb. "For by one spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or gentiles, whether we be bond or free: and have been all made to drink into one spirit" (I Corinthians 12:13).

In verse 2 of Romans 6, Paul asks a very legitimate question (repeated in verse 15): *How can we live in sin any longer when having died to it?* That is the exact position of a Christian. In verse 10, Christ died unto sin. Here is the action we are to take as often as necessary: "Likewise reckon ye also yourselves TO BE DEAD indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:11). Christ died for our sins. We, with Him, die TO sin. We declare a funeral to the dictates of the devil and this world. "But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me (declared dead), and I unto the world" (Galatians 6:14).

This is accomplished in our identification with Christ at the cross. Today we rest on this fact that is in operation until in His presence. We also now live through identification with His resurrection.

Paul gives us practical instruction to live above the power of sin. We have been informed of negative and positive actions. "Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God" (Romans 6:12, 13).

Remember we have the Holy Spirit, who inhabits our mortal body as Christians. "What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost, which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's" (I Corinthians 6:19, 20). With every command, there always is divine enablement: "This I say then, walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh" (Galatians 5:6).

Freed from Sin

Thus the wording of Romans 6:7. One cannot tempt a dead man to further sin, nor convince him of the same charge on which he was tried before. His debt has been paid at Calvary, so never is he brought into court again. If the dead man rises from the grave with Christ, sin and death has no further recourse against him.

Christ died for our sins. In identification with Him on the cross, we died also TO sin. It has forever lost its power over us: "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live: yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me" (Galatians 2:20).

Sin and death no longer control believers: “For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace” (Romans 6:14). *If this be true, Why am I facing such difficulty with temptation to sin? Have you personally appropriated this BIBLICAL TRUTH to be so in your life? These facts are to be rested upon. Declare yourself to be dead when solicitation to sin comes your way. Have you surrendered the members of your body to accomplish God’s plan and purpose as per instructions in Romans 12:1 and 6:13?*

“For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God” (Romans 6:10). We have been made alive in the likeness of Christ’s resurrection (verse 5). What a glorious existence! NOW WE ARE FREE! “For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness, But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life” (Romans 6:20,22).

Can a Christian Sin?

Of course! This fact is settled in the first chapter of I John. The reason we know this is written for Christians is the first verse of the second chapter: “My little children, these things I write unto you, THAT YE SIN NOT. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.” No Christian can commit sin independent of a deep consciousness of it because of the Holy Spirit living within. Here is God’s provision for Christians: “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from ALL unrighteousness” (I John 1:9). The secret over sin for the Christian is to walk in the light of God’s fellowship and instructions. “If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from ALL sin” (I John 1:6,7).

Biblical Examples

The three kings of Israel sinned against God, with each forfeiting their kingdom. King David committed adultery and then murder to cover up his terrible sin. (ONCE) Yes, he was forgiven, but the price he paid afterward for such disobedience was devastating. No sin committed by Christians will survive God’s chastisement even though forgiven. Moses forfeited his entrance into the promise land because of disobedience. (ONCE) The forgiveness David sought for and secured did not alter the consequence of his sin during the rest of his life. My Christian friend, do not play with sin. Confess and forsake it, and believe God to forgive and empower you to continue without it.

The Most Important Issue

We always go back to it. Are you a Christian? Not because you say so. A Christian is a Christ like person identified with His cross and empty tomb. A Christian

declares himself to be dead to sin and alive in Christ. Your intentions are worthless if you have not been made a new creature in Christ by the work of the Holy Spirit in regeneration upon repenting of your sins and believing and receiving Christ into your heart and life. Then you have the God-given ability to obey Him. Our action is not from a fearful relationship, but because we have been set free of sin with all of its power and enslavement.

Sin means slavery, servitude, impurity, iniquity, lawlessness, rebellion against God and His laws, and in the end death, both physical and spiritual. The grace of God in salvation means obedience, love, a holy life, and a concentration in the positive direction of God, as clearly outlined in the Scriptures. To accept the grace of God and continue in sin is a unscriptural premise.

“For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world” (Titus 2:11, 12). Declare yourself dead to sin and joyfully obey God. What wonderful deliverance to no longer be victimized by sin, the flesh and the world about us. *Will this biblical principle work in my life? Of course!*

If continuing to live in sin, you must face the consequence of such works. It is hell! No Christian continues to live in rebellion and hostility against a holy God. You need to be saved – born again – and living with Christ’s resurrection power within. Find a place of prayer and name your sins to God. Rest upon His promise to make you a new creature with His Spirit living within. Your present life-style indicates a work of God’s grace or the absence of it.

“But now being made free from sin and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Christ our Lord” (Romans 6:23).

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