

“Grace & Peace to You”

A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF ROMANS

Voice of China and Asia

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ROMANS LESSON 38 PART 1: “YOU HAVE THE POWER”

Romans 6:11-23 So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

¹² Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. ¹³ Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but, instead, present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. ¹⁴ For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

¹⁵ What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! ¹⁶ Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness?

¹⁷ But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, ¹⁸ and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. ¹⁹ I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.

²⁰ For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹ But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death.

²² But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

“WITH POWER COMES RESPONSIBILITY”

Going back to our “LATIN LESSON” from the last session, the 2 opposing principles that describe the former VS present status of the Believers are these:

Former Status: non posse non peccare (“NOT able ... NOT to sin”).

Present Status: posse non peccare (“able... NOT to sin”).

This is ALL about the relationship between “ability” and “sin.”

- Before we were IN CHRIST, through the operation of our faith and God’s grace, we did NOT have the power to NOT sin. Yes, we could control some of our behavior, passions, and activity but it was NOT freedom. And whatever control we exercised could do nothing about the reality that we were “separated from God” by an “inward unrighteousness” as a result of “inherited sin and death”. We were IN Adam (the Old Self).
- WHEN we believed, that “Old Self” DIED! It no longer has life of its own. AND in Christ’s resurrection, we have been given “NEW Life” – Life created to be like His. (more on that later)
- But... the “Old Self” wasn’t “destroyed / obliterated / or annihilated”. Instead, as we found in our study of ROM 5:6, it was “rendered useless – made to be inactive.”
- So NOW... it is still existing... but it has NO power – no ability to control us. So, WHO is in CONTROL?

THIS is the subject of the next section of **PAUL'S LETTER** – which takes us all the way through **CHAPTER 8**.

CONSIDER YOURSELF DEAD... BUT ALIVE...

ROM 6:11 *So you also must consider yourselves **dead** to sin and **alive** to God in Christ Jesus.*

As Paul restates and summarizes what he has been teaching, he wants to make the transition from “Spiritual Truth” to “Practical Truth.”

- **Spiritual Truth** – Sometimes referred to as “**Positional**” – Presenting a reality that is not physically observable... Often refers to something that is accomplished or realized in the “Invisible Realm” and has direct impact on things in the “**Physical Realm**” – These changes may not be immediate...
- **Practical Truth** – Sometimes referred to as “**Temporal**” because they occur in the natural or physical realm where they can be “measured / seen / actualized” – These are subject to the things of the spiritual realm either by “allowance” by “hindrance” or by “empowerment.”
- Just because something is True in the Spiritual Realm does NOT mean it will be “automatically” realized in the Practical Realm

Dead to sin... – NOT just “Dead...” – What Death is indicated?

- The “Old Self” – The “*nature of Adam*” **WAS Dead** by separation from the Life / Power of God
- Because of that separation, it had “**ability**” to dominate us through sin...
- Now it **IS Dead** – “*separated from its ability to work on its own*” by **Christ's death...** and OUR death IN HIM...
- Its “**ability**” has been “*rendered IN-operative*” – tho’ it still exists (*as Paul will show in CHP 7*)
- Therefore... Sin no longer has the “**ability**” to dominate us...

Alive to God... – Because we were IN Christ, when He RAISED TO LIFE... WE were raised to life...

- Being “**alive**” means we NOW have **an ability which we NEVER had before...**
- The “**ability**” to Live TO God... to realize **Freedom OVER sin...** has been given to ALL who are IN Christ...

IN Christ... – THIS is the **Spiritual** Reality – Our **Positional** Truth...

ROMANS LESSON 38 PART 2: “YOU HAVE THE POWER”

Consider... – *The KEY to the victory of what Paul will introduce next is the opening word, “Consider.”*

- We have seen this word before: it was used multiple times in ROMANS to declare what God has done in “**accounting**” righteousness to the one who Believes ... Like Abraham.
- Logizomai – [**19** of 38x’s in ROM] means to **keep account / make a record...** Let something be recorded /remembered that will lead to a conclusion...
- This is a “**Middle Voice Present Tense**” – *make this a matter of practice for your own good...*
- Here Paul is exhorting the saints that in their endeavor to live a life in accordance with the righteousness that God desires:
 - They should “**take into account**” the fact that they are dead to sin,
 - That they have been disengaged from the evil nature,
 - That it has no power over them anymore,
 - That they are free from its dominion,
 - And that they can say NO to it.
- They are also to “**take into account**” that:

- They are alive to God,
- That the Divine Nature has been imparted to them,
- That the result of that gives them both the desire and the power to order their lives in accordance with the Word of God.

BECAUSE OF THAT... THIS!

ROM 6:12 *Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions.*

NOW Paul will turn to the **Practical / Temporal Truth** this **Spiritual / Positional Truth** has made available.

➤ **Therefore...** – Because of what has been realized in this Spiritual realm...

“Don’t be discouraged and don’t be despairing; sin will not have any power over you. WHY? Because we are no longer under law but under grace.”

THE LAW gave us rules, enforced by the threat of punishment, by which we were told to *“control the sin that dwells in us – the Old Self.”*

But Grace shows us what God HAS DONE...

- to deliver us from that power of sin and
- to live by a new power that dwells in us – the New Self.

ROM 8:3-4 *For God has done what THE LAW, weakened by [because of] the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ in order that the righteous requirement of THE LAW might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.*

PHIL 2:13 *“...for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.”*

➤ **Reign...** **Basileuo**, *“to exercise kingly power.”* The verb forbids the continuance of an action already going on. *“Stop allowing the sinful nature to reign as king in your mortal body.”* The sinful nature has been “dethroned” – **DO NOT LET IT REIGN.**

The believer has the responsibility of keeping it from the throne of his life, the place which **ONLY** the Lord Jesus should occupy.

WEAPONIZED! BUT FOR WHOM?

ROM 6:13-14 *DO NOT present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, BUT present yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.*

A poet has written, *“Do this and live, THE LAW commands, but gives me neither feet nor hands. A better word THE GOSPEL brings. It bids me fly and gives me wings.”*

➤ **Present... Yield...** – **Paristemi** - *“to place beside or near, to present, to put at one’s disposal, to yield as a servant to a master.”* -

- **Do NOT...** – (PresImp) - “stop allowing...” THIS is in YOUR control...
- **DO...** – (AorImp) – Make this a reality NOW!

➤ **Members...** – **THE BODY** – It is not the Old Self that must be ruled... **it is in-operative**. It is the **“body”** that is **inspired by / enticed by** and **used by IT...** WE must rule our **Body / Mind / Passions / Emotions / Volition...**

- **Instruments...** – In classical Greek this word referred to **the weapons of the Greek soldier**. Paul thinks of the members of the Believer’s body as **weapons to be used in the warfare against evil**.
- The Believers, realizing they has been freed from the “**dominion**” of the **Old Self**, do **4 things**,
 - They refuse to allow the **Old Self** to reign as king in their life...
 - They stop putting their members at its disposal to be used as weapons of unrighteousness...
 - They “**put themselves at once, and once for all**” at the disposal of God - as those who are actively alive out from among those who are dead...
 - And they offer the “**members of their body once for all**” as weapons of righteousness – to be fully and continually at the service of God.

¹⁴ **FOR sin WILL HAVE no dominion over you... SINCE you are NOT under LAW but under GRACE.**

- **Dominion...** – This again is from the same word as Reign – **To have lordship / to rule as from a throne... -**
 - The verb here is “**conditional**” –
 - **IF** you DO NOT present your members as weapons to the Old Self...
 - **BUT** present yourselves as weapons of God’s righteousness...
 - **THEN** Sin WILL HAVE no RULE... –
- **WHY / HOW?**
 - **Not under... Law** – Under Law YOU had no power... **The Law could only point to your consistent state of unrighteousness... YOU had no way to gain dominion...**
 - **But under... Grace** – Because of the Grace of God offered freely to ALL who Believe... Your “**status**” is NOT based upon YOUR performance (*good or bad*) **BUT upon HIS righteousness... which you NOW have IN HIM.**
 - Sin CANNOT have Dominion when WE draw upon the power of God made available to us through this NEW LIFE in Christ Jesus.

AND... God has given us HELP

GAL 5:16-18 *But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.* ¹⁷ *For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.*

¹⁸ *But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.*