

Living For God

Romans 6:11-14 Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. 12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, 13 and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin *as* instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness to God. 14 For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

❖ Intro:

- **Want to begin a two or three week study on killing the sin in your life.**
- We will be focusing on Romans 8:13 where Paul says:
 - **Romans 8:13** ¹³ For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.
 - **So... for the next two weeks that verse will be our focus...**
 - ◆ **Explain...**
- **Today... We are going to look at God's instruction to us in the positive...**
 - That we are to be living for God
- **Why are we looking at these verses and this theme in the first place?**
 - 1) We all still have sin
 - 2) Sin will kill you
 - 3) Sin brings dishonor to God and kills churches
- **We must learn how to fight....**
 - Today.... We will not get to the how to fight part...
 - But it is coming...
 - I want to lay some groundwork first...
- **So, let's begin by considering Romans 6 and some other verses scattered throughout the Word**
 - That teach us and encourage us to live for God...
 - Next week we will get to the "how to" kill
 - This week.... Let's here God speak to us on how we ought to live...
 - **This reminds me of a verse:**
 - **1 John 2:6** ⁶ whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

❖ A) Revering God

- **In the Book of Deuteronomy**
 - Moses is recounting the journey of the people of Israel from Egypt
 - Up until they are about to go in and take possession of the promised Land
 - **He brings them back to not too long after they left Egypt.**
 - And they were there at the Mountain Sinai
 - And God was speaking with them from the mountain surrounded by clouds and lightning and darkness...
 - They heard God and saw his covering, and they were afraid...
 - They had a Holy and Reverent Fear of God...
 - **Notice what they say... and notice the heart of God when He responds..**
- **Deuteronomy 5:24-29** ²⁴ And you said, 'Behold, the Lord our God has shown us his glory and greatness, and we have heard his voice out of the midst of the fire. This day we have seen God speak with man, and man still live. ²⁵ Now therefore why should we die? For this great fire will consume us. If we hear the voice of the Lord our God any more, we shall die. ²⁶ For who is there of all flesh, that has heard the voice of the living God speaking out of the midst of fire as we have, and has still lived? ²⁷ Go near and

hear all that the Lord our God will say, and speak to us all that the Lord our God will speak to you, and we will hear and do it.'²⁸ "And the Lord heard your words, when you spoke to me. And the Lord said to me, 'I have heard the words of this people, which they have spoken to you. They are right in all that they have spoken.'²⁹ Oh that they had such a heart as this always, to fear me and to keep all my commandments, that it might go well with them and with their descendants forever!

➤ **Can't you see the desire of God...**

- Oh that they had such a heart as this always... to fear me and to keep all my commands...
- I see God's longing here for His people to follow Him and His ways

➤ **It is nothing different today**

- God is still wanting His people to have a heart that fear Him and keep His commands

➤ **Jesus has come and made us right with God...**

- If indeed you have Followed Him and become His disciple...
- But, the desire remains the same...
- Oh that they had such a heart as this always, to fear me and to keep all my commandments, that it might go well with them and with their descendants forever!

➤ **Let's Consider Paul's Words to us in Romans 6... Words that encourage to Live for God**

➤ **1) We must consider ourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus**

- **Romans 6:11 Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.**
- **Consider:** Reckon, to keep mental record
 - To put together with one's mind
- **You see what he is saying here?**
 - This is a mental exercise...
 - **Let me Give you an Example: When a Person Goes into the Military**
 - ◆ Before going in they are a civilian... and they think like a civilian
 - ◆ They go where they want to go and do what they want to do... for the most part...
 - ◆ Usually they do not have heavy matters on their minds and hearts...
 - ◆ When they enter the Military things change drastically for them...
 - ◆ **They begin to be trained to think and live a different way.**
 - They are taught to take orders
 - They are trained in combat and mechanics and many other areas.
 - They are trained in who the enemy is, who their allies are...
 - ◆ **Their mind must begin to focus in a completely different way**
 - No longer are they concerned with civilian minded things...
 - They are concerned with their mission...
 - ◆ **These things start in the mind...**
 - The body will be unable to do what the mind does not allow
 - They have to be mentally strong... they have to know their cause
 - They have to have confidence in their cause
 - They need to know their strategies and orders...
 - ◆ **If they fail mentally, they will assuredly fail physically...**
 - They have put together their cause in their minds...
 - They now reckon themselves, or consider themselves to be a military man
- **What is it that you should be putting together in your mind?**
 - That you are dead to sin, but alive to God
 - ◆ **Dead to Sin:** When a person dies physically... this world and its cares no longer has control of the person.
 - They do not pay bills, or go to work, or play or worry about relationships...

- They have died...
- Being dead to sin is similar... sin has no more power or control over the person...
 - **Sadly... We do still have to pay bills though...**
 - This does not mean we do not give it control...
 - But it has no actual claim on us anymore...

- And this being dead to sin is done through your union with Jesus... **Which is done by faith**

- **So... Practically...**

- You **put** in you heart and mind scripture **verses** that remind you of this truth
- You think of the great doctrines of **justification**... that Jesus has made you **right** with God
- You remember that you are **unified** with Jesus
- You remember that Jesus has **defeated** the power of sin... therefore you are **joined** in that
- You remember you are a **new** person...
- **Walking in sin is not who you are... you do not have to give in to sin..**
 - ◆ You can now see sin as it is, and flee from it
 - ◆ You know it only satisfies for a short season...
- **You remember you are alive to God...**
 - ◆ You are to be living for God...

- **When we put these things together in our minds...**

- *It shapes the way we live...*

- **Another Example:**

- **People that have very low self esteem sometimes go to a psychologist...**
 - ◆ And they will be taught to say certain things to themselves...
 - ◆ I stood behind a man at wendy's doing this very thing.
 - ◆ He had notecards that said positive things about himself...
 - ◆ And he was repeating them aloud under his breath...
- **This man was reminding himself that he had self worth...**
 - ◆ And this does seem to help some people...
- **I am not here to support the benefits of positive thinking...**
 - ◆ Because void of Jesus they are of very little worth in my opinion...
 - ◆ But... notice that it reminds the man of who He is... Or who he wants to think himself to be

- **2) We Must Not Let Sin Reign**

- **12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts**
- Paul moves from telling us to consider ourselves... to get things straight in our minds...
- **He says... therefore... Therefore... since you have put this together in your mind...**
 - Since you consider yourselves dead to sin...
 - Now... do not let sin reign...
- **You now have the mental reminder and knowledge of this truth...**
 - Now it is time to go to war against sin...
 - Do not let it reign
- **What is at stake? What or Who Reigns over your Body:**
 - **Reign:** is simply the verb form of king...
 - So, Paul is saying... lets not let sin be the king of your body
 - Because it will give us orders... That is what kings do
 - ◆ And those orders are: **that we would:**
 - Obey its lusts
- **Its lusts: Is in reference to the Body...**

- **It is not sin's lusts...**
 - ◆ Sin is trying to be the king... and Sin is giving your body orders to lust
 - ◆ So now, if sin is reigning over the body... Your body has lusts...
- **Lust here means desires... or passions...**
 - ◆ But the sense of the word here is more than just a desire or passion...
 - ◆ Because we all know that desires and passions are not always bad...
 - ◆ *Here the sense is: An evil craving... an inordinate self indulgent craving (that displaces proper affections for God*
 - **Remember This...** Coming back to it in just a minute... as we look at our greatest weapon
- **Summary: Paul says... Get it straight in your mind what is true of you...**
 - And now... Do not let sin win... do not let it reign...
 - Now He gives you some practical ways to keep this from happening...

➤ 3) Do Not Give Your Bodies to Sin

- **13 and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness;**
- **Presenting:**
 - This word means: To make accessible... to make available
 - To stand near...
 - **Consider this for a moment...**
 - Here is an active verb being used by Paul...
 - **And the sense of what He is saying is:**
 - ◆ Presenting means that you have offered yours self up to sin
 - ◆ You have come and stood by sin...
 - ◆ And you have made yourself available to it...
 - **If I understand this correctly... I see presenting the members of your body**
 - As something you make a conscious effort to do...
 - There is no accident involved here...
 - **We are going to have a work day up here next Saturday... (shameless plug!)**
 - When you come up here... you are presenting your bodies to WORK...
 - Please come present your bodies to work!
 - So.... Paul says more...
- **You know who you are... and what Christ has done...**
 - Now, do not use your body parts for sin. Do not present them for sin...
 - You have all you need to keep this from happening...
 - **We have been granted all we need to live godly**
 - ◆ **2 Peter 1:3³ His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness,**
 - ◆ God is at work in you, living within you, He has accomplished victory for you...
- **Therefore... do not use or present your body for sin...**
 - **Paul, I believe, has in mind a number of things here...**
 - ◆ Do not use your hands to bring harm to someone else
 - ◆ Do not let your stomach control you into gluttony or drunkenness
 - ◆ Do not let your sexual organs control you toward evil cravings
 - ◆ Do not let your tongue have its way in how you speak to people...
 - Or about people
- So, that is the negative... look at the positive...

➤ 4) Rather Give Yourselves to God

- but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.
- Instead... lets use our body as weapons for God...
- **Weapons are very interesting things...**
 - They can be used to senselessly take life
 - They can be used to save life
- **This word is translated often times as instruments...**
 - Because it means a piece of equipment... but the word is usually translated as weapons
- **Our body is a tool... it is a piece of equipment that should be used in the proper way...**
 - Men can use their hands to feed the hungry and help the needy
 - ◆ Or use their hands to take life from another person
 - Men can use their tongues to praise and bring to God and encourage other people
 - ◆ Or use their tongues to bring men down and as a result dishonor God
 - Men can use their body in a loving relationship with their mate
 - ◆ Or pervert God's plan for intimacy with pornography or sexual immorality
- **Paul encourages us to use our bodies as Righteous weapons...**
 - To do things that are right before God...

➤ 5) Sin Shall not Be Master Over You

- Sin Shall not be master over you because you are not under law but under grace
- **Do all these things because Sin will not master you**
 - What is he saying here...? He is saying that we do not have to present our bodies to sin
 - Because God is Sovereign... Not sin...
- **He says here: Sin shall not be master over you!**
 - If you are a believer this morning... that is God's promise to you...
 - Sin will not master you... Why?
 - Because God is sovereign... He is ultimately in control...
- **Furthermore: He explains why it will not master you...**
 - Because you are not under its control... you are not under the law...
 - Being under the law means that you must do the deeds of the law...
 - ◆ To be made right with God...
 - **Rather: You are under grace**
 - ◆ Meaning that you depend on how Jesus obeyed the law perfectly
 - ◆ You depend on the perfect law obedient Son, Jesus Christ
 - ◆ And you are protected from the mastery of sin...
- **Meaning:** 1) Sin can not master you in death... you have victory
 - 2) Sin can not hold guilt over your head... Jesus took the guilt
 - 3) You are now being Sanctified by the power of God
 - ◆ because you have been obedient to the gospel... you believed... you had faith
 - 17 But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed

❖ III) Our Greatest Weapon: Treasuring God

- **Let me step aside for just a minute... yet, not exactly aside...**
 - This parallels what we see here in the text...
- **In verse 12 Paul writes do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts,**
 - We said that lusts are cravings that displace proper affections for God

- **Our Greatest Active Weapon in our fight against sin**
 - Is that we treasure God...
 - That we are able to say with the Psalmist:
 - Psalm 16:11 in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.
- **We Must Set God and His Ways before us as more preferable...**
 - Like the man in Matt 13:44 “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.
 - **God is worthy of our desires and affections:**
 - Romans 11:33,36 ³³ Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!... ³⁶ For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.
- **How do we do this?**
 - Same way you would find the worthiness of anyone or anything
 - By spending time with that person or thing... Learning of it and experiencing it
 - **We must spend quality time with God...**
 - Remember Colossians 3:16 Let the Word of Christ dwell in you Richly
 - Not distracted time... We must get to know Him through His word
 - We must experience praise and adoration of God by singing to him with our voices and hearts
 - We must serve Him and see Him work in others
 - We must watch as He uses us to change peoples lives and give them eternal life

❖ **In Conclusion.... Consider that You want to be Useful Vessels**

- 2 Timothy 2:19-26 ¹⁹ But God’s firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: “The Lord knows those who are his,” and, “Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity.” ²⁰ Now in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for honorable use, some for dishonorable. ²¹ Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work. ²² So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. ²³ Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels. ²⁴ And the Lord’s servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, ²⁵ correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, ²⁶ and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.
- **Notice the command**
 - “Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity.”
- **Notice the practical instruction to us**
 - ²¹ Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work.
- **Notice one of the main reason we live lives set apart...**
 - God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth,
 - We live so others will come to know Jesus...
 - **How many sons and daughters have wondered away from God...**
 - Because their parents had not cleansed themselves from what is dishonorable?
 - There is no need for people to perish...
 - God has offered a great salvation

❖ **Invitation**

- **Settle things with God today...**
 - If you are a believer that has been giving himself to sin...
 - It is vital that you run to God in repentance..
- **If you have never followed Jesus... Become His disciple...**
 - You must do so today before it is too late...