

## Musing #53—Romans 6:1-11

Various Translations

This chapter alone, especially in the many Bible translations we have available, gives readers insights to the underlying process that God lays forth in His word. That process is clearly noted in the key words he gives us in the sixth chapter. He call us to...

know vs 6

reckon vs 11

yield vs 13 and 16

obey vs 16 and 17

eternal life vs 23

It is important to remember that eternal life is never earned, but is the ultimate starting point in our intimate relationship with God.

The power of God's word is further amplified in Romans where Paul expands his message to the church around the word "righteousness"—a word used over 300 times in our Bible. Quoting from the writing of Skip Heitzig in *Decision Magazine*, "**The word righteous, righteousness, or justified, appears 60 different times in the book of Romans. The theme is "How to Get Right with God." The righteousness of God is the phrase Martin Luther, over 500 years ago, struggled with—Romans 1:17, '...the just shall live by faith'— and it was this very text that set him free and changed his life.**"

Heitzig continues, "**The Gospel was powerful enough to change Saul of Tarsus into Paul the Apostle. Powerful enough to save 3,000 in Jerusalem on Pentecost. It was powerful enough to convert thousands in the First and Second Great Awakening, and it was powerful enough to move 2.2 million people to say yes to Jesus Christ under the ministry of Billy Graham, of which I am one. The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation. 'If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.'**" Romans 10:9.

**2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.**

With that "Good News" in mind, let's move on to Romans Chapter Six.

**6:1-2 Now what is our response to be? Shall we sin to our heart's content and see how far we can exploit the grace of God? What a ghastly thought! We, who have died to sin—how could we live in sin a moment longer?**

There is "Sin" ...the **power**—and there are "sins"...the **acts**. Further along in chapter seven, Paul addresses the power as a law—a rule, a standing principle that applies no matter where you are in your walk with God.

**Romans 7:23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.**

Paul said, as believers, should we keep on sinning even though we have died to the power of sin? No! We are out of Adam, and in Christ. Adam's sin brought man's spiritual

death. Now we must be born again to have the Eternal Life of God. Bondage to sin came by our birth. The world believes, “*we sin to become sinners.*” But actually, we sin because we are born sinners, thus we sin naturally.

We don't have to teach a 2 year old to lie. All babies come into the world self-centered, bent toward sin. Our deliverance from the power of sin comes through our personal death & rebirth—our Old Man's death / our New Creation birth. After our new birth... we are not sinless. We can still choose to sin, but we are no longer sinners. We are now, saints who sometimes commit an act of sin. God has separated our Identity from our occasional Behavior. We have been freed from the bondage & slavery to the power of sin.

**3-4 Have you forgotten that all of us who were baptised into Jesus Christ were, by that very action, sharing in his death? We were dead and buried with him in baptism, so that just as he was raised from the dead by that splendid Revelation of the Father's power so we too might rise to life on a new plane altogether.**

Some teach that it is actual baptism that causes our regeneration. But the N.T. teaches that we are to be baptised to show the world that sin is no longer our master. Baptism is a picture of what has happened spiritually—a death, a burial, and a resurrection with and in Christ.

**5 If we have, as it were, shared [been united with Him in] his death, certainly we have also shared [been united with Him] in His resurrection.** United as in... "Grafted" into God's family tree.

Paul goes into more detail on this in Chapters 9-10-11 of Romans.

**6 Let us never forget that our old self died with him on the cross that the tyranny of sin over us might be broken—for a dead man can safely be said to be immune to the power of sin.**

Clearly, our Old Man had to be eliminated completely. Nowhere in the New Testament is there a reference to a believer's Old Man! He is dead!

**Colossians 3:1-4 (MSG) So if you're serious about living this new resurrection life with Christ, act like it. Pursue the things over which Christ presides. Don't shuffle along, eyes to the ground, absorbed with the things right in front of you. Look up, and be alert to what is going on around Christ—that's where the action is. See things from his perspective. Your old life is dead. Your new life, which is your real life—even though invisible to spectators—is with Christ in God. He is your life. When Christ (your real life, remember) shows up again on this earth, you'll show up, too—the real you, the glorious you. Meanwhile, be content with obscurity, like Christ.**

**Gal. 2:20 (Phillips) And my present life is not that of the old "I", but the living Christ within me. The bodily life I now live, I live believing in the Son of God, who loved me and sacrificed himself for me.**

What died in Adam? His spiritual-life connection to God (Gen. 2:17). What dies in us when we are born again? The Old Man (from Adam)—a spirit that was dead to God. At our birth, like Adam, we were dead to God, yet we were still physically alive.

What made us alive to God? God gave us a new spirit and then joined our new spirit to his Holy Spirit. So, we are alive to God, by and through his very Spirit-Life.

**Ezekiel 36:25-27** And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart. And I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow my decrees and be careful to obey my regulations.

**Ephesians 2:1-6** To you, who were spiritually dead all the time that you drifted along on the stream of this world's ideas of living, and obeyed its unseen ruler (who is still operating in those who do not respond to the truth of God), to you Christ has given life! We all lived like that in the past, and followed the impulses and imaginations of our evil nature, being in fact under the wrath of God by nature, like everyone else. But even though we were dead in our sins God, who is rich in mercy, because of the great love he had for us, gave us life together with Christ—it is, remember, by grace and not by achievement that you are saved—and has lifted us right out of the old life to take our place with him in Christ in the Heavens.

Re-dedication is not in Scripture... but co-crucifixion is! Paul said...

**Galatians 2:20** My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me.

We can't really die to "self" That would be self-crucifixion. Our scriptures tell us our Old Man is already dead. Paul tells us "to reckon it to be so." Trust in the reality that who you were... is dead. As believers we must understand that we "died"—the Old Man is dead. We were immediately placed "in Christ." The Holy Spirit, God's very life, was placed in us.

**7-11** And if we were dead men with him [at the Cross], we can believe that we shall also be men newly alive with him. We can be sure that the risen Christ never dies again—death's power to touch him is finished. He died, because of sin, once: he lives for God forever. In the same way look upon yourselves as dead to the appeal and power of sin but alive and sensitive to the call of God through Jesus Christ.

Christ lived in a world of sin. He lived sin-free... He suffered... He hurt... He wept... He obeyed... He died... and He rose again!

**Hebrews 5:7** During his days on earth, Christ offered prayers and requests with loud cries and tears as his sacrifices to the one who was able to save him from death. He was heard because of his godly devotion.

Reckon it to be so... Our Old Man was put to death with Christ. We became part of His death, burial, and resurrection. Christ dies no more! We die no more. It's finished. The price was paid. We could never earn it, but through God's mercy, we are now a living part of His forever past and forever future.

**That is... the Good News!**