

Musing #54—Romans 6:12–18

Now Paul gets to the first thing in Romans... **THAT WE CAN DO OURSELVES.**

Everything else has been done! God says, “Don’t let sin reign again!”

12-14 Do not, then, allow sin to establish any power over your mortal bodies in making you give way to your lusts. Nor hand over your organs to be, as it were, weapons of evil for the devil’s purposes. But, like men rescued from certain death, put yourselves in God’s hands as weapons of good for his own purposes. For sin is not meant to be your master—you are no longer living under the Law, but under grace.

Don't let sin reign... don't yield ourselves to sin.

When we yield ourselves to sin... we become sin's servant.

John 8:34 Jesus said, “I assure you that everyone who sins is a slave to sin.”

God chose to deal with our sin by placing us in Christ.

There was no way we could disempower the power of sin.

Only by God identifying us in Christ’s death at the cross

could God then give us a new life and set us free from sin's dominion.

He says "That is what I have done for you..."

We must choose to rise above temptations and lust

and "yield" to the new power within us—the Holy Spirit!

We have the freedom to make right choices.

Remember in verse 1— **Do not, then, allow sin to establish any power over you...**

1 John 3:9 Those born from God don’t practice sin because God’s DNA remains in them. They can’t sin because they are born from God.

That verse in the Amplified version reads... **No one who is born of God [deliberately, knowingly, and habitually] practices sin, because God’s seed [His principle of life, the essence of His righteous character] remains [permanently] in him [who is born again—who is reborn from above—spiritually transformed, renewed, and set apart for His purpose]; and he [who is born again] cannot habitually [live a life characterized by] sin, because he is born of God and longs to please Him.**

The same passage in the Message reads... **People conceived and brought into life by God don’t make a practice of sin. How could they? God’s seed is deep within them, making them who they are. It’s not in the nature of the God-begotten to practice and parade sin. Here’s how you tell the difference between God’s children and the Devil’s children: The one who won’t practice righteous ways isn’t from God, nor is the one who won’t love brother or sister. A simple test.**

So, can we sin... yes... our soul can choose to commit acts of sin. Will we stay in sin... no... our spirit is new and we are free from that slavery and bondage.

Good Question: So where do those who continually sin fit?

Consider this... When God proclaimed Adam's death, what was it that died?

Answer—Immediately: Adam's connection to God's Spirit was severed.

Answer — Future: Adam's physical body—and all in his line of humanity.

We saw that God left man with a human spirit (small "s")—the Old Man.

And now, when we are born again, God identifies the death of our human spirit with the death of his Son at the cross.

And, at the moment we are born again

God give us a new spirit (small "s"),

then puts his Spirit (big "S") within our human spirit...

we have His eternal life.

Clearly in the context of Genesis 3, Adam and Eve died spiritually—they were separated from God and hid themselves. Their relationship with God was broken. But in Romans 5:12-14 Paul is speaking of physical death. We also find the same comparison of physical death and physical resurrection in 1 Corinthians 15:20–22. So both spiritual death and physical death are the consequence of Adam's fall. As Scripture consistently teaches, both kinds of death (spiritual and physical) are the consequence of Adam's rebellion. — Answers in Genesis

So God - has literally cleaned our spiritual house...

If a new believer doesn't understand what God has completed,

he is naturally works oriented—trying to add to what Jesus has done.

He doesn't know he is complete, holy & righteous. He easily falls into the worlds false thinking that righteousness and sainthood are things we must earn. That good works and behavior equal identity. Again quoting Ian Thomas... **Most Christians spend their life trying to become what they already are.**

In reality, our identity is complete and holy. We are saints, holy ones,

even though our behavior is often flawed and inferior to that identity.

Galatians 2:20 (Phillips)**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.**

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.**

And Paul goes on to lay out the totality of what has been done on our behalf.

15 Now, what shall we do? Shall we go on sinning because we have no Law to condemn us anymore, but are living under grace? Never!

God's way is "faith"—a trust that changes our behavior.

16-18 (NLT) Don't you realize that you become the slave of whatever you choose to obey? You can be a slave to sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God, which leads to righteous living. Thank God! Once you were slaves of sin, but now you wholeheartedly obey this teaching we have given you. Now you are free from your slavery to sin, and you have become slaves to righteous living.

Christ is now our Master... and sin is often a selfish nuisance to pull us into its web...

driven by the law of sin that is always pulling at us, working against the Spirit.

Q.—Why did God leave us always dealing with sin?

A.—To teach us to learn to live in His power, to live as overcomers against our real enemies, the world, the flesh, and the devil.

Just as in the land of Canaan... God left the enemy...

to teach His people that He would overcome and conquer their enemies.

In many ways it was **external** and physical. With us it seems to be

more spiritual, psychological, and **internal**—against the indwelling Spirit.

Much of Christ's teaching during His ministry

was helping His people see the keys to the internal battle.

I Corinthians 6:19-20 Avoid sexual looseness like the plague! Every other sin that a man commits is done outside his own body, but this is an offence against his own body. Have you forgotten that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you, and that you are not the owner of your own body? You have been bought, and at what a price! Therefore bring glory to God both in your body and your spirit, for they both belong to him.

This is the key to learning God's ways—

to learn the power within us—for every facet of life's crucial decisions.

In Matthew, Jesus warns us about understanding our role...

Matthew 7:21-23 (MSG) Knowing the correct words — saying 'Master, Master,' for instance—isn't going to get you anywhere with me. What is required is serious obedience—doing what my Father wills. I can see it now—at the Final Judgment thousands strutting up to me and saying, 'Master, we preached the Message, we bashed the demons, our God-sponsored projects had everyone talking.' And do you know what I am going to say? 'You missed the boat. All you did was use me to make yourselves important. You don't impress me one bit.'

I have said many times... "God is as interested in doing something IN us,

as he is in doing something THROUGH us."

Q.—How do we spot a false teacher? By the doctrine they teach ?

No! A false teacher can teach basic doctrines.

A.—By the fruit in their lives—day in and day out.

The Pharisees told Jesus they were children of Abraham. Jesus said "No....If you were Abraham's children you would do what Abraham did. But you are doing the things that the devil tells you to do." He went on...

In the John 8:31-47 passage (selected)... **Jesus said to the people who believed in him, "You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings."** But to so-called believing Jews He said... **"If God were really your Father," replied Jesus, "you would have loved me. For I came from God, and I am here. I did not come of my own accord—he sent me, and I am here. Why do you not understand my words? It is because you cannot hear what I am really saying. Your father is the devil, and what you are wanting to do is what your father longs to do. And it is because I speak the truth that you will not believe me. The man who is born of God can hear these words of God and the reason why you cannot hear the words of God is simply this, that you are not the sons of God."**

What was Jesus looking for in their lives? Fruit!

It is the same fruit He looks for in our lives—the fruit of the Spirit! (Galatians 5)...

love

joy

peace

patience

kindness

goodness,

faithfulness

gentleness

self-control

Good fruit is manifested when we choose to yield to the indwelling Spirit in those times when we are confronted with a choice.

Yielding to Him! — ONE OF THE THINGS THAT WE CAN DO OURSELVES!