

The New You, pt.6, 8.10.08

Dead and Alive

Rom.6.6-8

Intro

1. Flatten, p.47f. Story of pulling barge from the mud. Through our own efforts we will remain mired down in sin. When we were united with Christ, the power of His life lifted us out of the mire & set us free.
2. There's a shift from dying with Christ to living with him, but there's also a repetition b/c Paul is trying to ground the people in truth.
3. Review - liberated from the old nature, body of sin & power of sin.

Verse 8

“we died with Christ” similar to “when he died, he died once...” This is in the aorist tense which means a once for all time.

“live with him” - this is a present and continuous life. It's eternal life now. We didn't personally participate in His death, but we do personally participate in the reality of his eternal life. We get Jesus' kind of life now.

A life filled with joy, purpose, hope, power, love and truth. You have the mind of Christ now, you have the same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead now, you have the Father's love now!!! The Trinity overshadows, undergirds, and instills you with the love of the Father, the mind of Christ and the power of the Spirit, NOW!

Illustr - Picture the image of Christ after his resurrection...what is that image on - picture, painting? No, you're looking into a mirror. You have Jesus' kind of life now.

Verse 9f

“we are sure of this” – we are sure that we will live Jesus’ kind of life, b/c he rose never to die again.

What is true of Christ is now true of me, b/c I was in Christ at his death, burial & resurrection. Death & sin have lost their power over me. My body will die, but my spirit lives on.

“he will never die again...he died once to break the power of sin.” – v.8 comment. You cannot keep letting past sins & mistakes affecting your relationship with God. Jesus died for them and they are gone. Christ isn’t going to die again for your failures and sins. No matter how bad it was, he died for it and you died to it. It has lost its power in your life.

III. – Quit playing with the dead dog (see yourself playing with a dead dog in the middle of the street & you drag it into your house). Every time you dwell on that past sin that you committed or was done to you, you are playing with a dead animal. Christ died for it and you were in Christ. Therefore, you died to it. It holds no power over you. Let go of it. It’s putrid smell is killing you. And every time, you say I don’t feel God’s forgiveness or I’m not worthy of his forgiveness or God can’t forgive me, it’s like you’re resuscitating that dead dog and that decaying, rotting smell is coming out of your mouth. You are trying to give life to something that is DEAD!

God says that sin, failure, lifestyle etc has no more power over you. He died for it and you died to it. He wiped you clean and demolished sins authority over you and he made you completely new. **YOU HAVE TO BELIEVE THE WORD & QUIT BELIEVING THE LIES OF THE ENEMIES.** It doesn’t matter if you feel it

Illust – from Susan Moore. Devil taking our grave clothes and making them come back to life. He gives them to us. We put them on as though they still have power over us. There are not only forgiven, but the power behind them has been abolished...painful memories, regrets, condemnation, etc has been broken.

If you keep bringing up the past, you are saying, “Jesus, you need to die for my sins again, b/c what you did the first time wasn’t good enough...I still don’t feel forgiven...your death wasn’t powerful enough to break sin’s authority over my life.”

Our union with Christ establishes the reality that what is true of Christ is now true of me. The Bible is the Voice of God. YOU HAVE TO BELIEVE WHAT HE SAYS OVER WHAT YOUR MEMORY, EXPERIENCE, OTHERS & THE DEVIL SAYS. THIS IS DEEP REPENTANCE/RENEWAL OF THE MIND.

What about those who say, “If that’s true, then I’ll just sin all the time...do what I want...” No you won’t, Rom.6.1f. You died to sin.1 John 3.6, 8–9. A true child of God will not stay in sin. They will be miserable and experience God’s discipline. They may remain in it for a time, but it will drive them insane. They will want out.

V.11

“so you also should consider yourselves” = KJV “reckon” – this is a bookkeeping term, which means to “count it as true” or “the money has already been placed in the bank.” The life you’ve always wanted is now available – a life free of sin’s power and filled with God’s power is now here. This isn’t a experiential term but a factual one. You are completely new. This is irregardless of how you feel!

Illustration – Someone sends you a note that they put money in your bank account. You are thrilled. You thank the person, but you get busy and don’t check the account. You then forget. You see the person again a week later & go through the whole routine, but still forget to check. You’re grateful and you know the person loves you and probably put in several thousand dollars. You know you have enough to cover your bills, but you never check until the bank statement arrives. Your friend put \$100 million dollars into your account. You are a multi-millionaire, but

you were one week earlier and didn't know it. You didn't feel like you were a millionaire either, but you were.

Reckon it. The money is in the bank. You are dead to sin & alive to God. What is true of Jesus is now true of me.

“dead to sin & alive to God” – we are dead and alive. It used to be that we were dead to God & alive to sin, but now the great reversal.

“dead to the power of sin” – doesn't mean you won't sin or be tempted by it or you won't battle it. You will. It means it has lost its control over your life. You are back to where Adam & Eve were in the Garden of Eden in relation to sin & God.

When sin comes knocking, you “reckon”. You count on it as true. You aren't going to be controlled by this thing.

“alive to God” b/c of your union with Jesus.

What does it mean to be alive to Christ?

1. I am an object of God's love – Eph.1.4. We are set apart and completely blameless. I am fully loved and accepted by God.

Who does God love the most? Is it Jesus? If you think the Father loves the Son more than he loves you, then you are deceived. John 17.23.

2. I can experience His love (Eph.3.16–18)

3. I have access today into the presence of God (Heb.4.14–16)

4. His life is in my life & my life is in Him (John 15)

5. He is perfecting His purposes in my life (Phil.1.6)

Illustration – How the Father views us. You had a child and every morning (6:30 – 7:30) when you awakened the child, she would be lethargic and then energetic...get off task...get focused...sometimes you had to

discipline, encourage, etc. She has chores to do and sometimes she does good & other times not so good. At 7:30 – everything changes. The child is joyfilled, focused, energetic, great student, respectful, obedient, and the same when she returns home. It's that way every day. The other thing you know about this child from divine revelation is she will grow up to be a great person – character, love – and do great things – mother, philanthropist, doctor. If you knew these things and you knew that at 7:30 AM every morning that child would break off the old & live out her destiny, how would you view her & treat her from 6:30 – 7:30? You would be patient, kind & you would tolerate some of the attitude & lethargy, b/c you know the full story. You would be so proud of that child. You would sing over her & dance with her...Depending upon your age, it's between 6:30 – 7:29 for you in this room. It's not a performance based love, b/c his love remains the same all throughout your life.