

### **Three Keys to Victory** ***Romans 6:8 - 14***

*<sup>8</sup>Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup>For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. <sup>10</sup>The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. <sup>11</sup>In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. <sup>12</sup>Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. <sup>13</sup>Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. <sup>14</sup>For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.*

**Paul revealed a manifesto of freedom in Christ in today's Bible lesson. There is wonderful contrast in verse 8 between dying and living. If we die with Christ, then we have the assurance we will live again. Scripture teaches that Christ died to satisfy the penalty for sin and to give us victory over sin's power. For the Christian, the joy comes in dying only once so we may truly live twice. First, we live in Christ in this world. And we live with Christ in the world to come. But for those who have not come to Christ, they will die once and then be banished for all eternity. They will die at the end of life and they will be cast away from and out of the presence of Christ for eternity. Note that the Bible does not teach that those who die apart from Christ simply remain dead. The Bible teaches that those who die without Christ spend eternity separated from Him in Hell.**

**Paul taught in Romans that we are to bury the old life we have now that has been stained and tainted by sin (verse 11). David Jeremiah wrote that "God's purpose for us goes beyond our initial response to His offer of grace and forgiveness. His desire is that we may become in practice what He has already declared us to be in position." Our "position" is in Christ. Our presence in Christ enables us to experience freedom through Him. There is power for living Christ-like lives. Verse 11 gives us two theological commands...count yourself dead to sin and count yourself alive to God in Christ Jesus. To be dead to sin is to recognize its danger and the choice you have in rejecting all that is evil. To be alive to God is to acknowledge what the Lord has done for you and what you can achieve through faith in Him.**

**Verse 12 reminds us of an old adage. Often some less than desirable company may come to see you and stay so long that it seems they have moved in more than just come for a visit. Paul teaches us not to allow sin to remain in your life for so long that it has taken up residence. Recognize it, renounce it and repent of it. The word "reign" in verse 12 implies "power, control, domination**

or to hold sway.” Someone has suggested that the reference to reign implies the way a strong wind can move a flag in a steady direction. The reign of sin can control one’s actions and hold sway over the directions one chooses to follow.

We are reminded of Jesus’ teaching that we cannot serve two masters effectively. We must choose the Lord we will serve and allow His way to become ours (see Matthew 6:24 and 7:13-14). The word “offer” appears at least three times in verse 13. “Offer” has to do with the human will or the human intention. The closer we draw to Christ, the greater is His authority over our lives, hearts and minds; and the more that we will bring our will or intention in line with His divine purposes and plans. In verse 13, we also learn the motivation for “offering” ourselves to the Lord. Our motivation is our remembrance of what Christ has done for us. We always live in the view and shadow of the cross. Because Christ has died for us, we are called to live for Him.

The expression “instruments of righteousness” teaches us that we are to practice God’s ways as we live. We are to express and live out things that are good and righteous. David Jeremiah wrote *“according to Paul, our old man has died! We have a new master who has awakened us to a new life and love. Let us acknowledge that the old man has died and let us live to our new Master.”*

#### Applications . . .

1. Ask the Lord to heighten your awareness of sin in your life so you can take the appropriate steps to deal with it.
2. Memorize Romans 6:11. Recite this verse enough times so you know it by memory.
3. Determine at least three ways that you will “offer” yourself to the Lord in the upcoming week.