

Glen Park Gospel Church
Tuesday Evening Bible Study Group Notes

Rev Chris Trinham

Studies in Romans Series 4

No 11

Series 4. Living in the Spirit
Our Part In God's Provision

Scripture Reading: Romans 6:12-23

Key Verse: *Sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace. Romans 6:14*

The Greek is *Mh; ou\n basileuev tw* which in English is 'Not therefore reign as king'. This verb is third person singular, it refers to 'you' as an individual. It is in the present tense, therefore it is happening now. It is active and imperative. It is something you are commanded to do. Can anything be more emphatic, more dramatic. What is it we are commanded to do? Read the verse in full:

Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Romans 6:12 NIV The action we are called to is not allowing sin to dominate us.

First, There is the Word 'Therefore'

This instruction is based on the information we considered in our last study, that is, God's way of dealing with past and ongoing sin in our experience as a Christian is our identification with the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ. Not only did Jesus die for us thus removing sin's guilt, but we died in Him, thereby nullifying its power over our lives. Do you have this victory?

Second, Notice That We Are to Act on What We Know.

There is an heresy which teaches, 'let go and let God'. That is salvation is all of grace, there is nothing we can do, there is nothing we need do. Whilst that is wonderfully true in that all we do is through God's grace especially in cases where future outcomes are completely beyond our control, it is also true that God always calls for a response from His people. In almost every area of life God, having given us the victory in His Son, then expects us to exploit that

victory. If we do not, we will live miserable lives of discouragement and defeat. The Christian life is not one of inactivity, nor is it self activity, nor is it some balance between these two. It is rather our response to God's will and power. To the Philippians Paul expressed it: "Work out your own salvation - for it is God who works in you." Philippians 2:12&13.

Third, This is a War, a Conflict Between The Sin and the Spirit.

'Do not let 'the sin' (see last study: that is, the sin of Adam, the sin nature) 'rule as a king'. We learn here that although we are reckoned righteous by the death of Jesus, the old nature, the sin nature, the 'old man', the 'flesh', for it has many names, is not yet dead. That nature has been condemned by God from the beginning, was dealt a death blow at Calvary, but is still active, until we act on what we know.

'Do not let the sin rule.' Our old nature wants to reign over us, to keep its

control over our lives.

But we belong to King Jesus. He died for us and we died in Him. We are commanded to by faith consider our selves 'dead (unresponsive) to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. There is a war going on in you between the old nature and the new, between the sin and the Spirit.

Fourth, The Battlefield is Our Body.

'Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body', says Paul. It is the urges and demands, its actions and reactions that are the instruments of this warfare. See verse 13. The word 'instruments' there was the word for weapons of warfare used by Greeks in classical times. Our body parts, functions, needs and responses may be yielded to the pleasures of self or the worship and service of God. It is this aspect that gives rise to Paul's term 'the flesh'.

Fifth, We Can Give our Body to Serve God or to Serve Sin.

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 Romans 6:13NIV. Sinful desires come from the sinful

nature, not from our body. The body is where the battle takes place. In itself it is neither good nor evil. Self flagellation, the beating of one's body will achieve nothing. Our bodies may be given to one king or the Other. The word 'offer' has a lexical meaning of 'to place beside, put at disposal; to present, make an offering'. Our body is ours to offer, either as the instruments of sin or the instruments of righteousness.

We cannot see an evil nature, but we can understand and yield the members and faculty of our bodies to the Lord. This is very practical.

Finally, Remember the Terms of Our Engagement. Victory is by Grace Through Faith.

When Paul in verse 13 says, 'but rather offer your selves to God', Wuest comments on Paul's choice of grammar for the word 'offer', it is 'in the aorist imperative which commands a once for all action to be done at once.' Paul is saying make an immediate all of life choice. Put your self and your body at God's disposal and 'sin shall not be your master'. This is an act of faith based on the known facts (the Gospel) and in anticipation of expected results - sin shall not be your master.

If a General called for the soldiers of his regiment to parade, they would gather in rank and file before him. They would present themselves and their weapons at his disposal. So it is with us and the Captain of the Lord's host.

Welcome

Glen Park Gospel Church

Lower Road, Eltham North

Sundays 10.30 am

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