

Introduction: God's ways are not our ways. His ways and thoughts are higher than ours; but, He has given us His word. His Word will accomplish His purpose and succeed in the objective for which He sent it. And those who heed His Word will enjoy peace and fruitfulness. (*Isaiah 55*) *** Most people want to have a long life of peace and productivity. But, few people experience this all the time even though there are hundreds of people that claim to have found the way to live a good and a long life. They claim that anyone who buys what they are selling can have what he or she desires by following a few easy steps and continuing to buy what they are selling. *** Job's friend Eliphaz (my God is fine gold) believed a spirit taught him that people need to fear God, seek Him and respond to His healing reproof because 'man is born to trouble as the sparks fly upward' (*Job 4-5*, esp. 5:7). After three friends had counseled Job (hated) he responded, 'Man ... is few days and full of trouble' (*Job 14:1-6*). This is how life feels for many people. *** But, in Moses' last address to God's people before they crossed the Jordan River to possess the land He told Abraham He would give them, he spoke about how to have a long and productive life at least five times. He began, 'You will keep His ... commandments ... that ... you may prolong your days in the land Yahweh your God is giving you for all time'; and, concluded, 'Take to heart all the words ... it is no empty word for you but your very life, and by this word you will live long ...' (*Deuteronomy 4:32-40; 6:1-6; 11:1-12; 30:11-20; 32:44-47*). *** So, God is telling all with ears to hear to listen to what He says in faith, and do what He says in faith, and He will bless His people and give to them collectively long days. But, there is a problem: we are all just broken enough that we need a physician with a strong prescription to save us from ourselves. *** In our passages this morning, the apostle Paul is teaching the churches in Rome that the way to have a new life of righteousness before God is first of all to die. What he means is that we all need to die to sins with The Messiah Savior, Christ Jesus. As a result of our death with Him to sin we will receive resurrected life and His righteousness as a gracious gift. *** The sentence Jesus spoke about service to masters is a challenge to all people, especially Americans in a culture saturated in materialistic consumerism. Each individual can only serve God in love and faithfulness, or reject God and despise Him and His ways in favor of self-centered consumerism that leads to destruction. *** Let's pray that as we go deeper we will commit to serve God out of love to Him.

I. Do not remain in sin and ignorance, but die with The Messiah to sin in order to live in His righteousness.

(*Romans 6:1-7*)

A. Those baptized into Messiah were buried with Him in His death to live in newness of life. (*Verses 1-4*)

1. Then what will we say? May we remain in sin so grace may abound? (*Verse 1*)

Rhetorical questions: Paul has just discussed God's grace toward sinners IN His Son. He now asks two questions.

Grace and sin: Should we continue to sin? Will God's grace abound to us if we still sin?

2. May it never be! (*Verse 2a*)

NO way: The apostle answers his questions in the strongest possible language: No way! Altogether this phrase occurs fifteen times. The first time is when Jesus told the parable of the tenants of a vineyard who disrespected the owner and even killed his son. The hearers responded to the parable with the same words: May it never be! (*Luke 20:1-19*)

3. Everyone who has died to sin, how will we still live in it? (*Verses 2b-c*)

We died to sin: The apostle Paul again asks: all of us who have died to sin (with Jesus) how can we still live in it? The answer should be: we cannot!

4. Or, are you being ignorant that as many as we were baptized into Christ Jesus (Messiah-Savior) into His death we were baptized. (*Verse 3*)

Baptized into His death: Going under water, the beginning of baptism, signifies death: Death to sin with Jesus on His Cross.

5. Therefore, we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that even as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of The Father, in this way also, we in newness of life may be walking. (*Verse 4*)

Christ raised from dead: The resurrection of Messiah changes everything. If we share in His death to sin, we will share in His resurrected life.

Result for us: And it is a new way of living and conduct. By God's grace, IF we died with Christ we will live with Him and as He lived.

Life only comes from dying to sin IN Christ

B. For IF we have been with Him in His death, also in His resurrection we will be SO the body of sin may be destroyed in order to have been made righteous. (*Verses 5-7*)

1. For IF we have been closely associated with the likeness of His death, also of resurrection we will be. (*Verse 5*)

Restatement: Paul restates the amazing truth that those who die to sin with Christ will also partake of His resurrection life.

2. Knowing this, that our old man has been crucified with Him SO might be destroyed the body of sin that no more we to being enslaved to the body of sin. (*Verse 6*)

Purpose-result: All who are in The Savior by faith are always knowing they have been crucified with Him to sin SO might be destroyed the body of sin and they no longer serve sin. This is God's will for all people in His Son.

3. Because the one having died has been made righteous from sin. (*Verse 7*)

Life of righteousness: This is the most wonderful gracious trade God ever offered to people: Christ takes our sin in return for making us righteous IN Him! (*2 Corinthians 5:21*). If we died with Him, we will live in His righteousness!

Life only comes from dying to sin IN Christ

II. We must die with Messiah-Savior to sin and offer ourselves to God as righteous instruments, shunning wealth for its own sake. (*Romans 6:8-14; Matthew 6:24*)

A. IF we died with Messiah, we are believing we will also live with Him to God. (*Verses 8-10*)

1. But, IF we died with Christ, we are believing that we will also live together with Him, having known that Christ having been raised from the dead, He is no more dying. (*Verses 8-9a*)

Dying with: The first step in having eternal, abundant and meaningful life is to die with Christ.

Faith to life: And, we must also believe that because He rose from the dead, IF we are united with Him, so will we have His life – by faith.

Life only comes from dying to sin IN Christ

2. Death is having no more power over Him because He died, to sin once He died; but, He is living, He is living to God. (*Verses 9b-10*)

No more power of death: Death is in no way ‘lord’, having power over Jesus Christ, Messiah-Savior.

Unique: He only had to die once, and His unique death made all the difference!

B. We must also count ourselves dead to sin but alive to God in The Savior, offering ourselves as instruments of righteousness. (*Verses 11-14*)

1. Likewise also you all must consider yourselves to be dead indeed to sin; but, living to God IN Christ Jesus. (*Verse 11*)

Sphere: There is only one Person IN Whom we can be fully dead to sin and alive to God: Christ Jesus the King and Savior of all who receive Him by faith.

2. Therefore, sin must not rule in the mortal body of you all in order to listen to the lusts of it. (*Verse 12*)

Like Christ: Death is not lord and master of Christ and sin must not be king of His people. The way to be like Christ, and not subject to sin and death, again is to be fully IN Him.

3. Neither must you all offer your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin. (*Verse 13a*)

Church: This is primarily talking about individual members of a church not yielding to sin and unrighteousness, but could also be understood as individual members keeping their whole body clean.

4. But, you all must offer yourselves to God, as from the dead, living; and, your members as instruments of righteousness to God. (*Verses 13b-c*)

Offering: Members of a church must offer themselves to God rather than sin and unrighteousness.

The word for offering is the word Paul used later when he wrote, ‘present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God (*Romans 12:1*).

Resurrection: And the offering is as those who have been resurrected with Christ to a righteous life after having died to sin with Christ.

Living to God IN righteousness: After people die to sin with Jesus and IN Jesus, they are given grace to live to God in the righteousness of faith.

Life only comes from dying to sin IN Christ

5. Because sin no longer has power over you all, because you all are no longer being under the instruction of the Torah only, but under grace. (*Verse 14*)

Grace: Grace is a gift, the gift God gave to people IN His Son, The Savior and King of kings.

C. CODA: People are not able to serve two masters, especially God and materialistic consumerism. (*Matthew 6:24*)

1. No one is being able two masters to serve: because either the one he will hate and the other he will love. (*Verses 24a-b*)

Assertion: Every person in authority is different and treats those under him or her differently.

Reason: Human nature being what it is, if there are two masters, servants will have a favorite. So people will be much more devoted to one master over another. Everyone will give more service to one or the other, never both.

2. Or, to the one he will hold fast and the other he will despise; you all are not being able to serve God and ‘mammon’. (*Verses 24c-d*)

Result: The result is a servant will choose one master to steadfastly serve while despising the other.

Conclusion: Jesus concludes that people must choose to serve either God or ‘mammon’. In America today ‘mammon’ is our obsession with consuming material goods. There can be no satisfaction apart from a right relationship with God through Jesus. But people who do not know Jesus will be taken in by sophisticated advertising to think that they can buy satisfaction in this or that. But whatever it is people buy, after they consume it, they are empty. So they buy the next big thing marketed to them as providing the satisfaction they crave. These people will forever be spiritually malnourished.

None like God: This is because there is no one like God. He is The One who created us and has provided The Way to be in a Covenant relationship with Him through the work of His Son on earth two thousand years ago.

Jesus is saying to have a satisfied life we must value His Father, God, as our greatest treasure.

God is the greatest treasure

Conclusion: Those who die with The Messiah to their sins will live in righteousness and offer themselves to God as righteous instruments. And, they will shun slavery to materialistic consumerism and wealth acquisition to serve God in love.

Life only comes from dying to sin IN Christ