

The Book of Romans - Part 23

Our study in the book of Romans has taken us, so far, in chapter 6, and we're going to start today in verse 8. We left off there last time in verse 8.

I made a statement the last time that I know you. Maybe I need to explain that a little further. There's no way I can see you. There's no way I can tell if you're listening personally to this radio program, but what I mean is that I know you in the sense of prayer. I pray for this program and I pray for those who listen, and I'm praying for you that, if you do not know Jesus as your Savior, you will trust Him as your Savior. Ask Him to come into your heart.

I pray for you who do know Jesus as your Savior, and I'm praying for you for strength that you will be able to serve the Lord the way He wants you to serve Him. And that's what I mean by knowing you. But you know, God knows you. He knows who you are; He knows where you are, and that's the important thing. He is the One Who is all in all. And that's what I'm praying, that God will have the preeminence as we study the Word of God together on this program, "It's a Good Life." And it is a good life knowing Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

The last time we left off in Romans 6:8, and let's go back there just a moment and recap just a little. In verse 8, it says, **Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him.** Having died with Christ, we will live with Him, and of course, as we read the last time, this is a future event that's going to take place with each of us knowing Jesus as our Savior. In I Thessalonians 5:10, it says, **Who died for us... This is Jesus... that, whether we wake or sleep...** And that word "sleep"

means being dead, whether we're alive or dead... **we should live together with him.**

The Bible teaches us that there's coming a time when the Lord is going to say, "Come up hither," and the dead in Christ shall rise first. That's those people who have gone on. That's those who are sleeping. **Whether we wake...** and that's us who are alive. It says we which are alive shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to be with the Lord forever. Wherefore comfort one another with these words, and that's what I Thessalonians 5:10 is saying, **who died for us... Jesus... that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.**

In II Timothy 2:11, it says, *It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him.* In other words, we died with Christ. Once we've trusted Him as our Savior, it's saying we have died with Him, and we are going to live with Him physically one day because He gave His life for us and because we recognized Him as our Savior at one time in our lives, and we've asked him to come into our heart, and therefore, we're on our way to Heaven and we're on our way to meet Him in the clouds. If He would come back today, we would go to be with Him.

Notice the first part of verse 9 now, in chapter 6, **Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more.** We know that Christ was raised from the dead, and He will never die again. Death has no more dominion, according to the other part of that verse. It says, **Death hath no more dominion over him.** Death does not have power over Christ, and because it does not have power over Christ, it does not have power over us. That means that, once again,

spiritually we're going to live with Him forever, spiritually and in a body. Not this body, but the body that we're going to have that is fashioned like His.

In I Peter 3:22, it says, ***Who is gone into heaven... That's Jesus... and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him.***

Hebrews 10:12 says, ***But this man... That's Jesus... after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God.***

Then, in Romans 8:34, we'll see this later, ***Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.***

Now, of course, Romans 6:10 in the first part of that verse, it says, ***For in that he died, he died unto sin once....*** Christ did die. He died once.

In Hebrews 7:27, it says, ***Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself.***

Jesus Christ died for your sin. He died for my sin. And we need to appropriate that today. If you've never done that, you need to ask Him to save you. You need to say, "Lord, I know You died for me and I'm asking You to come into my heart." Jesus died on the cross. He didn't die for His own sin, because He had no sin. He was perfect. He died for the sins of the people of this world, and if you've never trusted Him as your Savior, you need to do that today. And if you are saved, you need to realize that it's Jesus Christ Who died for

your sins. And I know you know that, because you've trusted Him. You've asked Him to come into your heart, and, therefore, you need to be living for Him.

Hebrews 9:12 says, ***Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood... This is Jesus... he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.***

Hebrews 10:10 says, ***By the which will we are sanctified... set apart... through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.*** It's once. It happens one time when we ask Jesus into our hearts when we get saved. It's one time. We don't have to keep going back and begging God to save us after we've asked Jesus into our heart. Jesus died once. You get saved once. Jesus is not going to come down from Heaven again and die on that cross for your sins. He's already done that. You're saved once you ask Jesus into your heart.

Now, notice the rest of verse 10 in chapter 6 of Romans. It says there, ***But in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.*** Now, because Christ lives, He lives for God the Father, and we also need to be living for God the Father. Acts 4:10 says, ***Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole.*** A healing had taken place there. Acts 13:30 says, ***But God raised him from the dead.*** Jesus Christ was raised from the dead, and because he lives, you and I can live.

Notice with me now verses 11-12 of chapter 6 of Romans: ***¹¹Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. ¹²Let not sin therefore***

reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.

This means just as or likewise Christ died once for sin, we need to reckon or realize that we are dead to sin but alive for God because of Jesus. And we should not let sin reign or hold power over our bodies.

Now look with me in verses 13-14. It says there, ***Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.*** Instead of letting sin have dominion or control over our bodies, doing wrong, we need to yield or surrender ourselves to God. And the Bible says there that sin shall not have dominion over you. In other words, it shall not reign in your life, make you the victim of its remorse and its penalties. And verse 14, the first part of that verse, says, ***For sin shall not have dominion over you... and notice... for ye are not under the law, but under grace.*** We are not dependent upon having fulfilled the law for salvation but upon grace. That is, God's mercy.

Christians are not under the law as legalists or as attempting to be justified by it. People are to seek a different plan of justification altogether, and they are not to attempt to be justified by their own obedience to the law or works. The Jews were legalists but could not keep the law. No one is saved from sin through the law by doing good works or whatever you want to call it, by trying to do good in order to go to Heaven. No way. The only way that a person goes to Heaven is through Jesus Christ. He said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life and no man comes to the Father but by me."

Notice this... we should be servants to God, and this is what Paul is trying to get the people at Rome that he's writing to here and keep this in mind. This is also for us as saved people. We should be living for the Lord. We should be servants to God.

Notice with me if you would in verse 15 of chapter 6. The Bible says there, ***What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? Paul says, God forbid.*** In other words, do we have a license to sin because we are under grace? Because we are saved? Absolutely not. This does not give us a license to sin. And in verse 16 it says, ***Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?***

What Paul is saying here is, realize that, whether you choose to yield yourself to sin or yield yourself to righteous obedience, you will be the servant to one or the other. I don't know about you, but I'd rather be obedient to God than unto sin. I want to serve my Savior. I want to serve my Heavenly Father, and I pray that that is your goal in life, as well, after asking Jesus to come into your heart.

Thank God, you were slaves, Paul said. Notice in Romans 6:17-18, ***But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.***

What's Paul saying? "Thank God," he says. "You were the slaves of sin but because you listened to sound doctrine, to teaching brought to you, you became moral servants doing what is right. This is a testimony for these people. How's your testimony today?"

Are you living for Him? Are you serving Him? If you've trusted him as your Savior, you need to do what Paul is saying here. You need to give yourself to God wholly and to do what He wants you to do. If you've trusted him as your Savior, you need to live like it. You need to act like it. You need to let Him have control over what you do.

And if you've never been saved, if you've never trusted Jesus as your Savior, you can't do these things, because you have not passed from death unto life, because you've never trusted Jesus as your Savior. The Bible says whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. If you believe that Jesus Christ came into this world, He lived and died, He was crucified, buried, and resurrected, and that He is the Son of God, ask Him to come into your heart, and the Bible says that He will save you.

If you'd like to know more about being saved, knowing Jesus as your Savior, write to me, Lewis Woodard 497 Judith Avenue, Fruitland Park, FL 34731. Write to me and I'll send you information on how you can make sure of Heaven, that you can know absolutely beyond a shadow of a doubt that you are on your way to heaven.

It's been good being with you once again, and let me invite you to join me as you hear me say once again it is a good life. May the Lord bless you richly is my prayer.