

‘Immersing yourself saturated in the Exodus life of obedience’

Romans 6:12-14

Summary

We left off with the the command to see that we are dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus (vs 11). We are to see that, through our baptism, we are united with Christ in such a way that we are no longer subject to, and mindless to the ruling of sin and death. This should encourage us and empower us to take the next step: to pick up our cross and follow.

Verses 12-14 give us two more commands and restates the fact mentioned above. First, as you are dead to sin, choose not to present yourselves to sin so that sin uses your members as instruments of wickedness. Just like the kingdom of God that we belong to, which is present and coming, our freedom from sin is present and coming. We are freed, but we must choose to practice that freedom, and we are empowered through the Spirit (which speaks to us directly and through community) to not sin. Secondly, as we are alive to God, we are to choose to present ourselves to God as instruments of righteousness. We still have to actively choose to do the good thing. Both of these commands are summed up in the Lenten call to put down a bad habit and take up a good one. Finally, there is the restatement of the facts which serves as a promise to embolden our efforts: ‘For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.’

One scholar put it best this way: we are to understand this in the military sense. Another way of translating ‘instruments’ or ‘tools’ or ‘weapons.’ We are not in the army of sin, where sin and death reign together, and we must obey their commands in our members. We are in the army of grace and life, must choose to obey the commands of God in our members. The war is won, but we must choose to fight every battle with the grace and dignity of the one we serve; becoming more and more like God through our practicing.

We have been united with Christ in his death and resurrection, and we must work to follow him in our daily lives. We must use our members (our tongue, our hands, our feet, our ears, our eyes, etc) in a way that glorifies Christ and not sin

and certainly not our own egos. We are free to do better and be better; now we must take up our cross and follow.

Questions

1. If you are comfortable to do so, name a time when you knew that you were under the reign of sin; that sin reigned in your members?
2. When you moved from death to life, under the reign of grace, how did you first know it in yourself? How did others see it in yourself?
3. What ways are you struggling to be an instrument of righteousness, that you still are an instrument of wickedness? Is it a specific member (i.e. tongue, hands, etc) or is it an over all attitude?
4. How can the group pray for you and help you in this area?
5. In submitting to grace and dying to sin, we can loose friends and family as are either forced to leave them behind on the journey or they refuse to come with us. In the Body of Christ, you have a new family and new friends who will be there for you and with you on the journey. Find a fellow Christian this week who will pray with you; who will pray for you and you will pray for them.