

ROMANS 6:11,

"Likewise (even so) reckon ye also yourselves to be dead (indeed) unto sin, but alive unto God through (in) Jesus Christ our Lord (Christ Jesus)."

INTRODUCTION

We should observe that the starting-point in this verse is not something at which we are to aim. It is a fact:

1. Which has already happened
2. Over and over it is stated that we have died; and that we died with Christ.

OUR PRIMARY DUTY

1. Is the duty of believing that we have died with Christ and are therefore dead to sin.
2. Failure to believe this explains why some are living in a constant succession of failures so that they never improve but continue to live in sin.
3. It is our duty to reckon (by faith) and really believe that in Christ Jesus we are both dead to sin and alive to God. That is what our verse says! Do we believe it?

FOUR THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER

1. Reckon
2. Dead unto sin.
3. Alive unto God
4. In Christ Jesus

WE CONSIDER FIRST:

*To count up, estimate the character of a person 1836 A.D.*

1. RECKON (verb-transitive)

1. RECKON means to consider, regard, to count. Example: "To reckon him prosperous."
2. RECKON sometimes means to attribute, to conclude,
3. RECKON dialectially means to think, suppose, guess.

4. Let us RECKON, CONSIDER, THINK ON some facts. Notice the use that Paul makes of the word WITH:

1. Verse 6 he states that "our old man is crucified with him."
2. Verse 8 he says that we "died with him."
3. Verse 4 he says that "we are buried with him by baptism into death."
4. Verse 8 he says "Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him."

5. So, let us RECKON by faith (if we believe) that in Christ Jesus we are both dead to sin and alive unto God through Christ Jesus. We should remember:

1. That Paul addressed these words to those "that had been buried with him by baptism in to death" and those who therefore had "been planted together in the likeness of his death," that they might "be also in the likeness of his resurrection." V 4-5.

2. DEAD UNTO SIN (Dead to sin - - Dead in sin) What does it mean to be "dead to sin?"

1. "Dead to sin" means to be indifferent to the attractiveness of sin; beyond the reach of sin's influence. Sin has no more dominion over you.
2. As the dead man in the natural sense has nothing more to do with earthly things, so he that is "dead to sin" has no more to do with sin's attractions or with sinning itself.

Examples:

1. Think about how still, how unmoved, how irresponsive the dead are!
2. Let the master shout at his slave's dead body: not a finger stirs to obey his orders.
3. Fill the dead hand with gold: the fingers will not close upon it.
4. Set around the dead the things that a few hours ago made his eye glitter and his pulse quicken: now he is beyond them all, they are meaningless to him.
5. The most passionate kiss that love places on the face of the dead: brings no response; no returning embrace.
6. DEAD TO SIN. alive to what is good: truth, justice, honor, Christian living and irresponsive to the appeals of sin.

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1. Worship  
2. Prayer  
3. Singing  
4. Scripture  
5. Offering

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5. Worship

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3. ALIVE UNTO GOD

(What does it mean to be alive unto God?)

1. To "die to sin" is the necessary preliminary to the NEW LIFE in Christ. So to be alive unto God means that we must first "die to sin."
2. To be "Alive unto God" means then,
  1. That a man must direct all his energies and engage all his faculties in service to God.
  2. That man who is alive unto God:
    1. Is dead to the old life of sin, for our "old man" has been crucified with him." V. 6  
The old life has become a thing of the past.
    2. The poor man who needs help will not be knocking on a tombstone when he knocks for help at the door of the man who is "alive unto God."
    3. It is not necessary to feel the pulse, or hold a mirror to the mouth and nose of the man who is "alive unto God" to tell whether or not he is alive.
    4. That he is "alive unto God" will be seen in the brightness of his vision, the activity of his step, and in the force and helpfulness of his hand. But we ask, where is all this abundant life? And that brings us to number four:

4. IN CHRIST JESUS

1. Romans 6:3; "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death."

AN ILLUSTRATION

"A sheep and a sow may each fall into the same quagmire; but the sow will wallow and delight in it, while the sheep will bleat piteously, until she is extricated and cleansed from the filth of the quagmire."

1. It is not possible for the Christian to habitually and continually live in the quagmire of the world. See 2 Peter 2:21, 22

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WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE ALIVE UNTO GOD?

1. To be "alive unto God" means that we must first "die to sin."
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IN CHRIST ALIVE

1. Know ye not, that so many of us were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

AN ILLUSTRATION

A sheep and a cow may each fall into the same pasture; but the cow will follow and delight in it, while the sheep will bleat pitifully, until she is exhausted and cleaved from the flock of the pasture.

It is not possible for the Christian to continually and continually live in the pasture of the world.

See 2 Peter 3:11-13

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GOD'S OWN LOVE      Romans 5:8; "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

1. With God, love is the starting point: "While we were yet sinners, God commendeth his love toward us."
  1. I wonder, Do we really know what the word "to love" means?
    1. We love because we discern the object of our love.
    2. Love is like an artesian well that needs no pump or machinery to draw up the sparkling waters to flash in the sunlight.
  2. Like life, love is of many kinds.
    1. There is a love that ennobles and casts a radiance upon life.
    2. There is a love that drags the lover down to the mouth of hell.
    3. There is a love that many waters cannot quench.
    4. There is a love that is disguised lust.
      1. Under the guise of this love the boy may betray the girl, taking from her the virginity that she should carry to the marital altar with her.
      2. Under the guise of this love we go out into the world to commit spiritual adultery.
2. What kind of love is God's own love?
  1. It is a righteous love.
    1. It is that love that has been described as "the mother of all tenderness."
    2. A father loves; and in proportion to his love is his pain when the children of his love go wrong.
  2. It is a self-sacrificing love.
    1. It is a love that thought no sacrifice too great.
    2. The surest test of love is SACRIFICE.
      1. Look at the mother with her child: She sacrifices love and sleep, and many a mother would sacrifice life too for her little one. SHE LOVES HER BABY.
    3. Some one described God's love in the following words: "Love spreads its white wings and flies across the abyss and that flight neither tires nor frightens love."
  3. It is a love for sinners.
    1. "While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."
    2. It was not because of some good thing in me that God first loved me.
    3. It was while I was yet a sinner that he loved me. While I hated him he loved me.
    4. What kind of children does God love? Came back the answer:
      1. Good children, Good children would come back the answer from the little ones in the class.
    5. Does not God love any children but good children; "No, sir" would come back the hearty response from the little children.
      1. "I think that God loves bad children too." Some of them exclaimed with the surprised "OH!" Others would simply stare in bewilderment

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