

“Know, Reckon, and Yield”
Romans 6:1-23

Introduction: Paul seems to change gears as we come to chapter six of Romans. In chapter five, he dealt with justification. Now, in chapter six, Paul addresses our sanctification, which will continue through chapter eight. Someone may ask, “How can I be sanctified when there is sin in my life?” Paul’s response is seen in this chapter as he reveals a family secret concerning the freedom from sin, not to sin. Observe our power when it comes to sin.

1. We have a New Fact Romans 6:7- *“For he that is dead is freed from sin”*
2. We have a New Freedom Romans 6:18- *“Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.”*
3. We have a New Fruit Romans 6:22- *“But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life”*

Body: In this chapter, Paul reveals that justification does not lead one to sin, but to sanctification in their lives. Christ has broken the penalty of sin, and now He reveals how He has broken the power of sin. This understanding will lead to victory in a Christian’s life. The fruit of holiness is produced in their lives as they know, reckon, and yield their lives to the loving master. Notice the threefold secret to triumph in a believer’s life.

- I. Know- “The repetition of the word ‘know’ indicates that Paul wanted us to understand a basic doctrine. Christian living depends on Christian learning; duty is always founded on doctrine. If Satan can keep a Christian ignorant, he can keep him impotent.” (Wiersbe)
 - A. A Knowledge of our Submersion 6:3- *“Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?”*
 1. A Baptism into Deity- *“baptized into Jesus Christ”*
 - a. Baptism implies immersion and identification.
 - b. Immersion is physical and identification is spiritual. John 1:33- *“And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.”*
 - c. “Their immersion was a picture of what the Spirit did: the Holy Spirit identified them with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection.” (Wiersbe)
 2. A Baptism into Death- *“were baptized into his death”* Galatians 2:20
 - a. “The basic truth Paul was teaching is the believer’s identification with Christ in death, burial, and resurrection.” (Wiersbe)

- b. “Just as we are identified with Adam in sin and condemnation, so we are now identified with Christ in righteousness and justification.” (Wiersbe)
 - c. “I am in Christ and identified with Him. Therefore, whatever happened to Christ has happened to me. When He died, I died. When He arose, I arose in Him. I am now seated with Him in the heavenlies!” (Wiersbe)
 - d. Give illustration of John Phillips narrative concerning man late for train. (“It does not feel like six”) (Phillips, page 104)
 - e. Give illustration of John Phillips narrative concerning the turtle that Pat, Mike, and O’Brien discovered. (“It’s dead—but it don’t believe it!”) (Phillips, page 104)
- B. A Knowledge of our Sin 6:6- *“Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.”*
- 1. Our Sin is Crucified- *“our old man is crucified with him”*
 - 2. Our Sin is Cremated- *“that the body of sin might be destroyed”*
 - a. “The word ‘destroyed’ does not mean annihilated; it means ‘rendered inactive, made of no effect’ .” (Wiersbe)
 - b. “Sin wants to be our master. It finds a foothold in the old nature, and through the old nature seeks to control the members of the body. But in Jesus Christ, we died to sin; and the old nature was crucified so that the old life is rendered inoperative.” (Wiersbe)
 - 3. Our Sin is Controlled- *“that henceforth we should not serve sin”*
 - a. “Sin is a terrible master, and it finds a willing servant in the human body.” (Wiersbe)
 - b. “The body is not sinful; the body is neutral. It can be controlled either by sin or by God.” (Wiersbe)
- C. A Knowledge of our Superiority 6:9- *“Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.”*
- 1. Death is Finished- *“Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more”*
 - 2. Death is Feeble- *“death hath no more dominion over him”*
 - a. “Sin and death have no dominion over Christ. We are ‘in Christ’ ; therefore, sin and death have no dominion over us. Jesus Christ not only died ‘for sin,’ but He also died ‘unto sin.’ That is, He not only paid the penalty for sin, but He broke the power of sin.” (Wiersbe)
 - b. We are not free to sin, but freed from sin.
- D. A Knowledge of our Servitude 6:16- *“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?”*

1. The Obedience of a Servant- *“to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey”*
2. The Obligation of a Servant- *“his servants ye are to whom ye obey”*

II. Reckon

A. Reckon our Deadness 6:11- *“Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin...”*

1. “The word reckon is a translation of a Greek word that is used forty-one times in the New Testament—nineteen times in Romans alone.” (Wiersbe)
2. “To reckon means ‘to put to one’s account.’ It simply means to believe that what God says in His Word is really true in your life.” (Wiersbe)
3. “Paul didn’t tell his readers to feel as if they were dead to sin, or even to understand it fully, but to act on God’s Word and claim it for themselves. Reckoning is a matter of faith that issues in action. It is like endorsing a check: if we really believe that the money is in the checking account, we will sign our name and collect the money. Reckoning is not claiming a promise, but acting on a fact. God does not command us to become dead to sin. He tells us that we are dead to sin and alive unto God, and then commands us to act on it. Even if we do not act on it, the facts are still true.” (Wiersbe)

B. Reckon our Deliverance 6:11- *“...but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord”*

C. Reckon our Determination 6:12- *“Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof”*

1. Determined not to Surrender- *“Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body”*
2. Determined not to Submit- *“that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof”*

III. Yield- “Paul’s first instruction (‘know’) centered in the mind, and this second instruction (‘reckon’) focuses on the heart. His third instruction touches the will.” (Wiersbe)

A. The Righteousness of our Yielding 6:13- *“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”*

1. The Vileness of our Yielding- *“Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin”*
2. The Value of our Yielding- *“but yield yourselves unto God”*
3. The Victory for our Yielding- *“as those that are alive from the dead”*
4. The Virtues of our Yielding- *“and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God” Romans 12:1*

- a. “The Bible tells of people who permitted God to take and use their bodies for the fulfilling of His purposes. God used the rod in Moses’ hand and conquered Egypt. He used the sling in David’s hand to defeat the Philistines. He used the mouths and tongues of the prophets. Paul’s dedicated feet carried him from city to city, as he proclaimed the Gospel. The Apostle John’s eyes saw visions of the future, his ears heard God’s message, and his fingers wrote it all down in a book that we can read.”
(Wiersbe)
 - b. “But you can also read in the Bible accounts of the members of the body being used for sinful purposes. David’s eyes looked on his neighbor’s wife; his mind plotted a wicked scheme; his hand signed a cowardly order for the woman’s husband to be killed.” (Wiersbe)
- B. The Results of our Yielding 6:16- *“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?”*
1. Servitude Leads to Rulership- *“Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey”*
 2. Sin Leads to Ruin- *“whether of sin unto death”* Romans 6:23
 3. Submission Leads to Righteousness- *“or of obedience unto righteousness”*
 - a. “If you serve a master, you can expect to receive wages.”
(Wiersbe)
 - b. “Sin pays wages—death! God also pays wages—holiness and everlasting life.” (Wiersbe)
- C. The Reason for our Yielding 6:19- *“I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness”*
1. Our Prior Hopelessness- *“I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh”*
 2. Our Past Habit- *“for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity”*
 3. Our Present Holiness- *“even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness”*

Conclusion: “These three instructions need to be heeded each day that we live. Know that you have been crucified with Christ and are dead to sin. Reckon this fact to be true in your own life. Yield your body to the Lord to be used for His glory. Now that you Know these truths, Reckon them to be true in your life, and then Yield yourself to God.”
(Wiersbe)