

# ***HOW TO REALLY LIVE***

## **ROMANS 6:11-14**

We are to be DEAD TO SIN so we can REALLY LIVE!

*What does that look like?*

- Lazarus is an example of what has happened. **JOHN 11**
- We become fully alive spiritually when we trust in Christ as Savior and Lord, but practically, we are still wrapped up in some of the grave clothes of our old sinful life—**battling to get rid of some residue.**
- It is that continuing battle with sin and Satan that Paul recognizes here in **ROMANS 6:11-14.**

# ***SO WHAT'S THE REAL PROBLEM?***

In **CHAPTER 7**, Paul deals with the believer's battle with the old sinful habits and inclinations.

- Paul does, however, know where the trouble lies, declaring in **CHAPTER 7: AH, IT'S ME!**

Here, Paul answers questions **we still wonder about!**

- If we have really been freed from sin by Christ (**v. 7**), why does it still give us so much trouble?
- If we are now holy before God, why are our lives so often unholy?

# ***THE ANSWER: THREE KEY PRINCIPLES***

## **1. KNOWING**

- The idea is, “**You must count as absolute truth—*KNOW AND FULLY BELIEVE***—what God has just communicated to you, or else what I am about to say will make no sense.”
- The truth that you are ***SPIRITUALLY DEAD TO SIN*** and the reality that you are ***SPIRITUALLY ALIVE TO CHRIST*** are not abstract concepts for your finite minds to attempt to verify.
- They are divinely-revealed ***FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS***.

# HOW DO WE KNOW GOD'S TRUTH?

Scriptural exhortation is always built on scriptural knowledge—by mining the wealth of the Word.

*“Like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; because it is written, ‘You shall be holy, for I am holy.’”* **1 PET. 1:15-16**

- Scripture is replete with specific commands and standards for conduct, and behind all of them are divine truths—explicit or implicit—upon which those commands and standards are founded.
- We must read and **KNOW OUR BIBLES**. The better we **KNOW IT** the better we **KNOW HIM**—so we can be like Him.

## 2. RECKONING OR CONSIDERING THE ACCOUNTING

The second key word, “*consider*,” in its literal sense, *logizomai*, means simply to count or number something; put it in the right column!

- As we look honestly at our lives after salvation, it is more than obvious that sin’s contamination is still very much with us.
- There are a number of reasons believers find it difficult to comprehend that we are now free from sin’s bondage.

# ***WHY DO WE STRUGGLE TO RECKON?***

- The **FIRST** reason Christians often find it hard to believe they are actually free from the tyranny of sin is that Satan does not want them to believe it.
- A **SECOND** reason Christians often find it difficult to believe they are free from sin's compulsion is that the reality of the new birth in Christ is experiential; it is not physically observable or verifiable.
- A **THIRD** and most common reason why Christians find it hard to believe they are freed from sin's tyranny is that their continued battle with sin seems almost constantly to contradict that truth.

# ***TO COUNT IT, YOU MUST BELIEVE IT!***

In other words, these are ***TRUTHS OF FAITH*** and they must be ***AFFIRMED IN FAITH***.

***BECAUSE THE BIBLE SAYS SO***, Christ's righteousness is draped over every believer, protecting him from sin's deadly attacks.

- We can have confidence that with sin's tyranny broken, we *can* successfully resist it in God's power.
- We can have confidence that we cannot simply sin our way out of God's grace.

***All of these things, and many more, are true because we are alive to God in Christ Jesus.***

### 3. ***YIELDING/PRESENTING YOURSELF***

The third key word, ***YIELD***, or ***present*** (**v. 13**), has to do with the human will. **Christians don't have to sin!**

- In this present life, ***SIN*** will always be a powerful force for the Christian to reckon with.
- But ***SIN*** is no longer master, no longer lord, and it can and must be resisted.

***OUR IMMORTAL SOUL IS FOREVER BEYOND SIN'S REACH.***

- The only remaining beachhead where sin can attack a Christian is in our ***MORTAL BODY***.

# ***THE FLESH IS WEAK***

Our mortal bodies are subject to corruption and death. It still has sinful *lusts*—because the brain and the thinking processes are part of the *mortal body*.

- Satan uses those *lusts* to lure God's people back into sin.  
**ROM. 8:22-23; 1 COR. 9:27; ROM. 7:18, 22-23**
- It is obvious that sin can reign in our bodies, else Paul's admonition would be pointless.
- But it is also obvious that sin does not have to reign there, or the warning would be equally pointless.

# ***HOW DO WE REALLY LIVE?***

In **VERSE 14**, Paul changes from admonition to a glorious declaration: ***SIN'S NO LONGER MY MASTER!***

- 1. *KNOW WHO YOU ARE*** by studying His Word; by knowing the Bible, you can know how to be Like Jesus!
- 2. *CONSIDER.*** Do a faithful counting of ***WHAT YOU ARE***; we are alive in Christ, and dead to sin.
- 3.** Then ***YIELD TO WHO AND WHAT HE IS***, so that you will have victory over the ***WORLD***, the ***FLESH***, and the ***DEVIL!***