

The Christian Mindset

(Rom 6:11)

- Remember that Paul is still addressing to objection of antinomianism that he anticipates will be raised by his teaching on the assurance of justification by faith
- I. Paul's 1st exhortation (renewing of the mind)
- A) "Reckon"- Correct thinking must come before correct action
 - 1. Rom 6:12- "Action" follows immediately after and as a result of correct thinking
 - 2. The "logical" order continues from thinking to acting
 - B) "Likewise"- Conclude that what is true of Christ is true of us due to our "union" with Him
 - 1. Again Paul is not asking us to base our thinking on our experience, he is actually telling us just the opposite
 - 2. We are to base our thinking solely on the word of God
 - i. Rom 4:16-21- Example of Abraham
 - ii. Abraham believed in spite of experience and "feelings"
 - iii. Abraham believed it, submitted to it and then acted on it
 - a) Rom 6:17- Mind, will, body
 - 3. We are to keep always in our minds what is our status with God
 - i. Free from bondage and now children of God
 - ii. Rom 6:11- Takeoff point for all our thinking
 - a) Col 3:1-4- Paul's commentary on Rom 6:11
- II. Christ's example
- A) Like Christ, we are free from the rule and realm of sin completely
 - 1. This is the truth the devil works so hard to keep hidden from us
 - B) Like Christ, this change is permanent and never to be repeated
 - C) Therefore, death can have no dominion over me
 - 1. Rom 8:10-11- This is true even though the mortal body will die
 - 2. 2 Cor 4:16- "Outward man perishes, inward man renewed..."
 - 3. 2 Cor 5:1- Our physical body is dissolving
 - i. Gal 2:20- Although all this is true of "me" (old remaining me of the body) none of it applies to "me" (the new spiritual creation of Christ by regeneration)
 - ii. John 11:24-26- Though "he" be dead, yet shall "he" live
- III. Christian "death"
- A) Heb 2:14- If we reckon ourselves dead, we will never be in bondage again to sin in our minds through the fear of death

1. Rom 8:1-4- We have been set free from the “law of sin and death” which reign over every unbeliever
 - i. Sin and death no longer has any dominion (legal right) over us, even though we still have contact with it in our mortal bodies
 - a) This is how a generation of believers will not even have to die
 - 1) Christ has taken the “sting” of death for us and we are now immune
 - B) Saints “sleep” throughout the scripture
 1. The saint of God can never again “taste” death (separation from God) as before
 2. Thus we are said to “fall asleep” physically at death
 - i. 1 Cor 15:51, 1 Thess 4:14, Acts 13:36, John 11:11-13, Dan 12:2
 - ii. We “cross Jordan” on dry ground
 - a) Israel had 2 dry crossings, 1 by blood with Moses to begin and 1 without blood with Joshua to end their journey
 - b) We won’t “taste death” even though we may have to pass through it
 3. Rom 8:38-39- Notice Paul puts death 1st in this list as it is man’s greatest fear
 - i. Even the death of our faculties can’t separate a believer from God
 - a) Read MLJ experience pg. 127
 4. To fear death is sin for a Christian
 - i. We may fear pain or leaving loved ones, but should never fear death itself like the lost do
 - C) Phil 1:20-25- Death is “gain” to the Christian
 1. To be dominated is not “gain”
 2. Sin and death are to be forever changed in our thinking as they are in fact forever changed by our union with Christ
 - i. Christ’s death was gain to Him, although he prayed for those He left
 - ii. His great fear in Gethsemane was separation from the Father, not physical death
 - a) Now that separation is impossible both for Christ and for the believer “in Christ”
- IV. What about a Christian’s sins after new birth?
- A) 1 John 3:9- Believers can never be slaves to either sin or death
 1. We can commit sins as an act of our will as free men, but we can never continue under its dominance again as before
 2. Lost men sin as slaves, they belong to the devil and are doing the only thing they can
 - i. We should always remember this when dealing with the lost

3. When a Christian falls into sin, he still falls in the KOG, and can never be put again into the Kingdom of this present evil world
 - i. Use old example of sinning on a mountain
 - ii. Use example of freed slave reminding himself every morning “I am a free man and not a fool!”
 - a) We always sin as fools
 4. Thus Paul uses the word “yield” in Rom 6:13 (“to offer up as a present”)
 - i. Rom 12:2- The exact opposite is our duty
- B) “Backsliding”
1. The term itself says it all, to slide back is not to fall away forever
 2. Satan attacks us in our sins and causes us to “reckon” wrongly
 - i. The test for the backslider/sinning saint:
 - a) Compare my old attitude in my life of sin to my attitude now when I sin
 - 1) That new attitude is proof of life
 - b) Am I happy in my sins or do they make me miserable afterwards?
 - 1) The lost “professor” returns to sin and enjoys it, and almost feels foolish for ever having abandoned it
 - 2) The saved backslider comes under a sense of guilt and condemnation, hates himself, hates the whole thing and yet may continue on in it
 - (1) Phil 1:6- But if he is saved, he will be restored, because he has new life through a resurrection of his spirit like Christ’s resurrection from the dead