

## Alive Unto God

(Rom 6:11)

- Remember Paul is addressing the objection of antinomianism
  - This is his first exhortation in the epistle and it is concerning our “thinking” in a manner which overcomes the ideas and objections of antinomianism
- I. Rom 6:11- Has both a negative and a positive exhortation, and we must not stop at the negative
- A) “Dead indeed unto sin” (in Christ)= forever removed from its dominion, realm and rule
    - 1. But if we stop in our thinking here, we leave ourselves in a neutral “no man’s land” and are susceptible to the devil’s accusations/subtleties
  - B) “Alive unto God” (in Christ)= forever placed into a new dominion, realm and rule
    - 1. Both of these are true of every single true believer regardless of knowledge, understanding or experience of it
    - 2. “Likewise”- Christ is the pattern
      - i. Christ was “under/in” the realm of the devil in this world, under the Law’s demands and penalty, tempted with sin and subject death
      - ii. Christ is now at the Father’s right hand, returned to glory “under/in” the realm of the Father never to be as He was again
        - a) Eph 1:15-2:10- Now think of yourself
          - 1) Raised with Christ into this new position/realm
          - 2) Now under the power and influence of God’s grace instead of God’s wrath
            - (a) Rom 5:21- Grace more abounds (is stronger/overcomes)
            - (b) Rom 6:4- Christ raised by the “glorious power” of God
          - 3) Thus the true believer is in an entirely new realm and position, no longer under the power of sin and devil, but under a much stronger power of God and His grace
            - (a) John 17:23- God now loves me as He loves Christ!
- II. What does all this mean for the believer?
- A) We are now open to all the blessings of God (Rom 5:2)
    - 1. This is not just “common grace” but “particular grace”
      - i. Eph 1:3- “All spiritual blessings”
        - a) Not just a return to the blessings of Eden, but to Zion’s double portion

- b) Greater even than Adam's relationship, ours is :likewise" to "last Adam's"
    - ii. 2 Pet 1:3- "All things that pertain unto life"
      - a) Whatever is needed without exception
        - 1) \*\*\*How then could we "continue in sin?"
- B) We are now objects of God's concern and part of His eternal purpose in Christ
  - 1. Communion/communication is restored (John 9:31)
  - 2. Rom 8:28- All things now working for good to His eternal purpose
    - i. God's eternal purpose: Eph 1:3-4- Every believer holy and perfected before Him
      - a) Rom 8:29- "Conformed to the image" of Christ
      - b) 1 Pet 1:15-16- "Be ye holy for I am holy"
        - 1) \*\*\*How then could we "continue in sin?"
- C) God's purposes cannot be thwarted
  - 1. We were "born in sin and shapen in iniquity" in bondage to the "strong man"
    - i. But we have been redeemed by the "Stronger man"
      - a) Cut off from the flow of Adam (Josh 3:16)
    - ii. We have been eternally united to that "Stronger man"
      - a) John 15:1-7- Grafted into Christ and receiving of the flow of His Spirit (Rom 6:5)
        - 1) Eph 4:16- Part of the body stimulated and supplied by the Head
          - (a) Just as the body receives all through electrical impulses of the head
        - 2) Phil 4:13- "I can do all things...."
        - 3) John 6:57- Living/feeding on Christ never to die
        - 4) John 4:13-14- Supplied by living water never to thirst
          - (a) The Christian will never lack what is needed to do what God would have them do
          - (b) God the Father is working out His plan in and through the Christian both for Christ and for His body
        - 5) Gal 2:20- Christ liveth in me
        - 6) \*\*\*How could we "continue in sin?"
- D) God's Holy Spirit dwells in the believer
  - 1. Christ received the Holy Spirit for His earthly job "without measure (John 3:34)
    - i. Eph 1:12-21- Believers given the same Spirit by measure to accomplish God's purposes
    - ii. Phil 2:12-13- God worketh in you to His good pleasure/purpose"
    - iii. Eph 3:20-21- The "power that worketh within you"

- a) The Holy Spirit stimulates and guides by God's word, as well as supplies us to perform God's will
  - b) 1 Thess 4:3-4- God's will is our sanctification
    - 1) 1 Pet 1:2- Sanctification of the Spirit
      - (a) For the believer to fail to be sanctified would be a failure of the Spirit of God and thus of the Father
    - 2) \*\*\* How could we "continue in sin?"
- E) Absolute certainty of the completion of God's purpose
- 1. Phil 1:6- "He" (Father) which began the work will complete it
    - i. Men take up a thing, get absorbed into it and consumed with it and then lay it down and pick up another
      - a) Eph 5:25-27- But God has an eternal purpose in Christ
      - b) God's character would be exposed to the ridicule of the devil and sinners if He failed to fully deliver a single child of God
        - 1) This was Moses' argument in Ex 32
        - 2) This is Paul's explanation in Rom 9 about the true "Israel"
        - 3) \*\*\*How could we "continue in sin?"

III. "Alive unto God" means all of the above: in and part of the eternal workings of God

A) How does all of this help me today?

- 1. I need to "reckon it/account it/conclude it"
  - i. I need to get it through my thick head constantly
  - ii. We must change our thinking concerning ourselves and the world so that:
    - a) Sins- If we "reckon" ourselves/position correctly, the next time we fall into sin we will not "fall from grace" in our minds
      - 1) We will not doubt our salvation and begin to plead with God all over for redemption, or to seek new life from the dead
        - (a) As Christ died once and was raised once, so is the believer
          - (1) I died once in Adam and was raised once in Christ
    - b) Feelings- This is true of every believer in spite of their feelings
    - c) Despair- This removes the hopelessness and depression that still attaches to sin, and thus removes sin's "power" over us to render us "helpless" in God's kingdom
      - 1) Sin can seem a power that cannot be overcome when we believe it to be our job to conquer it
      - 2) Satan- the deceiver and accuser plays the part of a bully to the believer to prevent us from standing in the power of the Lord's might
        - (a) 1 John 4:4- Correct thinking/reckoning

- (1) Rev 12:11- Overcome by the blood of Christ and our testimony
- (b) When we realize the truth about our position in Christ, then we begin to feel like a fool for ever fearing the “bully”
  - (1) Why did I allow him to fool me and scare me so?
  - (2) Why did I listen to Him and not the Lord?
- 3) We cannot do our job (Light shining) as Christians if we are depressed, morbid, defeated in mind, pessimistic, sorry for ourselves
  - (a) The human cannot do any job in this condition
  - (b) Neh 8:10- “The joy of the Lord is your strength”
- d) World- The current condition of the world is not the final outcome
  - 1) Neither is the current condition of my flesh the final outcome of “me”
    - (a) Rom 5:2- “We rejoice in hope of the glory (power) of God”
    - (1) Read “A Debtor to Mercy Alone” by Augustus Toplady

#### IV. Christian test

- A) If the professed believer lives to “continue in sin that grace may abound” and is able to do so continually, this is a certain mark of unbelief
  - 1. Heb 12- “Whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth”
    - i. Thus the true believer can expect to be not only convicted of his sins, but begin to be purged of them through lifelong sanctification
      - a) 2 Cor 7:1- “Purge yourselves” willingly or be purged
      - b) 1 John 3:1-3- “Every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself..”
  - 2. As believer we need to change our thinking, and think in terms of relationship to God
    - i. Think in terms of not falling into hopeless despair when I fall rather than in terms of never falling again
      - a) When we do the later, the first fall leads to depression and failure and quitting
      - b) We must think of ourselves as children of the King and under His training and correction