

Instruments of Righteousness

(Rom 6:13)

- Paul is still answering the objection of antinomianism
 - In the larger section beginning at 5:12 of which this chapter is a part, he is teaching the doctrine of union with Christ
- I. “Therefore”- this conclusion stated in v.12 applies equally to v.13-14
- A) Because of our union with Christ:
 - 1. We are not to allow sin to reign over our body (v.12)
 - 2. We are to present our members as tools of God
 - 3. Sin shall not have dominion over us
 - B) These verses in and of themselves fully answer the objection of v.1
 - C) Rom 12:1 and 13:14- Same truth restated
- II. Rom 6:13- Paul gives the negative and the positive
- A) Negative- Don’t yield our members to sin (sin personified by Paul)
 - 1. Terms-
 - i. Yield- “to present”, “to give over” or “to place at one’s disposal”
 - ii. Members- “limbs/parts of the body”
 - a) The “members” include all parts of the mortal man, including the brain, the mind, the thoughts, the emotions, the imaginations, etc.
 - 1) If the devil can’t snare us in body, he will do so by the mind, emotions, and other way
 - (a) 2 Cor 11:3- “Lest by any means...”
 - 2) Paul’s meaning is that we are not to “give over” our members to their natural desires and propensities
 - 3) 1 Cor 9:27- Bring the body into subjection
 - iii. Instruments- “weapon” or “armor”
 - a) Our members are participants in a spiritual war, and we cannot allow them to be used by Satan in his war against God
 - iv. Unrighteousness- Everything contrary and opposed to God
 - a) His rule, His will, His way, His desire, His purposes, etc.
 - 2. Man has been blessed by God with the higher faculties and abilities
 - i. We must not allow these blessings to be used as curses by the devil
 - ii. Col 3:5-9- Mortify your members
 - 3. In many ways, the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil meant this very thing, man became able to use his higher gifts for either
 - 4. Rom 6:17-19- The “members” themselves are not bad, but it is who they are used in service of that determines it

- i. Consider the many gifts of Saul of Tarsus, and the way in which they were used by him before salvation and then after salvation
- ii. Fanny Crosby is another good example (or Jamie)
- 5. Notice Paul uses “members” in the negative, but “yourselves” in the positive
 - i. Because the new creature cannot be used of sin/devil
 - ii. If I have “died unto sin” then I cannot “yield unto sin” (Rom 6:7&11)

B) Positive-

- 1. This is a command, something we are to “do” and not simply to submit to
- 2. The unsaved man cannot do this, and has no “yourself” referred to in the text, or is “alive unto God”
 - i. Thus he can only serve (is enslaved) sin (Eph 2:1-3) and cannot present himself for God’s purposes
- 3. Rom 6:18- “enslaved to righteousness”
 - i. I am bought with a price and all that I am and all I have is His and for His use
 - a) 2 Cor 5:15- No longer live to self but to God
 - b) 1 Cor 6:19-20- “Ye are not your own...”
 - c) Matt 16:24- Deny self and take up cross and follow Christ
- 4. Notice Paul doesn’t stop with simply surrender “self”, but goes on and includes all our “members”
 - i. This is the New Testament way of sanctification, the believer has an active and ongoing part
 - ii. It’s not a one-time event to be sought, nor a sit still and wait on God to do it

III. Conclusions

A) As always, we must not start with “self” in our thinking

- 1. Paul’s entire point in this section is that we are no longer “self” but joined unto Christ in eternal union
 - i. Thus all our thinking must begin with Him and His activities
 - ii. We must not think of ourselves individually, and what we need, but instead think of God and what He has done and is doing for and in the believer
 - a) Phil 1:6 & 2:12-13
 - b) 1 Thess 4:3-5- God’s will is our sanctification
 - 1) Thus the “enslaved to righteousness” in Rom 6:18
- 2. We must start with the big picture or the larger campaign
 - i. We are in a war, and belong to Christ and are to be used by Him in this war

- ii. Thus my sanctification is not about my feelings or emotions, or my daily “failures”
 - a) To think this way is to allow Satan to use me through my self-interest
 - b) “We do not need the hospital or the therapist, we need to listen to the Sergeant Major”- MLJ
 - 1) 1 Cor 16:13- “Quit you like men”
 - 2) Eph 6:10-18- “Stand in the armor of God”
 - 3) 1 Tim 6:12- “Fight the good fight of faith”
 - 4) 2 Tim 4:7- “I have fought a good fight”
 - c) We must not allow the teaching of the liberal church to creep into our thinking concerning sanctification
 - 1) Like the “woke” mentality of today’s military
 - 2) Example of psychiatrists in WWII
 - d) Sanctification is not seeking help for “me”, it is service in the army of Christ
 - 1) If we reckon ourselves this way, then submitting my members to the enemy becomes unthinkable and treasonous
 - 2) So now consider again the question of Rom 6:1