

Liberated from Death, Obligated in Life # 19

Romans 6: 8-14

Our text this evening continues to deal with the believer's death unto sin and new life in Christ. Being born into this life, we are all born in sin. We are separated from God by virtue of our sinful nature and live in bondage to sin and death. Apart from redemption in Christ, we are enslaved to sin and Satan. We are bound to a brutal taskmaster with no hope of escape or life within ourselves. Christ is the only means of escape from sin and the death it brings.

Paul rejoiced for the freedom he enjoyed in Christ. He had been set free from sin and the penalty of death, and he longed to live his new life for Christ. Sadly many in our day, although they have been delivered from the penalty of death, continue to live their lives in bondage. They have been set free in Christ and yet they never enjoy victory through Him. Often their lives are lived in much the same way as before.

I am certainly thankful for the liberty I have in Christ, but I am also aware of the constant struggle with the flesh. Through Christ we can enjoy victory and abundant life, but we must seek to please Him if we are to obtain victory. Having been set free from sin and death we are now obligated to walk with the Lord and live in submission to Him. There is no reason for a believer who has been delivered in Christ, to remain in bondage to the flesh.

I hope our study today will encourage you to seek and obtain spiritual victory in Christ. I want to examine the [abiding lessons](#) Paul leaves us as we consider: [Liberated from Death, Obligated in Life](#).

I. Our Liberation from Death (8-10) – Paul continues to emphasize the believer's liberation from death through salvation and reconciliation in Christ. Notice he speaks of:

A. The Believer's Assurance (8) – [Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him](#): This statement serves as a gracious reminder and a stirring challenge as well. If we are dead to sin through Christ, then we also enjoy life through Him as well. There is no in between state for anyone. We are either dead in sin or alive in Christ. At the very instant we are delivered from death and sin, we become alive in Christ.

- Many believers tend to think of life in Christ, more specifically eternal life, as something distant and future that we have yet to obtain. We certainly enjoy eternal life in Christ, but we need to realize that eternal life begins at the moment of salvation not at the point of physical death. Once one is dead to sin, delivered from condemnation, they immediately become alive in Christ. We will face physical death, but eternal life begins at salvation!

B. The Believer's Assistance (9) – [Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.](#) Clearly Paul is speaking directly of the victory Christ obtained over death in resurrection. Sin, death, and the grave were fully defeated as Christ rose triumphant in life after being placed in the grave. However, we must understand that Paul is using the great victory Christ obtained as an example for every believer. We identify with Christ in death to sin and resurrection in life. In salvation we experience death to sin and the old man as we are resurrected a new creature in Christ.

- Paul reveals one of many gracious benefits of being in Christ. As Christ rose triumphant from the grave, he rose to die no more. As He conquered death, death no longer has dominion over Him. All believers have died to sin in Christ, and all believers are alive in Christ. Just as Christ rose triumphant over death, we too have victory over death. Our lives are no longer dominated by sin and death. We have victory in Christ! We no longer need to fear death and the judgment to follow. Christ has delivered us from death and provides the powerful assistance we need as we journey through life! This isn't something we merely hope is true, but something we know with absolute certainty in Christ.

C. The Believer's Abundance (10) – [For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.](#) Paul confirms again an eternal truth. Yes Christ died and was buried, but the grave couldn't hold him. Unlike Lazarus and others who were raised from the dead, but faced death again at some point, Christ died but once to never die again. He ascended back to the right hand of the Father where He remains today, alive and well. He fully conquered death and He will never face it again.

- That ought to create an attitude of rejoicing within every born again believer. Often we think of Christ as a humble babe in the manger. We may think of Him walking on the water or performing various miracles. Many continue to imagine Him on the cross. I am certainly thankful for Calvary, but I rejoice it wasn't the end of the story. He had to die to atone for sin, but had Christ not risen in life, we would have no hope of eternal life in Him. Because He lives, all the saved had the assurance of eternal life as well. He lives unto God, enjoying complete victory and we share in that abundant life!

II. Our Obligation in Life (11-14) – After further confirming our liberation from death, Paul now speaks of our obligation in life. Being in Christ carries responsibilities. Consider:

A. The Believer's Consideration (11) – [Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.](#) Being in Christ bears characteristics with Christ.

He has died to sin and is alive unto God. We too must reckon, or count, ourselves dead unto sin and alive unto God just as Christ is. His great victory over sin and death is given to all who receive Christ by faith. We stand as He stands. Just as He rose victorious in life over death, being born again in Christ we share the same victory.

- This new life received in Christ brings responsibility to Him and God the Father. The old man of sin is now dead. The lusts of the flesh have been defeated and must be crucified as they rear their ugly head. We are resurrected in Christ to live for Him and honor Him in all we do. Just as Christ glorified the Father in life, we too are responsible to glorify God with our lives. We no longer live to satisfy the flesh, but to please our Lord and Savior!

B. The Believer's Sanctification (12-13a) – *Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.* ^[13] *Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin:* We all know the constant struggle we face with the flesh. Prior to our salvation we sought to indulge the flesh. Our lives were dominated by the desires of the flesh and we were determined to satisfy those desires. After our conversion, we have been liberated from sin and death. We are to resist the desires of the flesh and refuse to allow sin to reign in our lives, giving in to the temptations we face. We are admonished to refrain from yielding to temptation and using our bodies as instruments of unrighteousness.

- Every believer ought to actively pursue a sanctified life. Paul never implies that temptation ceases to exist once we are saved. In fact, he urges us to guard against the sinful impulses of the flesh. Temptation will remain as long as we live upon this earth in a body of flesh, but we do not have to succumb to those temptations. We can overcome in Christ. Daily we face challenges and struggles, but must consciously choose to follow the Lord rather than allowing sin to reign in our lives. Many believers continue to live defeated lives because sin continues to dominate their existence. We cannot achieve sinless perfection, but we can overcome by refusing to submit to the temptations we face through the help of the Lord.

C. The Believer's Submission (13b) – *but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.* Our struggles with the flesh will remain, but we have a choice to whom or what we yield. Rather than submitting to the flesh, we are called to yield ourselves fully unto the Lord. That is not easy living in a body of flesh, but it is required and expected. We are no longer our own. We have been bought with a price; a very high price I might add. We are now within the body of Christ with an obligation to live in such a way that reveals His grace and honors Him.

- This is not an easy task, but we have all we need to be successful and victorious. We have been delivered from sin and death. We are resurrected a new creature in Christ. The dominance of sin has been removed and replaced with the indwelling Spirit. God enables us to yield ourselves to Him in order to live victoriously. This is something that requires attention and commitment on our part, but it is possible to live life yielded to the Lord. [Gal.2:20 – I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.](#)

D. The Believer's Transformation (14) – [For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.](#) While in sin we had no hope of deliverance or living in a manner that pleased the Lord. In fact, there was no desire to please the Lord. Our lives were dominated by sin and our desire to satisfy the insatiable appetite of the flesh. Through salvation in Christ our lives are transformed. We have been liberated from sin's dominance. We now live under grace, with all the benefits it affords. Paul confirms it is possible to live for Christ in victory!

- Every believer continues to face struggles with the flesh. We all stumble and fall at times, missing the mark for God. These occurrences will continue, but they do not have to dominate our lives. We have great liberty in Christ. There is power through Him to overcome the battles we face and emerge victorious. We are a continual work in progress, but we have the ability to honor our Lord with the lives we live. I am by no means perfect, but my life is much different today than it was prior to salvation.

Conclusion: I am truly thankful for the gracious provision of Christ. He delivered us from sin and death. I have all I need to live victoriously in Him, but I must seek the help available. Although I am in Christ, I cannot overcome without His help.

Being delivered from sin and death is wonderful, but it is not a license to sin. We continue to struggle with the flesh, but we are obligated to yield ourselves unto the Lord instead of the flesh. Is your life yielded to Christ? Are you honoring Him as you journey here below? Maybe you have never been liberated from sin and death. Either way, Christ is the solution. He can liberate from sin and death, and He can equip you to overcome sin and live victoriously. Seek Him for your need!