



Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States



The Letter of St. Paul to the Romans

Chapter 6

Bishop Youssef



Introduction

- In chapter five, St. Paul makes the statement "where sin abounded, Grace abounded much more" (5:20)
- Lest some might misinterpret what he said, St. Paul quickly points out that Grace is no excuse to sin since through Grace they have died to sin
- Another reason not to continue in sin is explained in terms of servitude
- Serving sin earns death, but in serving God one receives the gift of eternal life in Christ Jesus

Dead to Sin, Alive to God (6:1-14)



- Shall we sin, that Grace may abound?
- How does Grace abound? Through the Blood of Christ (death of Christ)
- For Grace to abound, we must die to sin (baptism), i.e. not to continue in sin!
- In baptism we were buried into Christ's death (immersion)
- So, if we died to sin, how shall we live any longer in it

Dead to Sin, Alive to God (6:1-14)



- Baptism is death, burial, and resurrection with Christ
- Through the Resurrection, the glory of the Father was manifested in the Son
- We are born again in baptism in which we receive a new life and we should walk in the newness of life in order to continue to be dead to sin
- It is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me
- The new life is the life of Christ in me

Dead to Sin, Alive to God (6:1-14)



- Having been united together in the likeness of His death, crucified with Him, we are no longer slaves of sin, but freed from sin
- Old man: our sinful and corrupt nature
- Body of sin: carnal man vs. spiritual man (he who is born of the flesh is flesh)
- Now we are born of the Spirit, then we are not slaves
- By death, sin and its wages have no dominion over us since sin cannot entice a dead person

Dead to Sin, Alive to God (6:1-14)



- Having died with Christ, we ought to live with Him over Whom death has no dominion
- Christ is the first fruit of those who have fallen asleep
- Died to sin: He abolished the power of sin
- Once for all: baptism cannot be repeated
- Live to God: for the glory of God
- So, we should not let sin reign in our bodies

Dead to Sin, Alive to God (6:1-14)



- Sin cannot reign in me unless I allow it by obeying it and presenting my members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin
- We are alive from dead, so we should present our members as instruments of righteousness to God
- The law revealed sin without abolishing it (curse of law)
- We were "under the law" so, sin could not but have dominion over us
- We are now "under grace" so, sin cannot but be subdued under us



Slaves of God (6:15 – 23)

- Since we are not “under the law” does this mean, we continue in sin?
- Does “freedom in Christ” mean to do whatever I want to do even to sin?
- We become slaves to whom we obey either of sin to death, or of obedience to righteousness
- Thanks be to God since this is the work of His Grace
- Through obedience to God's word, those who were slaves of sin become slaves of righteousness



Slaves of God (6:15 – 23)

- From heart: by your own freewill
- Once you have been set free from sin, you will be slave of righteousness
- I speak in human terms: use examples from human relations, those of master and slave
- Because of the weakness of your flesh: because of infirmity of understanding due to the flesh
- Serving uncleanness and lawlessness produces and leads to more lawlessness



Slaves of God (6:15 – 23)

- So, now being free from that service, let them serve righteousness to holiness, with the result of showing forth holy lives
- Serving sin produces unrighteousness, shame, guilt, fear, and the resulting wages which is death
- Serving God produces the fruit of holiness, and in the end, eternal life as a gift in Jesus Christ
- The **wages** of sin is death, but God gives the **gift** of eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord



Conclusion

- Why are Christians not to continue in sin?
- What happens when one is baptized into Christ?
- How should we present the members of our bodies?
- Why does sin no longer have dominion over a Christian?
- What is necessary to-do to become free from sin?
- What is the result of presenting your members as slaves to righteousness?
- What three steps are described that eventually lead to eternal life?
- What is the just payment for sin? But what does God give us in Christ?