

## DEAD TO SIN AND ALIVE TO GOD

PASTOR MARC D. WILSON, ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH, LAS CRUCES, NM

### Romans 6:1-14 (Matthew 4:1-11)

Prayer: Collect for the Second Sunday in Lent.

As today's Collect states, we have no power of ourselves to defend against adversities and evil thoughts. This is especially true for those in Adam where sin reigns in death. There is no power for those in Adam to even recognize their inherent powerlessness to resist temptation and sin; because, those in Adam are spiritually dead. They are separated from God's wisdom and life. We must be delivered from this Dominion of Condemnation by God's grace through faith whereby we are made alive in Christ by the Holy Spirit. Then, and only then, can we live to God as we were created. Only then can we live "the obedience of faith" that involves repenting of sin and turning to God - humbly petitioning Him for strength to be delivered from evil as in today's Collect. Only then are we spiritually alive with knowing our need and with the humility to ask God for His power to deliver us from temptation. In Christ, there is an abundance of grace by the Holy Spirit Who has been poured out into our hearts and Who enables us to resist the temptations of the devil as Jesus did in the wilderness according to Matthew's Gospel read this morning. Jesus defeated the temptations of Satan FOR us, so that His Spirit could dwell IN us and transform us into His image and likeness. Where Adam failed as our representative, Jesus was victorious, so that we, too, could resist temptations to sin and be delivered from evil. This Good News of Jesus' defeat of the devil in the wilderness, where Adam failed in the Garden, is important backdrop for today's passage in understanding what it means for those in Christ to be **Dead to Sin and Alive to God.**

## DEAD TO SIN AND ALIVE TO GOD

PASTOR MARC D. WILSON, ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH, LAS CRUCES, NM

### 1. An Outrageous Question (READ Verse 1):

a. The implication in this question is why not keep sinning in light of what Paul previously stated in **Romans 5:20 (READ)**. Why not keep trespassing against God's revealed righteous standards so that His grace and righteousness may increase (3:7-8)?

b. It is an outrageous question, ***because...***

### 2. Christians have Died to Sin This is a fact; the indicative; the truth. (READ Verses 2-11)

#### a. Gospel (READ Verses 4)

i. Christians have new spiritual resurrection life now, by the power of the Holy Spirit, and we possess a God-given desire to uphold God's righteous standards. What are those standards? We desire to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to love others sacrificially.

1. Why do we desire to live this way? Because...

#### b. ...Gospel (READ Verses 6)

i. We have died to sin, ***therefore...***

### 3. Christians do NOT let Sin Reign

a. Here begins Paul's exhortation for how Christians should live. Only the true Christian who has spiritual life in Christ can live to God, so only the Spirit-indwelt Christian can actually receive this exhortation and live by grace through faith in Jesus' death and resurrection; because, we identify with Jesus. (READ Verses 12-14)

i. We can only be challenged to live this way; because, we have been delivered from the tyranny of sin. If we are still enslaved to sin, then this means nothing until we believe that Jesus paid the penalty for our sin, so we may be delivered from its death sentence. Our ability to live free from sin is based on Christ's work. The Believer now sees sin for what it is, but the unbeliever cannot even recognize their own sin. They remain dead

## DEAD TO SIN AND ALIVE TO GOD

PASTOR MARC D. WILSON, ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH, LAS CRUCES, NM

in their ignorance and idolatry. This is nothing from which we can free ourselves. It is a gift to be received by faith that delivers us from death in Adam to life in Jesus.

The Christian is **Dead to Sin and Alive to God** because of Jesus' death and resurrection. The genuine Christian delivered from the reign of sin in Adam to the reign of grace in Jesus avoids sin and lives a life to the glory of God. The Christian is free NOT to sin. Because we died with Christ, we are free in Him to serve God by His abounding grace.

Jesus' defeat of sin is ours, and His justification [freedom] from sin is ours; because, we died with Him (**READ Verses 6-7**). While Jesus' sacrifice for our atonement occurred over 2,000 years ago, by grace it is applied to us through our faith in the present. For example, I can look back and identify with the Philadelphia Eagles' past championship wins before I was born, in light of their present Super Bowl victory, without ever playing on the team, and say "We won!" and wear the team jersey and colors. In a similar way, Christians identify with Jesus' past victory over sin in the present through our baptism and our ongoing refusal to let sin reign over us; because, to habitually sin would be, as a Christian, identifying with the disgraced losing team – sin. That would be like putting on the New England Patriots' jersey as if they were victorious! Christians are victorious over sin in Jesus, and His victory far surpasses the Eagle's Super Bowl win; because, Jesus' victory is once-for-all and eternal. Therefore, we identify with Jesus' victory by resisting sin, repenting of sin and living to God's glory by the Holy Spirit Who cloths us in Christ's righteousness; His brilliant white jersey! Naturally, this will have profound implication for:

## DEAD TO SIN AND ALIVE TO GOD

PASTOR MARC D. WILSON, ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH, LAS CRUCES, NM

### 1. Our Present Living and...:

#### a. Verse 13

i. "Every part of ourselves" or our "members" include every aspect of our being while in our "mortal bodies" ... our hands, feet, heart, soul, mind, strength, and desires should be joyfully offered to God as an instrument of righteousness.

b. We can live this way, now, because of the guarantee of the Holy Spirit Who was given to us and Who leads us in our "obedience of faith". Only grace can make bad people good whereas the Law just reveals that the wage we deserve for our sin is the punishment of death. This does not mean we do not sin. No, but we are now free to NOT sin.

i. This means that, while we do sin, we are not dominated by it. We desire conviction by God's Word, so we can repent of sin and return to God with a desire to serve Jesus as our king.

1. Does this describe you, or do you remain under the tyranny of sin? Are you or your idols enthroned at the center of your life, or is Jesus? Do you live your life to God in Jesus?

ii. Imagine an animal that has been born and raised in a cruel caged captivity for years suddenly being released from its bondage. Even once it is released, it may still refuse to enjoy its freedom, and, instead, stay in its cage, clinging to its bondage; not realizing the greatness of its deliverance. Are you still in bondage to sin, or have you been delivered from its reign? If so, are you enjoying the reign of grace in your life, or do you still seek comfort in the sin that once bound you?

iii. While under the reign of sin in Adam, we still made choices every day, but the choices we made were controlled and directed by sin; because, we were centered on ourselves. Our choices were based on how

## DEAD TO SIN AND ALIVE TO GOD

PASTOR MARC D. WILSON, ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH, LAS CRUCES, NM

we could serve ourselves or our idols of wealth, influence, security, comfort or wisdom. When we come under the reign of abundant grace, we truly live a resurrected life now by the Holy Spirit, and we can choose not to sin and choose to serve God. In Christ, we are free to serve God as we are created to do for our good and His glory through Jesus.

iv. The truth is, a genuine Christian does not and cannot continue to live under the control of sin; because, grace reigns in our lives.

1. Is this true for you?

2. ... Our Assurance of Future Glory:

a. The Christian also rejoices in the hope of future glory, and this hope sustains us against apparent hopelessness as we resist sin and live lives focused on God by grace through our faith in Jesus.

a. **Bodily Resurrection (READ Verse 5)**

b. **Eternal Life which begins now (READ Verses 8-9)**

i. The basis for our assurance is the death and resurrection of Christ, which demonstrates God's love for us.

ii. If we truly believe we have died with Christ, then we can be confident we will also live with Him in a glorious body forever reigning with Him over the entire Recreated and Reordered world.

1. This is Great News. AMEN