

The Resurrection and a Holy Life

Romans 6

We have not taken the power of Christ's resurrection seriously. Time is short and Jesus is coming back real soon. He is not coming to reward those who see "Easter" as a religious tradition to be acknowledged. Jesus is not into religion but into relationship. Those who see Easter as some type of ritual that must be celebrated despite their unholy living throughout the rest of the year will suffer much eternal pain and anguish at His coming. My job, as difficult as it is, is to help you see this truth and lead you to repentance while the opportunity is still here to do so.

1. False ideas concerning grace – vv. 1-2

- a. There is a vast difference between religion and relationship. Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism and other religions know nothing about "grace". Grace is God paying a heavy price for our sins and then inviting sinners into a relationship with a holy God. Grace removes our sins and exchanges them for God's holiness.
- b. There is a "grace" message that has made an effort to remove legalistic practices from the church. Sadly, in its noble effort to do so, it has also diminished the seriousness of sin.
- c. Grace is not God's way of allowing us to sin without suffering temporal or eternal consequences. It is the power to walk free from sin.

2. Identification with Christ in every way – vv. 3-5

- a. Those who have accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior are identified with every part of His sacrifice and also share in His victory.
- b. Walking in identification with Christ means walking in the power of His resurrection. We are to walk in the newness of life.
- c. The reason we should be walking in the newness of life is because we have been identified with Him in every way. If we are still living sinful lives with no desire to repent then we are not identified with Him and we are not saved.

3. We need to have knowledge of this truth – vv. 6-7

- a. Identification with Christ means that I am free from sin. Not just free from its consequences but from its power to control me as well.
- b. My crucifixion with Christ means that my old man with its power of sin over me is supposed to be dead and buried. If it is still controlling me then that means that the old man of sin is still alive and I am not identified with Christ.

4. Secret number 1: Recognize your identification with Christ – vv. 8-11

- a. Knowing all that Christ did on our behalf, we are to recognize this fact and live accordingly.
- b. The problem with many so-called Christians is their failure to “reckon” what Christ has done. This is why Easter is more tradition than it is truth.
- c. Tradition is something we adhere to but has no power. Truth has the power to change our lives. Christ resurrection must be recognized as TRUTH and only then will it give us power to change.

5. Secret number 2: Make a choice – vv. 12-13

- a. It is your choice to sin or not sin when you are identified with Christ. If you feel that you cannot help sinning then you need to question whether or not you have been saved.
- b. Phrases such as “let not” and “do not yield” are clear indicators from God’s Word that we all have choices. Our failure to act on the right choice is an indicator of how much we love God and where our relationship with Him stands.
- c. V. 19 – Again we are told that we have the power to yield or refuse to yield to sin. When we who claim to be “saved” and under grace sin habitually with no desire to repent, we need to reexamine our salvation experience in the light of God’s Word as seen here.

6. Secret number 3: Accept God’s grace and be free from slavery to sin – vv. 14-16

- a. As we stated earlier, grace is not the power to get away with sin. It is the gift of God that frees us from sin’s power.

- b. Grace does not keep the perpetual sinner from suffering the consequences – both temporal and eternal – that comes from sinning. – vv. 21-23.

- c. Do not let those who preach the current grace message deceive you. Some of the things taught can fool you into believing that you are okay because you said a sinner's prayer and you go to church occasionally. Eternity is too long of a time to pay for a lifestyle of sinful rebellion. I beg you as a servant of God to repent and turn back to the true grace message. The one taught in Scripture.