

VICTORY OVER SIN – Romans 6:5-10 (Part-four of a sixteen-part study)

We concluded our previous segment with an emphasis on one of the major benefits of an individual's conversion to Christ: true freedom of the will; which serves an important purpose in achieving victory over sin on a daily basis. There is no getting around it. If we are to experience genuine victory over sin, our will must be involved. Just as we made a decision of the will for Christ in our salvation, such decisions will be multiplied one thousand-fold in regard to our ongoing need for spiritual growth, also known as progressive sanctification.

Thus far, we have learned about a central and foundational aspect of New Testament doctrine. Jesus Christ and His redemptive work frees us from both the penalty of sin in our justification before God, as well as providing us with freedom from the power of sin in our daily life. There are several specific factors which contribute to our liberty in Christ. On a larger scale, we have become members of a new and better covenant, during this period of time in God's redemptive plan known as the Church Age. We will examine the monumental benefits of the New Covenant which make it not only distinct from, but superior to, the Mosaic Covenant, as we work our way through this practical application. However, what is often overlooked by many is the simple fact that this new and better covenant is the direct result of Christ's death on the Cross. This connection is established by our Lord Himself during His last Passover meal with His disciples, recorded for us in Luke 22:20, and confirmed by the apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 11:25-26 –

“And in the same way He took the cup after they had eaten, saying, ‘This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood.’”

“In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.’”

The redemptive work of our Savior benefits us in this manner, externally, in that we become members of the New Covenant; creating for us a far greater *“potential”* in experiencing victory over sin, than what was possible under the Old Covenant. But as we have already discovered, there is also an internal aspect to our victory in connection with Christ crucified and risen again. The authority of our sin nature is rendered null and void at the very moment of our conversion, as revealed to us in Romans 6:6-7. Through our union with Christ, we become identified with Him in His death to sin, so that we also die to sin and are set free from our previous bondage to sin. But that's not all. In experiencing a conversion to Christ, we are given a new nature that is not tainted by sin. How? In Romans 6:4-5, as well as vv8-10, Paul tells us that receiving this new nature occurs through the believer's identification with Christ in His resurrection from the dead on our behalf. The old nature's authority is nullified, as a new nature is also implanted and activated within us. All of this takes place at the very moment of our salvation, as we experience a spiritual union with Christ. Contemplating such a supernatural reality can be overwhelming. But it is true of every individual who has placed their trust in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

The challenge for every Christian is first learning this truth from Romans 6:1-10, and then living it out in the context of our everyday life. That will be what we consider next in our study of the New Covenant. What we must remember as we move forward in this practical application, is that victory over sin in this life will never result in sinless perfection, nor will it ever completely shield us from the struggles with sin that are part and parcel of living in our lost and fallen world.