

The Normal Christian Life

The Path of Progress: Reckoning

The Second Step: “Even So Reckon...”

- Rom. 6:11 – So also you, reckon yourselves to be dead to sin, but living to God in Christ Jesus.
- “Reckoning” in Greek means doing accounts bookkeeping.
 - Accounting is the reckoning of facts.
- God tells us to reckon ourselves dead, not that by the process of reckoning we may become dead, but because we are dead.
- How is it possible to reckon ourselves dead unto sin, but alive unto God?
 - “In Christ Jesus.”
 - We look to the Lord, and know what He has done.
 - It is not a question of faith in ourselves but rather, of faith in Him.

The Reckoning of Faith

- The first four and a half chapters of Romans speak of faith and faith and faith.
- In the second section of Romans we do not find the same repeated mention of faith.
 - Instead, the word “reckon” takes their place.
- Faith is our acceptance of God’s fact.
 - It always has its foundations in the past.
 - For this reason the word chosen in the second section is “reckon.” It is a word that relates only to the past.
- For practical purposes, “reckoning” in the second section of Romans takes the place of “faith” in the first section.

Temptation and Failure, the Challenge to Faith

- What should our attitude be when our old desires rise up again?
- We must recall what are facts stated in God’s Word for faith to lay hold of.
 - First, we are not told that sin as a principle in us is rooted out or removed.
 - That is why we always need to know the operation of the precious Blood.
 - When we come to the principle of sin and the matter of deliverance from its power, we find that God deals with it indirectly.
- Sin is still there, but we are knowing deliverance from its power day by day.

- Faith “**substantiates**” to us the things of Christ.
 - The promises of God are revealed to us by His Spirit that we may **lay hold of them**; but **facts are facts** and they remain facts whether we believe or not.
 - It does not need faith to make these things real, but faith can “substantiate” them and make them **real in our experience**.
- We must **believe God**, no matter how convincing Satan’s arguments appear.
 - All temptation is to **take our eyes off the Lord** and to take account of **appearances**.

Abiding in Him

- We are dead **not in ourselves** but *in Christ*.
- **John 15:4** – Abide in Me and I in you...
 - It was God’s own act that **put us in Christ**, and we are to **abide in Him**.
 - This verse lays down for us a **Divine principle**: God has done the work in Christ and **not in us as individuals**.
 - The all-inclusive death and the all-inclusive resurrection of God’s Son were accomplished fully and finally apart from us in the first place.
- In dealing with Christ God has dealt with the Christian; in dealing with the Head He has dealt with all the members.
 - It is altogether **wrong** for us to think that we can **experience anything of the spiritual life in ourselves** merely, and **apart from Him**.
 - **All** the spiritual experience of the Christian is *already true in Christ*.
 - “Our” experience is our **entering** into *His* history and *His* experience.
 - The **history of Christ** becomes **our experience** and **our spiritual history**.
 - If we **stand on the ground of what Christ is**, we find that all that is true of Him is becoming experimentally true in us.
 - If instead we **come onto the ground of what we are in ourselves** we will find that all that is true of the old nature remains true of us.
 - If we get **there in faith** we have **everything**; if we return **back here** we find **nothing**.
- In our walk with the Lord our attention must be fixed on Christ.
 - We must **look at Christ** and see ourselves in Him. It is for Him to make good the glorious promise that “sin shall not have dominion over you.”

(The Normal Christian Life – Chapter 4)