

## Romans 6:1-23, Daily Devotions

### ☐ Monday - Does a True Christian Love Sin?

Romans 6:1-2

The Bible clearly teaches that a truly born-again believer can never lose his or her salvation (Psa. 103:17; John 6:37-39, 10:27-29; Rom. 8:38-39, 11:29; Eph. 1:13; Phil. 1:6; Heb. 7:25; Jude 1:24-25). All of your sins, Christian -- past, present, and future -- were paid for in full at the cross (Col. 2:14). "Well, if I can't lose my salvation, then I can sin all that I want," someone might argue. But such thoughts come from a carnal mind, not a person who is born-again (cf. 1 Cor. 2:16). "What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?" (Rom. 6:1-2). Here is the litmus test of authentic Christianity: Do you love sin or do you love God? (Mt. 6:24). "Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith" (2 Cor. 13:5). "We know that no one who is born of God continues a sinful lifestyle" (1 John 5:18, literal Greek translation).

Read Hebrews 10:26-27

### ☐ Tuesday - I Am Crucified With Christ.

Romans 6:2, 6, 11

Christian, once you were dead *in* sin (Eph. 2:1), but now you are dead *to* sin (Rom. 6:2). Here in Romans, chapter 6, the apostle assumes that every Christian understands this fact. "Knowing this," he says, "our old self was crucified with Him" (Rom. 6:6). This is our common confession, "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me" (Gal. 2:20). So then, "consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 6:11). And let us imitate the apostle (1 Cor. 11:1), who said, "I die daily" (1 Cor. 15:31).

Read Galatians 5:24, 6:14

### ☐ Wednesday - Servant of Sin or Righteousness?

Romans 6:16-18

Everybody serves some thing or some one. The apostle Paul explains, "Do you not know that ... you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness? But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness" (Rom. 6:16-18). Jesus declared, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin" (John 8:34), but "if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed" (John 8:36). It is true, no one can serve two masters (Mt. 6:24); so serve today, no longer as slaves of sin, but now as servants of righteousness.

Read Romans 6:13

### ☐ Thursday - Fighting Against Sin.

Romans 6:14

God warned Cain, "Sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it" (Gen. 4:7). Like the wild beasts in Nero's arena to which many poor Christians were so cruelly subjected, so also sin is a wild beast ready to pounce, devour and destroy; and, as Luther writes, "were not the right man on our side, our striving would be losing" (*A Mighty Fortress*). But the Christian has a Champion (Jer. 20:11), Jesus Christ, who descends into the arena to slay every sin that besets the child of God. We still fight (1 Tim. 1:18, 6:12), but we fight by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. "For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace" (Rom. 6:14).

Read 2 Corinthians 10:3-5; Ephesians 6:10-13; 1 Peter 5:8

### ☐ Friday - Choose Your Own Benefits Plan.

Romans 6:21-22

Paul poses this question, "Therefore what benefit were you then deriving from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the outcome of those things is death. But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life" (Rom. 6:21-22). If you had a choice between an easy job for a horrible boss and terrible wages, or a more difficult job for a very gracious boss, outstanding rewards and a dynamite benefits package, which would you pick? That's the decision between serving sin or God. "But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Josh. 24:15).

Read Romans 6:23