

Victoria Fellowship Church
International & Interdenominational
Bible Study Worksheet – May 28, 2023

Theme: The power of God at work in us **Topic: Dead to Sin, Alive to God**

Main Texts: Romans 6:1-23

Key verse: Romans 6:11 – *‘Likewise you also, reckon yourselves dead indeed to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord’ (NKJV)*

INTRODUCTION: Earlier in this quarter series, we saw that we are justified by faith; made blameless before God by faith and declared innocent by God Himself (Romans 5:1). John 1:12-13 tells us that *‘... as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man but of God’*. This act of being born of God by faith through grace is what our text today expands using baptism. It tells us that *‘...the persons we used to be were nailed to the cross with Jesus. This was done so that our sinful bodies would no longer be slaves to sin’ (Romans 6:6 CEVUK)*. So, just as we were buried with Christ through baptism into death, we were also raised with Christ from the dead so that we would walk in the newness of life with Him. This act is what makes us dead to sin but alive to God, to righteousness. This is the reason Apostle Paul found it strange that anyone would consider God’s grace as a license to continue in sin, just as some even think today!

1. **(a) From our main text, let participants share what they understand by being ‘dead to sin’ What are the characteristics of a life that is dead to sin? (b) Read Galatians 2:20; 5:24. How do these two passages add to your understanding of being dead to sin? (c) What is the critical component in the passages in 1a and 1b that makes it possible for us to be dead to sin?**

Four times our passage refers to our knowing (Romans 6:3,6,9,16). It is important that we know that anyone who is joined with Christ is automatically dead to sin. Being dead simply means a lack of activity or excitement towards something. A firm awareness of who we are in Christ is critical. Not only are we dead to sin, but we are also alive (sensitive and responsive) to God. This too is important if we must live the life we have been called to live – to live a life of obedience to God (Romans 1:5). This is what it means to be slaves of God and of righteousness. And as God assures us, His commandments are not burdensome, oppressive nor grievous (1 John 5:3). Being dead to sin is in the past tense- settled. And being alive to God is in the present continuous, requiring intentionality on our part, a daily conscious choice to obey the Holy Spirit in us rather than the zombie-like submission to the old nature.

2. **(a) What advantages do those who are alive to God have over the dead? (b) Read Romans 6:18-19. How would you explain what it means to be slaves of God and of righteousness to a young believer? (c) Knowing what you know now about being dead to sin but alive to God, how would you apply that next time you are tempted to sin or to excuse sin on the grounds that God’s grace abounds?**

Right from the beginning, God’s intention is that we rule over sin, never that we be dominated by sin. In Genesis 4:7, The Lord said to Cain *“... if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is to have you, but you must rule over it”*. Unfortunately, Cain allowed sin to have its way because the next thing he did was to kill his brother, Abel. Our passage today and other Scriptures make it very clear that yielding to sin is a choice! We are the ones who allow or don’t allow sin to reign over us. We are instructed to not let sin reign in our mortal bodies, that we should obey it in its lusts (Romans 6:12). This means that we have a choice. And being united with God as we are now, empowers us to live the life that He wants us to. That is the power of God at work in us! Reckoning ourselves dead to sin gives us freedom to live as children of God. It gives us freedom to be citizens of the Kingdom and bring God glory. Reckoning ourselves dead to sin but alive to God will help us to say like our Lord, *‘...for the ruler of this world is coming but he has nothing in Me’ (John 14:30)*.

3. **(a) Read Romans 6:12-14. Let participants identify some of the steps necessary for being alive to God and how we can apply these in our daily lives. (b) What other steps do you think will help you stay in control, in order not to be dominated by sin? (See Romans 12:1-2, John 17:17) (c) Let participants share how they can present their mortal bodies as instruments of righteousness in the next one week.**

Prayer: *Our dear heavenly Father, we thank You for empowering us to be alive to You. We pray that each one of us will continually present our bodies as instruments of righteousness to the glory of Your Holy Name. Amen.*