

BIBLE STUDY NOTE

VOLUME 1, WEEK 11



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All Scripture quotations are from the King James Version of the Bible, except otherwise stated.

MAKING THE MOST OF THIS STUDY NOTE:

- 1. Be open to learn.**
- 2. Get your study materials: Book, Bible, Pen and Note.**
- 3. Take your time to study and understand.**
- 4. If you have any questions, contact the author with the details in the previous page.**

STUDY TEXT:

Philemon 1:6

That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.

WHY THIS STUDY?

To lead the believer to be thankful for what Christ has offered him.

To lead the believer to see that sin doesn't have dominion over him.

STUDY

I remember hearing Pastor Emmanuel Iren make a statement and it stuck with me. He said, “No one masters the bible joking!” I mean, in the natural, you don’t become a professional at something joking. You don’t learn how to drive joking, you are deliberate about it. You don’t become a doctor by being lackadaisical, you take deliberate steps to become one! Likewise, you won’t grow in understanding of the Word of God without being deliberate about it.

2 Timothy 2:15

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a **workman** that needeth not to be ashamed, **rightly dividing** the word of truth.

There is an approach to the study of the bible—we are to study as workmen. That is, there is a devotion that should be seen in our study of the bible. We are to study as workmen not lazy men! We are to be diligent in our study of the bible. To understand the bible as we should, we can’t go about studying it without being intentional about it. There is an intentionality; a deliberateness that should accompany our study of the bible.

Now, take note of the statement “rightly dividing” in the text above. That presupposes that there is a right way to divide (or interpret) the word of truth (the bible). If there is a right way, then sure enough we can wrongly divide too. But how do we see to it that we don’t wrongly divide? Study as a workman—diligently. We are not to just pick one text and draw a conclusion on it, we are to compare other texts in line with it to have the picture being communicated.

Also, we need to let go of ‘preconceived ideas’ as we seek to understand the bible. Some individuals we have gone with a self-centered approach asking only, “What is this scripture saying to me?” instead of “Lord, you have chosen to reveal yourself in the scriptures, what did you intend to communicate to me?” Yes, the scripture is saying something to us, but it should be what God intends it to say. There is an intention for every scripture written which is to be discovered as we read. **A text of scripture cannot mean today what it never meant when it was written.**

We don’t create an understanding of the text, we discover it as we study diligently. I can’t tell you I have not being guilty of misinterpretation of bible texts, I have!

Even in recent times since being exposed to guides to study the bible, there have still been times I have misinterpreted texts. But by the day, I am learning to understand the bible as it should be understood and that is God's desire for us. He wants us to know the bible accurately.

The depth we are seeking to have will be found if we take the time to study the word carefully in their context. We will realize the truth that has been there to be communicated to us all along. Friend, when we stick to the content of the bible as it is, we will find the depth of the word plainly spelt out for all to see. There is no mystery to the word, all we need to know has been revealed there. When we read, we will see!

Now, to our text for today:

Philemon 6

That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the **acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.**

For the past two weeks, we have seen some things the believer ought to acknowledge about himself. Today, we look at another:

Sin doesn't have dominion over the believer

The believer shouldn't only know that he is forgiven of sins and justified, he needs to also realize that sin doesn't have dominion over him. He is dead to sin. The believer shouldn't be saying, "Oh, I can't do without sin." Oh, yes you can! The reason Christ died was so that sin will not be an issue for you.

1 John 2:1-2

1 My little children, **these things write I unto you, that ye sin not.** And if any man **sin**, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for *the sins of* the whole world.

Observe what John said in verse 1, "...these things write I unto you, **that ye sin not...**" So we can do without sin. Of course, if you sin, you must remember right

that moment that you have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous who is the propitiation for our sins and that of the whole world.

In a moment or moments where you may sin, you must appropriate the forgiveness of sins you have received in Christ already, not go into condemnation. But observe something from that same verse 1. Notice it didn't say, "...**when** any man sins..." It says, "...**if** any man sins..." That's a possibility, not an assurance. This tells us that we can do without sin. Why? Because of our ability on our own? No! Then why?

2 Corinthians 5:21

For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Jesus Christ was made sin for us so that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him. We have been made righteous, therefore we have no business meddling with sin. Sin no longer has power over us. We can say no to sin all the time. When we are tempted, it is only an invitation. We don't have to accept it, we can say no to it. Temptation is not a sin, Jesus was tempted! But how did He respond to temptation? He said no by speaking the Word. Now, we have His Spirit in us, therefore we can say no to sin. We don't have to follow the call of sin, we have the ability to bear fruits of righteousness always!

Romans 6:14

For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

When you see the word "for" begin a verse, it is pertinent to read the preceding verses to understand the flow. So why would Paul say that sin shall not have dominion over the believer because he is not under law, but under grace? Let's see the preceding verses first:

Romans 6:1-2

1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?

2 God forbid. **How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?**

Paul asks a question here. He says, are we going to continue sinning because we are under grace? He responds with God forbid. Why? Verse 2 tells us that because we are under grace, we are dead to sin. Therefore, we can't live anymore in it; we can't go on sinning because we are dead to sin! Do you get? When an individual is dead, he is unresponsive to activities around him. Likewise, because we are dead to sin, we are unresponsive to sinful activities; we are not drawn or attracted to them.

So how did we become dead to sin?

Romans 6:3-4

3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Everyone who believes the gospel is baptized into Christ. When Jesus Christ died, we partook of his death. We were buried with Him by baptism into His death. This is not speaking of water baptism, but a spiritual baptism into His redemptive work. When He died, we died with Him; When He was buried, we were buried with Him; When He rose, we rose with Him. We have been raised to walk in the newness of life.

Romans 6:5

For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also *in the likeness* of his resurrection:

We have been planted together with Christ. In other words, we have shared in His death and in His resurrection from the dead. This is similar with **Ephesians 2:5-6:**

5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

6 And hath raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus:

We have been quickened together with Christ. We have been raised up together and made to sit with Him. What is this quickening? Observe it says, "...when we were dead in sins..." So the quickening, the rising up is from sin into a new life in Him.

Now, back to **Romans 6**

6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with *him*, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

Our old self has been crucified with Christ; our old man is dead so that our body which is the instrument of sin might be made ineffective and inactive for evil and this leads us to no longer serve sin.

7 For he that is dead is freed from sin.

Paul now uses a natural illustration in verse 7 above. He says that if a man is dead or dies, he can't go on in sinning; death ends sin for the individual. No one can point an action of sin to a dead man. Likewise, we are dead to sin in Christ, therefore we can do without sinning just like a dead man can.

8 Now if **we be dead with Christ**, we believe that we shall also live with him:

9 Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.

10 For in that he died, **he died unto sin once**: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.

In verse 10 we see that the death of Christ was a death to sin once and for all. Now, observe that in verse 8 it says we are dead with Christ. So seeing that the death of Christ was a death to sin and we died that death to, what would that mean? We are dead to sin too and now we live unto God!

11 Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.

With the knowledge that we died with Christ and the death was a death to sin, we can now reckon; consider ourselves dead to sin and our relations with sin broken! We are dead to sin so we don't give sin a chance around us. We are not attracted by it; we don't obey its lust. No! No! No!

13 Neither yield ye your members *as* instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness unto God.

Why can we choose not to yield our members as tools of unrighteousness unto sin? Why can we choose to yield ourselves unto God and our members as instruments of righteousness unto God? Let's read on:

14 For **sin shall not have dominion over you**: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

15 What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.

That word "for" in verse 14 can also be understood as "because". So the reason we can yield ourselves as instruments of righteousness is because sin no longer has dominion over us; we are not under the law, we are under grace! Being under grace means we are dead to sin and can't live any longer in sin.

16 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

One can be quick to run off with this verse and say that the believer who may still sin or be struggling with a besetting sin or addiction is still a servant of sin. But not so. A believer even though he sins is not a servant of sin. Remember, he has been

made righteous. He can't be both righteous and a servant of sin. What he needs now is to feed consistently on the knowledge of who he is now in Christ...this will result in him walking in a manner consistent with his new nature in Christ. The next verse clears this:

17 But God be thanked, that **ye were the servants of sin**, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.

Observe Paul's words carefully, "God be thanked, that ye WERE the servants of sin" not that "ye ARE the servants of sin."

So if you are reading this and are struggling with a besetting sin or addiction right now, the first thing you must realize is that you are dead to that sin. You are not a servant of that sin and sin generally. You have obeyed the gospel; you have been made righteous and sin no longer has dominion over you! You need to have this knowledge always in your consciousness.

18 Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.

19 I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.

You have been made (past tense) free from sin and have become the servant of righteousness. So because you are not a servant of sin, you can yield your members unto righteousness!

20 For when **ye were the servants of sin**, ye were free from righteousness.

21 What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things *is* death.

22 But **now being made free from sin, and become servants to God**, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

You were the servant of sin, but now you have been made free from sin and have become a servant of God; of righteousness. You have your fruit unto holiness. You

have eternal life. You need to acknowledge these always.

Finally, for anyone reading this struggling with an addiction or sinful habit, I leave you with this assurance from Paul as inspired by the Holy Spirit in **Galatians 5:16**:

This I say then, **Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.**

Notice it didn't say, "Don't fulfil the lust of the flesh and you will walk in the Spirit." It's the other way around. The Holy Spirit resides in you and that is your enablement to walk in the Spirit. Our trust is in the Spirit's ability in us.

A step you can take in walking in the Spirit is to spend some time daily renewing your mind with Romans 6 addressed in this study. Feed on it till you SEE how dead you are to sin...because what you really need is to actually SEE it. You are dead to sin already, you just need to SEE it!

Also, pray Ephesians 1:17-23 for yourself daily. Know this: You were made free when Jesus died and rose again for you. You just need to walk in your freedom! Now, walk! You are blessed. God loves you. Yes, you!

Affirmation

I am dead to sin and alive unto God in Christ Jesus.

I am the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus.

I am not a servant of sin; I have been made free from sin and have become a servant of God!

OUR MISSION

We believe that a published material will go where one may not go physically. And that is why our mission is to see the Gospel of Christ published in all nations through our various publications.

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