

# 61. The Book of Romans 6:13

*Paul's Epistle to the Romans*  
A message by Pastor Phil Ballmaier

(8-28-24)

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Tonight, in our Romans study we find ourselves in Chapter 6 where Paul is telling us how we can live victorious lives over our fallen sin nature now that we are children of God.

In this chapter, Paul builds his teaching on overcoming sin in our lives as Christians around 4 foundational instructions—which are the keys to our victory:

*“When any of these is lacking or deficient, sin like a weed begins to grow again in our lives.”*

## 1. **Know**—verses 3-10

**Romans 6:1–3a (NKJV)**

<sup>1</sup> **What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin [the sin nature] that grace may abound?**

<sup>2</sup> **Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? <sup>3</sup> Or do you not know...**

Without **knowing** what God has said on this subject and the resources He has made available to us now that we are His children—we will go on living in defeat and despair. So, Paul's first instruction for victory over sin is '**know**'—and that then brings us to his second instruction which is '**reckon**.'

## 2. **Reckon**—verses 11-12

As I said a few weeks ago—everything in the book of Romans up until this point, from Romans 1:1—6:10, has been doctrine, teaching—knowing. It's not until you come to verse 11 of Romans 6 that you have the first exhortation—the first command to believers.

**Romans 6:11–12 (NKJV)**

<sup>11</sup> **Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. <sup>12</sup>**

**Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.**

The word '**reckon**' is a translation of the Greek word that means “to impute” but is also a faith word—let me paraphrase the main idea:

*“To believe what God has said is true in your life. To believe what He has done for you. To believe that God has imputed something to you (placed into your account) and now you believe it and act upon it by faith!*

That then brings us tonight to the third instruction Paul gives us for living a victorious Christian life—**Present**. Let me take a minute to introduce tonight's study.

Way back in 1979 Bob Dylan wrote a song that some of you might remember—a song called ‘Gotta Serve Somebody’, some of it goes like this—

*“You may be an ambassador to England or France. You may like to gamble, you may like to dance, you may be the heavy weight champion of the world, you might be a socialite with a long string of pearls, but you’re gonna have to serve somebody...*

*You may be a construction worker working on a home, might be living in a mansion, you might live in a dome, you may own guns, you may even own tanks, you may be somebody’s landlord, you may even own banks, but you’re gonna have to serve somebody...*

*Well, it may be the Devil or it might be the Lord but you're gonna have to serve somebody.”*

Now I don’t think Bob Dylan had Romans 6 in mind when he wrote that song (although he did profess faith in Jesus for a while)—but in some ways he has captured what this last part of Romans 6 is all about.

It reminds us of the words of Jesus—

#### **Matthew 6:24 (NLT)**

<sup>24</sup> “No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money.

The question that Paul is alluding to in this next section of Romans 6 is: “*Who are you serving with your life—or are you trying to serve both God and the flesh at the same time?*”

*“I don’t serve anyone! I’m my own person!”*

Joshua had it right (Joshua 24:14-15) when he said, “*Choose this day whom you will serve*”, he didn’t say to them, “*Choose this day if you will serve someone*” he said “*Choose this day whom will you serve...*”

The implication is that—you will serve somebody, some master.

This brings us to our text tonight—

### **3. Present—verses 13-19**

#### **Romans 6:13 (NKJV)**

<sup>13</sup> **And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.**

The word **present** in verse 13 is one of the 4 key words Paul builds the chapter around:  
**Know—verses 3-10; Reckon—verses 11-12; Present—verses 13-19, Obey—verses 16-17.**

This is now the climax and application of everything Paul has been saying—not only in Chapter 6 but also in the whole epistle up until this point.

For 5 ½ chapters we have been climbing this doctrinal ‘Everest’ that Paul has been building and in verse 13 of Chapter 6—we finally reach the summit.

When Paul admonishes (commands) us to present the members of our bodies to God in service to Him—it is an admonition for Christians to no longer serve the god of this world (Satan) by presenting our bodies as instruments of sin.

But now we are to serve the true and living God by presenting the members of our bodies as instruments of righteousness. Nothing that Paul has said so far on the subject of Christian victory matters (*know, reckon*)—if we don't take the next step and **present** our bodies to God in service to Him.

The word **present** is the Greek word *paristemi*—a word Paul uses 5 times in Romans 6 (used 46 times in the N.T.)—and is an interesting word in the Greek.

It comes from 2 Greek words, *histemi* which means, “to stand,” and *para* which means “alongside.” So, this Greek word literally means, “to stand alongside”—as in choosing a side in a competition.

When I was a kid, we used to choose sides for baseball—there would be a captain for each team, and you'd go and stand by the captain of the team you wanted to play for.

Satan is the captain of team 'Sin' and Jesus is Captain of team 'Righteousness.'

When Joshua said, “Choose...whom you're going to serve”—we could loosely paraphrase that statement and use it to mean—'choose what team you're going to play for.'

But know this, whatever you decide to stand alongside of—you will become *like* that *thing, person, goal, or ideology*—as well as eventually becoming a *slave* to it:

**1 Corinthians 15:33 (AMP)**

<sup>33</sup> Do not be so deceived *and* misled! Evil companionships (communion, associations) corrupt *and* deprave good manners *and* morals *and* character.

**Romans 6:16 (NKJV)**

<sup>16</sup> Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin *leading* to death, or of obedience *leading* to righteousness?

Now, when Paul (who was a scholar of the Jewish Scriptures) admonished us to **present** ourselves to the Lord in service to Him, to stand alongside of Him—he could have had in mind when the children of Israel sinned against God by worshipping the golden calf:

**Exodus 32:26 (NKJV)**

<sup>26</sup> then Moses stood in the entrance of the camp, and said, “Whoever *is* on the Lord's side—*come* to me!” And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together to him.

**Romans 6:13 (NKJV)**

<sup>13</sup> **And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead...**

The same Greek word for '**present**' is used in Romans 12:1—

**Romans 12:1 (NKJV)**

<sup>1</sup> I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service.

According to Romans 12:1, the believer's body should be presented to the Lord as “*a living sacrifice*” for His glory. This is an act of the will based on the knowledge we have of what Jesus has done for us.

It is an intelligent act—not the impulsive decision of the moment based on some emotional stirring like some coming forward at an altar call.

It is important to notice the tenses of the verbs in these verses—

A literal translation of Romans 6:12-13 is:

*“Do not constantly allow sin to reign in your mortal body so that you are constantly obeying its lusts. Neither constantly present your members of your body as weapons [or tools] of unrighteousness to sin; but once and for all present yourselves to God.”*

This is a once-and-for-all surrender that Paul is talking about in both Romans 6:13 and in Romans 12:1.

One author put it this way—

*“The longer we walk with Christ, the deeper the fellowship must become. But there can be no subsequent steps without that first step. The tense of the verb in Romans 12:1 corresponds with that in Romans 6:13—a once-and-for-all yielding to the Lord. To be sure, we daily surrender afresh to Him; but even that is based on a final and complete surrender.”*

I believe what the author is saying is that—like Joshua told the children of Israel to choose who they were going to serve (the world or the Lord), which has to be a definitive decision (you can’t be a victorious Christian if you’re a ‘mugwump.’

#### **1 Kings 18:21 (NKJV)**

<sup>21</sup> And Elijah came to all the people, and said, “How long will you falter [*‘be crippled’*] between two opinions? If the Lord *is* God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him.” But the people answered him not a word.

#### **“...present yourselves [bodies] to God...”**

➤ *Why does the Lord want your body?*

To begin with, the believer’s body is God’s *temple*, and He wants to use it for His glory (1 Cor. 6:19–20; Phil. 1:20–21).

#### **Romans 6:13 (NKJV)**

<sup>13</sup> **And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.**

The Greek word translated ‘**instruments**’ is *hopla*—the same word is translated, “*weapons*” in John 18:3 and 2 Corinthians 10:4. But Paul wrote in verse 13 that the body is not only God’s *weapon* to fight the devil—but also God’s *tool* for building His Kingdom—

One Pastor had this to say on the subject—

*“God wants to use the members of our bodies as tools for building His kingdom and weapons for fighting His enemies. But you can also read in the Bible accounts of the members of the body being used for sinful purposes. Think of how God used David’s hands in the slaying of Goliath for righteousness; think of how sin used David’s eyes for unrighteousness when he looked upon Bathsheba. David’s eyes looked on his neighbor’s wife; his mind*

*plotted a wicked scheme; his hand signed a cowardly order for the woman's husband to be killed.*

*As you read Psalm 51, you see that his whole body was affected by sin: his eyes (Ps. 51:3), mind (Ps. 51:6), ears (Psalm 51:8), heart (Psalm 51:10), and lips and mouth (Psalm 51:14–15)—No wonder he prayed for a thorough cleansing! (Psalm 51:2)”*

David fell because he wasn't where God wanted him to be—he didn't present himself to God as an instrument of righteousness. (Explain, *“In the spring of the year when kings go out to battle...”*)

*“Be so busy with the work of the Kingdom—that you won't have any time left for the work of the devil!”*

And so, this is critical in Paul's instructions for victory in the Christian life—he is exhorting us not to present the members of our bodies as weapons, which Satan can use to do his work—but instead present them to God as instruments (tools), which He can use to build His Kingdom.

Let me give you some examples:

#### **A. Eyes and Ears**

One Pastor warned—

*“The average American watches 6 ½ hours of television a day. That's 6 ½ hours of the world's philosophy being pumped into your brain and heart. And since Satan is the god of this world, that's 6 ½ hours of demonic indoctrination in sex, violence, materialism and personal gratification as the number one goal in life.”*

#### **Proverbs 23:7 (NKJV)**

<sup>7</sup> For as he thinks in his heart, so is he...

#### **Proverbs 4:23 (NKJV)**

<sup>23</sup> Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it *spring* the issues of life.

The ultimate battle in the Christian life is for control of your mind. That's why right after Paul admonished us to *“present our bodies to God as living sacrifices”* in Romans 12:1, in the next verse he says—

#### **Romans 12:2 (NKJV)**

<sup>2</sup> And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Your mind is either being conformed to this world or transformed into the mind of Christ—but either way—*“As you think in your heart so are you.”* Is it any wonder that so many in the Body of Christ are so shallow and worldly in their Christian experience, and are having trouble walking with God?

#### **Philippians 4:8 (NKJV)**

<sup>8</sup> Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things *are* noble, whatever things *are* just, whatever things *are* pure, whatever things *are* lovely, whatever things *are* of good report, if *there is* any virtue and if *there is* anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.

**Psalm 119:9–11 (NKJV)**

<sup>9</sup> How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. <sup>10</sup> With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! <sup>11</sup> Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.

**B. Hands and Feet**

Our hands and feet determine what we do and where we go—which is why we must present them to God every day.

*“The idea is similar to the manner in which the priests in the Old Testament had their bodies consecrated to God - sacrificial blood was applied to the ear, to their thumb, and on their big toe, showing that those parts of their body (and all other parts) belonged to God and were to be used for His glory (Exodus 29:20).”*

**Hands****1 Thessalonians 4:11–12 (NKJV)**

<sup>11</sup> that you also aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you, <sup>12</sup> that you may walk properly toward those who are outside, and *that* you may lack nothing.

**Ephesians 4:28 (NKJV)**

<sup>28</sup> Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with *his* hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.

**Feet**

Where do your feet take you?

There are a lot of people who spend a good portion of their time in singles bars and casinos.

As a Christian do you let your feet take you places where the name of Christ is blasphemed, and sin is openly practiced—or do your feet carry you to places where the Lord is honored and where you will grow in godliness?

**Psalm 1:1–3 (NKJV)**

<sup>1</sup> Blessed *is* the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; <sup>2</sup> But his delight *is* in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night. <sup>3</sup> He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.

**C. Tongue****James 3:2–10 (NKJV)**

<sup>2</sup> For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he *is* a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body. <sup>3</sup> Indeed, we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body. <sup>4</sup> Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires. <sup>5</sup> Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles! <sup>6</sup> And the tongue *is* a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our

members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell. <sup>7</sup> For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. <sup>8</sup> But no man can tame the tongue. *It is* an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. <sup>9</sup> With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. <sup>10</sup> Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so.

The human tongue has done more damage than any gun, knife or weapon ever has.

It has destroyed more lives, broken more hearts and ruined more reputations than is humanly possible to calculate.

**Proverbs 6:16–19 (NKJV)**

<sup>16</sup> These six *things* the Lord hates, Yes, seven *are* an abomination to Him: <sup>17</sup> A proud look, A lying tongue, Hands that shed innocent blood, <sup>18</sup> A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that are swift in running to evil, <sup>19</sup> A false witness *who* speaks lies, And one who sows discord among brethren.

Three out of the 7 things that God hates the most have to do with the tongue—

**Proverbs 12:18 (NKJV)**

<sup>18</sup> There is one who speaks like the piercings of a sword, But the tongue of the wise *promotes* health.

**Proverbs 18:21 (NKJV)**

<sup>21</sup> Death and life *are* in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.

**Ephesians 4:29 (NKJV)**

<sup>29</sup> Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.

**Ephesians 5:4 (NKJV)**

<sup>4</sup> neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.

And remember this—

**Isaiah 54:17 (NKJV)**

<sup>17</sup> No weapon formed against you shall prosper, And every tongue *which* rises against you in judgment You shall condemn. This *is* the heritage of the servants of the Lord, And their righteousness *is* from Me," Says the Lord.

If you turn yourself into a weapon to be used by the devil against another Christian—you will not prosper in your walk with God.

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