Message: Romans 6:11-23
Message Date: November 9, 2025

Summary of the Sermon:

What does it actually look like to live as a freed person when our flesh keeps pulling us back toward old patterns? Romans 6:11-23 gives us something remarkable: not just inspiration, but a practical battle plan. The passage centers on four concrete actions we are called to do every single day. We are to reckon ourselves dead to sin, reckon ourselves alive to God, refuse to present any part of ourselves as instruments of unrighteousness, and actively present ourselves to God as people alive from the dead. These are not one-time decisions. They are daily disciplines, moment-by-moment choices in an ongoing civil war between flesh and Spirit. The passage also confronts one of the most paralyzing lies we can believe as people of faith: that we will never overcome a particular sin. Scripture pushes back hard against that. The same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead lives in us fully, not in part. That means the power to say no to the flesh is not something we have to manufacture on our own. It is already resident within us, waiting to be surrendered to. This message is an invitation to stop living beneath our spiritual inheritance and start walking in the victory that has already been secured for us.

Title: Dead to Sin, Alive to God: The Practical Path to Victory in the Christian Life

Sermon Summary:
Drawing from Romans 6:11-23, this sermon presents a practical framework for living victoriously as a Christian. The pastor explains that believers are engaged in a daily civil war between the flesh and the Holy Spirit, and that God has provided the full power of the Holy Spirit to win that battle. The key to victory lies in two complementary actions: reckoning the flesh dead to sin each day, and actively presenting oneself alive to God through the Spirit. The sermon emphasizes that sin's dominion over the believer has been broken, that Christians are no longer under the law but under grace, and that the Holy Spirit living within every believer is fully sufficient to overcome even the most persistent struggles with sin. Through three before-and-after contrasts in the closing verses of Romans 6, the pastor reinforces that believers are new creations who are no longer defined by their former slavery to sin, but are now slaves of righteousness with access to the fruit of holiness and eternal life.

Key Points:
- Believers are engaged in a daily civil war between the flesh and the Holy Spirit, with the soul serving as the decision-making battleground between the two
- The word "reckon" in verse 11 is an accounting term meaning to impute or credit death to the flesh each day, and it is a present-tense command with no expiration date until glorification
- Christians must do two things daily: kill the flesh by reckoning it dead to sin, and turn to the Holy Spirit by reckoning themselves alive to God
- The word "present" in verse 13 carries the idea of placing oneself near or at the disposal of something, meaning believers must avoid putting themselves in proximity to temptation
- Just as God commanded Israel to drive out the Canaanites entirely from the land, believers must remove from their lives anything that creates an opportunity for sin
- Sin can enslave even a believer when repeatedly entertained, as the brain releases addictive endorphins that can create genuine psychological bondage
- The lie that a particular sin can never be overcome is attributed to Satan, and is directly contradicted by the sufficiency of the Holy Spirit living within every believer
- Romans 6 closes with three before-and-after contrasts showing what believers were as slaves of sin versus what they now are as slaves of righteousness

- Verse 23 is not merely a salvation verse but a call to continue living as people of eternal life who are slaves of righteousness

Scripture Reference:

- Romans 6:11-23 (primary passage)
- Romans 8:2
- Luke 9:23
- Ephesians 4:20-24
- Hebrews 12:1
- Mark 4 (parable of the four soils)
- Exodus 23
- Romans 2
- Romans 10:4

Stories:

- The parable of the four soils from Mark 4 is referenced to illustrate how the third soil represents believers who are distracted by the cares of the world, the deceitfulness of riches, and desires for other things, functioning as weights that hinder fruitfulness
- The Exodus narrative of Israel entering Canaan is used as an extended illustration of the command to remove every source of temptation from one's life, with the Canaanite nations representing sinful influences that must be entirely driven out rather than permitted to remain
- A general counseling scenario is described in which a person claims they could stop a sinful habit at any time, yet does not, illustrating the self-deception that accompanies enslavement to sin
- A brief illustration about the neurological and psychological effects of entertaining sinful thoughts is presented, explaining how the brain releases addictive endorphins that can produce genuine enslavement similar to chemical addiction, and how ceasing the sin allows the brain to reform

Discussion Questions:

Day 1:
The sermon describes a daily 'civil war' between the flesh and the Spirit -- in what practical ways do you actively engage in this battle each morning, and how has your approach to it changed over time?

The pastor warns against believing the lie that you can never overcome a particular sin, arguing that the Holy Spirit provides sufficient power for victory -- how does this truth challenge or reshape the way you think about your most persistent struggles?

Day 2:
Romans 6:11 uses the accounting term 'reckon' to describe how believers should regard themselves as dead to sin -- what would it look like in your daily life to genuinely credit death to your flesh rather than simply trying harder through willpower?

The sermon draws a parallel between the Israelites being commanded to drive out the Canaanites entirely and Christians removing sources of temptation from their lives -- what 'Canaanites' might you be allowing to remain in your personal domain, and what is the cost of leaving them there?

Day 3:
The pastor distinguishes between habitual sin and occasional sin using the different verb tenses in Romans 6:1 and 6:15 -- how does recognizing that God calls us away from both patterns of sin and isolated acts of sin affect your standard for personal holiness?

The sermon explains that presenting yourself repeatedly to a temptation can chemically rewire the brain toward addiction and enslavement -- how does understanding the physiological reality of sin's power influence the seriousness with which you guard your mind and environment?

Day 4:

The pastor emphasizes that a believer's identity is no longer defined by past sin, urging listeners not to continue calling themselves by old labels -- in what ways might holding onto a former identity as a sinner actually hinder your ability to walk in the freedom Christ has provided?

The three before-and-after contrasts in Romans 6:17-22 are presented as motivation to pursue holiness -- which of these contrasts speaks most powerfully to your own story, and how does remembering what you were freed from fuel your desire to present yourself to God?

Day 5:

The sermon suggests that distancing yourself from old companions or environments is not hypocrisy but rather an honest acknowledgment of personal weakness -- how can this kind of vulnerability actually become an opportunity to share the gospel rather than a source of shame?

Romans 6:23 is placed at the end of a deeply practical passage about daily Christian living, suggesting that the gift of eternal life has implications beyond a one-time transaction -- how does living with an eternal identity as a slave of righteousness change the ordinary decisions you make each day?

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

Encourage each group member to choose at least one of these to work on before you meet again.

Daily Practice Begin each morning this week with a deliberate, spoken act of surrender. Name the flesh specifically — whatever your particular struggle is — and declare it dead. Then ask the Holy Spirit by name to fill you and lead you through the day. Keep it simple and keep it honest.

Environmental Audit Set aside time this week to prayerfully walk through your home, your phone, your schedule, and your regular habits. Ask the Lord to show you any "Canaanites" — anything you have been leaving in place that you know creates temptation for you. Make a concrete plan to remove at least one of them.

Identity Renewal Write down the before-and-after contrast that was most meaningful to you from verses 17-22. Post it somewhere you will see it daily. When you are tempted to identify yourself by a sin or a failure, read it out loud.

Accountability Share with one person in this group — or with a trusted friend outside the group — one specific area where you are presenting your members as instruments of unrighteousness. Ask that person to check in with you about it before your next group meeting.

Scripture Memory Memorize Romans 6:11 this week. Recite it each morning as part of your daily reckoning.

LOOKING AHEAD

The next section of Romans continues in chapters 7 and 8, which the sermon described as further teaching on the same civil war between flesh and Spirit. As you go into the week, pay attention to the moments when the conflict feels most intense. Bring those observations back to the group.