

Christian Victory: “Reckon”

“Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Rom. 6:11).

In years gone by, writing checks was the acceptable way to make transactions in the business world. Now, the usage of debit cards is a very widespread practice. However, the fact remains, whether writing checks on one’s account or using a debit card, adequate deposits must be previously made. Before anything can go out, something must go in. Before there can be an exit of funds, there must be an entrance of funds.

Knowledge regarding your account is of vital significance. If you are not aware of the amount available, you may write a bad check or be embarrassed about the account. A lack of knowledge is also one of the obstacles in the life of Christian victory. Because we have not been taught by others who know biblical principles, or because we have not studied the Scriptures ourselves, we are often ignorant of what is granted to us in Christ.

In our first study of victorious terms in Romans 6, we observed that to consistently experience Christian victory, we must know that we are crucified, buried and raised with Christ. We must realize that when He died, we died with Him; when He was buried, our old man was buried with Him; and when He was raised from the dead, we were raised up with Him. That brings us to some questions and answers about the second term before us, “reckon.”

What is represented in the reckoning process? In the writings of W. E. Vine, the word “reckon” is rendered “to take into account.” In his further discussion of the term, he also uses the words “consider” and “calculate” as synonyms. To live in victory each day of the Christian life, we must consider our position in Christ and simply draw from the truth of that position. We are in Christ, and we must calculate that in our spirits.

Who is responsible in the reckoning process? The pastor cannot do this for us; a Sunday School teacher cannot do this for us; our spouses cannot do this for us; the Lord will not even do this for us. The message of the text is: “Likewise reckon ye also yourselves.” The responsibility is laid upon each individual believer. And when we fail in this area, we evidence our lack of trust in the finished work of Christ and in the revealed Word of God.

What is reckoned in the reckoning process? In the verse before us, we are called upon to “reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Again, we must count our crucifixion, our burial, and our resurrection with Jesus to be so! From God’s perspective, we are now dead to sin and alive unto Him. This is not some religious idea, or a different twist on things. This is truth, and we are to reckon, to count it true in our lives.