

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).

Not knowing that I had made a deposit in our personal account earlier in the week, my wife was hesitant to pay the car payment. When I told her to write the check, she responded, “You must not know how much we have in the account.” I smiled and explained, “I know that we have more than enough to make that payment. “We do not,” Cindy insisted. Then I made my confession and the atmosphere was a bit more relaxed.

What my wife didn’t know hindered her from drawing on the account. Had she understood that there was money in the bank, the bill would have already been paid. 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.