

## I. The Structure of Romans

I have been talking about Romans. I told you that the way that you break Romans down, which is a very complicated book as you look at it, is by seeing the natural breakdown that exists within the book. I showed you that when you study Romans, you want to study it in four sections. We have taken that approach, and we have just finished the first section.

I told you that Section 1 went through Chapters 1 through 5. In the first section, we deal with the historical perspective. What do I mean by that? In that particular section, Paul begins to go back and lay out and set the groundwork for where we are going to go in Romans. If you remember, we looked at it from a historical perspective.

Now we are going to enter into Section 2. Section 2 will run Chapters 6, 7, and 8. In these particular chapters, you are going to find the doctrinal section. What do I mean by that? The section that deals with your life and my life as a Christian. You have to remember that the Book of Romans is a book that really begins to lay out the understanding of what you and I believe. Chapters 6, 7, and 8 are the paramount chapters in the Book of Romans that deal with that, and we will see that here in just a little bit.

Section 3 will be Chapters 9 through 11. That will be the prophetic section. That will talk about God's future dealing with the nation of Israel and what God has planned for that great nation. The fourth section will run from Chapter 12 to Chapter 16. That will be the practical section. That section shows you how you deal with everyday living. It shows you how you deal with relationships. It covers all the areas that we as Christians need to understand.

Really, the Book of Romans forms a complete balance for the child of God as far as the New Testament Christian is concerned. It gives you the historical perspective that really shows you where it has all come from. It shows you the doctrinal perspective that shows you how it all moves through and how it fits into your life as far as church teaching for the church. It shows you the future principles, how God is not finished with the nation of Israel and what our perspective as a New Testament child of God should be toward that. It shows you how to survive in everyday living on planet Earth. To me, the key is getting that perspective.

For those of you that are interested in getting this book down, I suggest that you put that outline, if you have not already, somewhere in your Bible and maybe break it down at the individual sections also so that when you begin to read it, you can keep that in your mind of how you are going to learn it.

## II. Review of Romans Section 1: Historical Background

We learned from the first section, Chapters 1 through 5, a basic historical background from Romans. We found in those chapters that salvation now is by grace, by the grace of God through faith, without any works involved. We now know that in Chapter 1, he talked about how the

Gentiles in the Old Testament found God through their conscience, and how that now in Romans, God does not work that way anymore. We saw in Chapter 2 how the Jews found God in the Old Testament based on their relationship to the law that God had given them through Moses. Now we have seen in that chapter that that does not work anymore.

Then we saw in Chapters 3, 4, and 5 that what does work, and this is where the difference is between the Old Testament and the New Testament, but now in the New Testament, and this is what Romans begins to lay out—this is why it has to have a historical section—now in the New Testament, the aspect of you and I, whether you are Jew or Gentile, you have to get God's righteousness imputed to you. The only way you get that is by faith in what Christ did on the cross and asking Him to come into your heart and to save you, and at that particular point in time, that is where you get salvation.

We looked at two great men's lives. One of them was David; the other was Abraham. We saw that both of them represented from two different aspects what we got in Christ. David got God's righteousness when he did not deserve it. Abraham got God's righteousness by faith through grace without any works involved, and we looked at that, and I showed you how the historical section and understanding it is built around those two men's lives. Remember last week, we took the last aspect of imputed righteousness and we showed you how it applies to your children, and we put that aspect all together.

When it comes to learning the Bible, and I know that there are a number of you here that really are trying to get the Bible down, and we saw it in the Institute last night as we are working through the Book of Acts and beginning to get that book down, really the key is finding out how the Bible divides itself out. When God wrote the Bible, He put some natural divisions in that Bible. Obviously, one of the big divisions is the Old Testament and the New Testament. That is an easy one to see. But within the Old Testament alone, there are different divisions. Within the New Testament alone, there are different divisions. You want to understand those divisions, and you want to understand the right breakdown of how that thing works. Not only does the whole Bible work that way, but each book of the Bible works that way. You will find that when I teach you a book of the Bible, the first thing I will do is give you the natural outline.

In my life, I realized this very early in life, and even though I did not understand where they all broke down and I did have some problems putting them together, through the course of 15 or 20 years of my life, I broke down those individual books as God breaks them down, and the books became much easier for me to get, much easier for me to learn and understand. The hardest books in the Bible, I would think in the New Testament anyhow, would be Romans and Acts. For those of you in Institute last night, I showed you how Acts is so easy once you get the right breakdown. Romans is so easy once you get the right breakdown. Basically, when you get the right breakdown of each book, it takes the mystery away from it. Then you just deal with each section as you deal with it.

I told the kids last night, and I tell you guys this on Thursday night Bible study, if you want to understand a book of the Bible, here is what you do:

1. Find God's natural division. In the Bible, this is called rightly dividing the word of truth.

2. Take the first section. Take Romans. Take the first section; you know what it is now. Take the first section, isolate it from the other three, look at it, study it, understand it, get a handle on it, and put it over here.
3. Then get the second section. That is what we are entering into today. Learn it, understand it, get it together, and then set it over here.
4. Then get the third section, isolate it, look at it, understand every concept of it, put it over here.
5. Get the fourth section, study it, learn it.

Now you have an understanding independently of all four sections of the Book of Romans or whatever book you are studying. You know what you do then? You take all four pieces, get your little drill gun out, and you bolt them back together. Now you have a complete understanding of the book broken down by sections. When somebody asks me a question on Thursday night about the Bible, or you ask me a question when you come over to my home, and you ask me about a book of the Bible, the first thing that goes through my mind is that book of the Bible, how it divides itself out. That is how you learn the Bible, and of course, Romans is the exact same way.

### III. Romans Section 2: The Doctrinal Section and Three Kinds of Death

Now in Chapters 6, 7, and 8, in this second section here, this is called the doctrinal section, and this section is called the great death chapters. This is very important for you to understand some of the preliminary stuff about these chapters. This is called the great death chapters, and it basically forms what you and I believe in the church age now that Christ has died on the cross. We are going to lay a framework today so you can begin to understand how this death of Christ—you keep reading the death of Christ, the death of Christ, the death of the Christian.

In your Bible, and this is the first thing you want to recognize and get down in your mind, in your Bible there are three kinds of death. You have to understand this. When the Bible talks about death, there are three kinds of death.

- Physical Death
- Spiritual Death (Unsaved)
- The Christian's Death to Sin

I believe, and you know I work with most of you in here, and I work with you in ways that you are trying to get where you are going in the Bible and trying to get your life where God wants it to be. I appreciate the fact that the majority of people in our church really want to do what God wants to do, if not all of them. I am speaking for the people that I know that I work with on a weekly or biweekly basis, or you are being disciplined or someplace around the line. But let me tell you something, I am going to talk to you today about one of the great unknown doctrines of the Bible, and it is because nobody ever teaches it anymore, and it is because you do not understand how it applies into your life.

But I want to tell something to you this morning, Christianity is a defeated thing. I have never seen more despair in God's people's lives because of the fact that after they get saved, they still struggle and they still have the problems in their lives that keep pulling them down. I have news for you folks, if you are saved here this morning, sin in God's mind has no more dominion over you. You know what the victorious Christian life is? The victorious Christian life is you getting saved, living in a sinful world, but that sin having absolutely zero impact on your life.

Now who in the world understands that today? Who in the world is a child of God who even looks at their life that way? How many of God's people, and ask yourself this question, and I am not blaming you because you are going to know now after I teach you this this morning, but how many of God's people could really stand up this morning and say, "You know what, when it talks about the death of a Christian being dead to the world, let me tell you how that works in my life." Now you know why we struggle with things? You know why we allow things to get to us? You know why some of you, bless your hearts, your whole Christian walk is uphill? You struggle thing after thing after thing in your life, and yet God does not want you to be that way. He wants you to be victorious. He wants you to have the victory over everything in your life, and today I want to show you, before we ever get into Romans 6, I want to define for you what this spiritual death means in your life, that you do not have to be under the domination of sin anymore in your life. You can have a victorious Christian life. You can have everything that God wants for you, but you have to understand the process that God has enacted when He died on the cross.

So these chapters are going to be, now that Christ died on the cross and you now got saved, your life is hid in Christ's death, and if you understand that great concept, just as He had the power to overcome sin, you now, I now have the power to live a victorious Christian life. The difference is simply this: He was sinless. You and I will never be sinless, but you and I can live without sin in our lives having dominion over us. It is one of the greatest concepts that you will ever have. Romans 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 showed that salvation in the New Testament was made possible by grace through Christ's death and then Him imputing righteousness to us. Romans 6, 7, and 8 show what happens when you got saved, how it affects you as a Christian.

Chapters 1 through 5 showed you and I that we were dead in sin, and that is basically, if you want just a small capsule to understand these two sections, Chapters 1 through 5 show you and I that we were dead in sin. Chapters 6, 7, and 8 show you now that you are saved, you are dead to sin. Sin does not have to have an effect on you anymore. Chapter 6 shows Christ's death on the cross in relationship to my spiritual death as a Christian. Chapter 7 shows that Christ's death on the cross has now made me dead to the law of sin. Chapter 8 shows that Christ's death on the cross, how it applies to me in my redemption of my body both physically and spiritually, and helps me understand how I am dead to the things of this world.

Now I realize, I understand totally, that is why I am going to take my time this morning, and we can work through this throughout the next couple of weeks as you have to in your individual lives, but I want you to understand this concept, and I fully understand in most cases it is a totally foreign concept of this thing of being dead in Christ and understanding the three types of death in the Bible.

## IV. The Christian's Two Natures: Old Man and New Man

Let me simplify it. We know now that before you and I got saved, the determining factor that really made you a saved person was simply this: You have a body, you have a soul, and you have a spirit. You are a trichotomy, you are like God, He is a trinity, and you have a body, you have a soul, and you have a spirit. We have talked about it before, and I have detailed them out at great length, and we will not go through it today. If you want to study it out, you can get it on the website on one of those sections in there.

But we know this: before you were saved, here is the problem. Your flesh is very sinful; it is wicked. I do not know if you know it or not, but your flesh is not going to heaven. Your flesh is going to go down to the ground where it came from, and after about six months, or a year, four, five years or whatever, you are going to go back to the dust from whence you came. Something else, this flesh is the number one problem you have. It hangs on you like a cheap suit. It causes you every problem that you have in life.

Now, your soul is the eternal part of you, and your soul when you die is going one place or the other. If you are saved, your soul is going to heaven, your body is going down to the grave, but if you are lost, your soul is going to heaven. If you are lost, your soul then is going to go to hell. It is that simple.

Now, before you and I were saved, your flesh, which is sinful, and your soul, which is spiritual, were stuck together. They were one. They were stuck together. Whatever your flesh did, affected your soul. That is what the Bible means when it says you are dead in the trespasses of sin. That is why when you died, your body went to the grave, and your soul, which was stuck to that sinful flesh, has to go to hell. It has never been redeemed. The eternal part of you has never been redeemed; therefore, it is stuck to that flesh.

Now, when you got saved, Colossians 2:11, "the operation of God made without hands," the spiritual circumcision, the fact that God came in and what really happened the day you got saved was God simply took your soul and your flesh, which were stuck together, and ripped them apart. Now, you have an old nature and you have a new nature. Not only did He rip it apart, but the soul part of you, the Holy Spirit of God came in and took up residency inside your body, and then like sealing something with a hot seal, the Bible says that you were sealed unto the day of redemption. By the way, if you understand what I am talking to you about this morning and you ever grasp this truth, you will never think for a second that you could ever lose your salvation. The reason why people think they can lose their salvation is because you do not understand the process by which you got saved first. If you understand your salvation, you understand what happened when you got saved, you cannot even remotely get to losing it. But that is another subject.

What happened when you got saved is God separated your flesh from your soul. Now you are two people. Paul calls it the old man and the new man, the old nature and the new nature. The old nature now will do everything that it did before. It is not saved. It is going to give you all kinds of fits. The new nature is now your power of God in your life that through the recognition of that

new nature and through understanding how that thing works in your life, you now have the power and the ability to recognize that that soul is sealed in the death of Christ on the cross. Thereby your soul now is dead or can be dead to the things of this world if you understand what I am talking about. This single message this morning could revolutionize your Christian life if you are paying attention.

A couple of weeks ago we talked about how an unsaved man has absolutely no power, no strength in his life. He cannot change anything about him. Why? Because they are stuck together. Once he gets saved, he has the ability to change through the Word of God, the Spirit of God, to change everything about him that he wants to change, and he can become everything that God wants him to be because he now has God's strength, and he can change and he can do it if he understands how to use it.

I could put a million dollars in your bank account. I could just put a million dollars in your bank account, but if you never learned how to write a check, if you never learned how to use the banking system, you will never get a dime out of that thing. When I deal with people about the Lord, when I tell them, I bring them to a point, and this may be a good illustration you can use. I will bring them up to a point where they know they need to be saved, and I will say to them, "You know what, Tom, John, Bill, Ralph, Mary, Sue, you know whatever. You know what? If I won the lottery and I just found out I had \$275 million, and I really felt sorry for you because you are a good person, and I want to help you out in life, and I picked one person I want to give a million dollars to, and it was you, and I said, 'You know what, I am going to give you a million dollars,' and you would be so excited. I wrote out a check, put your name in it, signed it, it is all ready to go, and I gave you that check for a million dollars. You would be on the cell phone calling your mom, your dad, your brother, your sister, your husband, your wife, whatever, and you would be saying, 'Bob just gave me a million dollars. You know what? We are going to pay this off. We are going to do this. We are going to go on a vacation. We are going to buy a new car. We are going to get this. We are going to get that. We are going to do all of these things,' but the truth of the matter is, unless you go to the bank and cash the check, you do not have anything." Many of you as God's people this morning, God has a billion trillion dollars in the bank for you, and you are holding the check in your hand. You just simply do not know how to get to the bank to cash it. This message will help you understand that.

There is an oil crisis in America, or so they say. I do know this: 65% of our oil we have, we are dependent on our enemies to give it to us. I do not know what to tell you. Dependency is never a good thing. We in America are dependent on not only our enemies but Israel's enemies. In other words, they have a carrot over our head here. The bottom line is this: In times to come, and of course if you remember a couple of weeks ago I talked about the aspect of facts or knowledge, wisdom, and understanding. I guarantee you that when this thing is shaping up, the oil is going to play a vital part in what America does. If you did not know that, you have to go over to read Revelation 6:6. We are right in the middle of the tribulation period. He makes a very weird statement about not hurting the oil. He is not talking about olive oil, Popeye's girlfriend, or he is not talking about Western oil. He is talking about the oil in the Middle East and how that is going to figure into this thing.

But the bottom line is this: We are now dependent way over our heads with the very enemies who hate us, who want to destroy us, who by their own religion have a standard by which they want to dominate the world and make it what they believe, and who absolutely hate Israel. We are totally at a disadvantage because if they turned off the spigot, we are in trouble. We are in trouble. We have played the game so long in this country of not doing what we needed to do, and now we have found ourselves in a very bad situation.

Now personally, let me give you a little understanding here. I believe that is by God's design. I believe this thing is over, and we are just, you know, our elevator has just about hit the basement. So, you have to think, if you think this \$700 billion bailout is going to fix anything, you are crazy. You know what it is going to fix? It is going to fix a lot of politicians are going to skim it off the top. You know what it is going to be like? Remember back there when they had Katrina? Remember what happened? The stadium down there was crowded with people, and they were defecating all over the stadium down there, and it was a big mess. So the federal government comes in. Ronald Reagan said the most terrible words in the English language are, "Hi, I am from the federal government. I am here to help." So the feds get involved in it through FEMA. They go down there, and what do they have? They have these little plastic cards that work for \$2,000 or \$1,200. They pass them out to Katrina victims. Now keep in mind there is no place to go spend them. Everything has been, but they give them to you, and everybody gets a \$1,200 credit card from the government. When it was all said and done, they wound up missing about \$200 million of that money that nobody knew where it went. I know where it went. I know exactly where it went. But the bottom line is this: That is not the way you run it. When you get into something as corrupt as our government is, and you give them \$700 billion to people who are already corrupt, and the CEOs are making \$27 million a year, and that is just for tips, give me a break. Where do you think it is going to wind up?

Bottom line is, I am okay with it all. You say you are upset. No, I am just excited because I got the new building over there. We are going to get to eat at my favorite place today. I have a lot of good things I am excited about. I am okay with the whole thing. Let her rip. But I am just saying we are in a mess. Now we are not only dependent on foreign oil, but now we as an American society are dependent on the federal government. I would much better take my chance with the Saudis and the oil.

But my point is this: dependency, ladies and gentlemen, it is not a good thing. This country is in the mess that it is in because it will not become independent. We have more oil in our country than Saudi Arabia has gotten everywhere around this place. If we just did what we needed to do, we could tell them to go take a long walk off a short pier. We would have all the gas in the world. I think instead of coming up with all these fuel-efficient cars and all these hydrogen cars, they had to just get a car that runs on hot air. We could fill up in Washington all the time we wanted to. That is my idea on it. Dependency on somebody else for your oil and your money and your finances is bad. But I have to add to that, dependency on somebody else for your walk with God as a Christian is not very good either. That is the problem we are facing not only in the world, but in Christianity. It is hard to separate the two.

Now, the Democrats say, "We are not going to drill." The Republicans say, "Let us drill right now, drill baby drill." And the Democrats say, "No, we are not going to drill." Somebody says, "Well, why?" "Because the oil company already has rights to millions and millions and millions of acres and are not drilling on. So you know what? We are not going to give them any more because they are not using what they have." It is not the federal government anymore. It has now come down to the level of a fourth-grade class in kindergarten. That is what we have.

Bottom line is this: It is not going to happen either way. Because the oil companies, first of all, they want to make as much money as they can. They are not going to go drill someplace that gives them a lot of hard work. That is not convenient. They want to go someplace where they can get it right now. On top of that, you have too many tree huggers out there. You have too many people that do not want to ruin the water for the whales. You have too many people. You are going to die, and you are going to lose the economy, but the whales are going to say, "Whoa, I am having a good day today." Somebody said one time, I heard a debate, a lady got up and she says, "We cannot pass to drill in Alaska or ANWR simply because we are going to ruin the habitat of the caribou meeting grounds." Get a room, man. I do not care. I live in South Raytown, 8308 Woodson Drive. That is where I live.

Now let me tell you something. I come out to go take the dogs out the other morning on my street. On my street, it runs all the way up to the cul-de-sac, whatever that is. It runs all the way up. And there I am walking out there, and I look down, and right in the middle of the road is a big deer looking at me in the middle of the road. I mean, standing right there looking at me. Now that deer had another one come out with three little ones behind it. Now those houses have been there for probably 35 years. It did not get into their meeting problems. You know what you have? A problem in Overland Park. You know what it is? In Overland Park, they have all those upper-crusty people. They have some little rat-faced dogs. They do not have real dogs. Come to my house, I have some real dogs. I have some real, well, I kind of have some, I have two downstairs, a real dog. I have one upstairs that is a rat with a genetic defect. His name is Otis. I love Otis. I keep Otis around because he reminds me a lot of preachers. He really does. He has a yappy little mouth, and he thinks he is a lot bigger than he is. You ought to see in the morning when I get up to go downstairs to get the real dogs out. Now I have two labs. I just lost my oldest lab a couple of weeks ago. We will not talk about that. But I have two labs. I have Buddy. Buddy is the big old brown boy. He is about 110 pounds. He is about that high. And Buddy can be a problem if he wants to be. Then I have a little white one named Daisy. She is not so little. She is probably 86, 80 pounds. But Daisy's problem is she thinks the world revolves around her. Now Buddy is a man, and Daisy is a woman. So I mean that fits naturally. What woman does not think the world revolves around her? That is okay. I am for it. I am not against you. The world does revolve around you, ladies. I mean, after all, we would not be in a mess if it was not for you. So just, you know, you want to play the game, you want to pitch the ball? Let us go all the way and throw a fast one right down the strike line. Okay. Now, I feel better. I got that off my system. I am really feeling better now.

Here we go. Every morning I go down. Now Buddy has this thing. I do not know what it is. Buddy has this thing that he thinks that I am everything to him. And so what happens is about, I

do not know what time it is, I am going to hook a camera up. He gets out of the pen down there, he figures his way out, and he will come up halfway up the cellar steps, and he will sit on the cellar steps looking down. Now his idea is he is keeping the other dogs from coming up the step because he wants to be the first one to see me when I come down. He will sit on that step for hours. It has got to be uncomfortable. His rear end is as big as a two-seat bus. I mean, and the step is not that wide. And he is sitting on that thing, and he just sits down there, and he just watches. And he looks over every time. He is looking over his shoulder. Well, I go down to feed him. And then once they know I am up, then the other dog comes up. Buddy is kind of stupid, by the way. He does not know that there are still sides on it. You can get around him, and his little Daisy works her way up there. And so little Otis, little Otis, who is about that big, goes into this tirade. Like she is going to take these two dogs on. I mean, she is biting the door. She is giving that high-pitched little yap sound that they all give. She is scratching like this, like she is going to do something. Now she does not have a very good memory because it was just about a year ago when she was little small that we had a miscommunication, and I, and Barb had Maddie, and she had Otis out on the leash. And I did not know she was in the backyard. So I took my dogs out to go up the back. Well, yes, that is where it went. Exactly where it went. Buddy and Daisy got Otis each end in the mouth and were playing tug of war with her. Barb got baby in her hand, holds the dog up like this on his, you know, dog now being hung by its own master, and I am doing everything I can. I ripped the skin off my knees. I was bleeding profusely because I am trying to fight 200-pound dogs off this little dog. And I finally get her up and get the other dog off, and she is bleeding, and everything. And I get her up, and just as I give her to Barb, the big one comes through the air, takes her right out of my hand, and the scenario starts over again.

Now, you think Otis would know that? No, no, no, no, no, no. Otis is like most preachers. They cannot figure it out either. There are bigger people out there who will bite you. So, Otis is yapping at everybody, and my dogs think that they own the world. They know they are in their own little world right there. They think it is all them. I am telling you, when you look at this world today, we have people that are the same way. They look at, all they see is their surroundings. All they see is what they have. They do not look outside the perimeter at all. And their own little world just gets around like my little guys where it is just what they are doing downstairs in the basement. That is all the world that they know. Some of God's people are exactly the same way. We get dependent. We get dependent on things. Instead of being dependent on God, the Republicans are saying, "Drill right now." The Democrats say, "No, no, no." Bottom line is this: We have too many people that are looking out there and seeing all the stuff that is going on, and they are saying, "We have to save this land for the animals."

Over in Park, but again, they will tell you over in Park, you know what the big problem is in Overland Park where they do not have real dogs like my guys? You put your little puppy out in the backyard, and he is having a good time. Big coyote comes in and eats your dog. Coyotes. Well, I thought you had to be out in the wild, wild west for coyotes. Coyotes. You know, there is a mountain lion over in Overland Park. You may not believe it, but they have seen it. I can just get to see it. The woman says, "Oh, a mountain lion came down and ate my dog." Conservation guy comes out and says, "No, I do not think so." Went up to check it out. They have not ever seen him for two years. What does it take? My point is this: You are telling me they do not get

along with humans? At springtime, I go out in my backyard. I have a stretch of woods down there with houses on the other side. I can get a turkey call and call turkeys. They will gobble back at me. I have raccoons getting in my trash. I have more squirrels than I have in this church in my backyard. They are everywhere. I go out in my backyard, and there are four or five squirrels cussing me out. How many know how a squirrel cusses at you? Oh, a couple of you. They do. They do. They do. And I will tell you what, and you are going to tell me that they cannot get along. Hey, they are getting along in my neighborhood. Look, you see, it is not about that. It is about politics.

Bottom line is this: This church, this country is not going to change its stand and become independent. This basic little current event issue is the reason why we do not get more from God in our lives. Just as our country will never lose its dependency on foreign oil and will ultimately lead to our demise and our disaster, so most of God's people will never become dependent on God and not be dependent on somebody else for their spirituality.

Now, I am going to tell you the truth. I understand this totally. I do not want to say what I just said without clarifying what I am saying, because there are a lot of people here on different levels of spirituality. When you first get saved or you first plug into the Bible, you need somebody to help you. God never intended a new Christian to be independent of the church. That is why when you get saved or you begin to plug in here, the first thing I do is put you with some people. People that will disciple you, put you into a small group that will help you. Because you are dependent. Just like when you have a baby, you do not just put that baby in the room and say, "Okay, get your room cleaned up, change your clothes, we are going to eat in a few minutes." You have to constantly care for that baby. But as that baby grows, you cannot do that. It has to learn how to take care of itself. Same way with Christianity. I am here to help you. I am here to be for you, whatever you need. That is my job. But part of my job is also not to let you stay a baby all of your life. If you went down to the nursery to pick up your kid, and there in one of our cribs down there was a 45-year-old man with a diaper on with his big legs hanging out of the thing and a bottle in his hand, a little thing around his head sucking on a bottle. And you said, "Hey, Ralph, how are you doing today?" "Well, I am doing just fine. Good to see you. Nice crib you got there." Would you not think there is something wrong with that? Well, there would be something wrong with that, by the way. But yet in every church, you find it just that way. Men and women who ought to be farther along with God than they are, and are still sucking on a bottle, wearing the diapers, and still struggling with the thing that they should have got through because nobody helped them grow properly.

I am here to help you. I will give you whatever time it takes. You want to come over once a week, every other week, you want to come over and spend time and let me help you work through your issues. You need people in your life to help you get where you need to go. That is what this church is all about. But at some point in your life, ladies and gentlemen, you have to cease to be dependent and become independent. This nation will never do it. We are caught into an oil crisis that is going to sink us. We are caught into a financial crisis that is going to bury us by God's design. My whole point of that is this: When it comes to the Bible, God is going to start with what you have right now and begin to develop you with that. You need to drill. This country

needs to start getting rid of all the goofy stuff it has and begin to drill right now every place we can and tell the Saudis to go take a long walk, but they will not do it. I am telling you right now as a child of God, you need to begin drilling for God right now. This country will not do it because it is not convenient. We have a lot of other agendas. That is the same reason why God's people will not do it because you have too many other things on your plate that you want to do. It does not include God, and there lies the problem. That is why God's people will totally be dependent on somebody else for their spirituality and never get past the point where they really begin to grow. This is the problem.

Now I want to talk to you about some verses, and there are a number of you and I, we have worked together, and you have had issues in your life, and the way that we have gotten through those issues is a simple little thing that works so well. Remember I have given you those little three by five cards, and whatever your particular problem was, remember many of you have been through them, and on those three by five cards we get verses that absolutely gave to you exactly what you needed to get through your problem. Now obviously, sweetheart, the lady here that was the axe murderer, we had a tough time getting your verses, but we found some. What do you do? You put them in your pocket. When you get an urge or you start to have this thing come out of its box, you start to struggle with this thing, you take those principles out and you go through them. I actually had a number of people in life stop smoking that way. They always carry their cigarettes in their pockets, and they are always just getting out there and having a cigarette. I told them, "Throw your cigarettes away, put those cards in your pocket, and every time you reach for a cigarette when they are not there anymore, pull out the cards and deal with it." You know what? After a period of time, that will fix the problem for you. You know why you will not do it? Because deep down inside you really do not want to quit. That is why. You really do not want to quit. We want to blame it on everybody else or blame it on this or blame it on that. The bottom line is the Bible says sin has no more dominion over you. There is nothing in your life once you are a child of God that you cannot overcome if you drill in the right place. Drill in the right place. You either drill or you make all the excuses that we make for not drilling, but it is just that simple.

## V. Four Steps to Understanding "Dead in Christ"

Now I am going to give you four steps here to understanding this concept of dead in Christ. I am going to give you four steps, and these verses, if you really want to overcome things in your life, you start with these verses and put them on a three by five card and maybe put them in your purse, put them in your shirt pocket, carry them with you. You want to begin to put the things of God in your life and understand this great concept of spiritual death in Christ's death on the cross to your spiritual death in Christ, that you are dead to this world. These are the verses.

- Recognize Your Two Natures
- Seek and Set Your Affections
- Die Daily

- Reckon Yourself Dead to Sin

## VI. Transformation and Conformation

One last thing, and I am done. Philippians 3:10, and you want to get this one down. Do not lose this one.

*Philippians 3:10*

*That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;*

Now that is one of the greatest verses in the Bible that shows you and I the process: "That I may know him." That is the day you got saved. "The power of his resurrection," that is the power of God being unleashed in your life. "The fellowship of his sufferings," that is the things in your life that God allows that are not good but are bad to keep you and I balanced out in life. We talked about it, rejoicing in your tribulation a couple of weeks ago, that here is the word, here is the verse, "being made conformable unto his death."

Two aspects in a child of God's life. We have to understand it, and they have to do with the victory we are talking about today. Two aspects to the concept of reckoning yourself dead, and I hope you never forget that word after today. I hope God burns it into your soul, into your mind. The word "reckon," the word "reckon."

*Romans 12:1-2*

*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*

*And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

Two words, understand reckoning. First word is "transformed." You transform your mind. What does that mean? Transformation of your mind changes how you think. You start thinking the principles of the Word of God. Now this verse here, Philippians 3:10, "being made conformable unto his death." Once you transform your mind, then you have the ability to conform your life. You see, you transform your mind, but you have to conform your life. You cannot conform your life to what God's death is until you first transform your mind. You have to see that, and there lies the real key and secret to the word "reckoning." Reckoning is a process by which through the Word of God you first transform your mind, and then you have the ability to conform your body into His, unto His death. And when you do that, you now reckon yourself to be dead, and sin has no more dominion over you. Recognizing and understanding what Christ's death on the cross means to you and I in our spiritual death.

Three types of death. Go out of here with that.

6. Physical death. You are all going to die. I am going to die. We are going to be buried in the ground.

7. Spiritual death. Unsaved man or woman. Separated from God. Romans 6:23. "Wages of sin is death, but the gift of God."
8. The death of a Christian in relationship to Christ's death on the cross. You and I, even though we are alive in the flesh, we are dead to the world and alive in Christ Jesus. Old nature, new nature through the process of reckoning. Reckoning.

## VII. Conclusion

Well, let us hold up there, and we will have prayer. We will be out of here. Now, let me just say to you again, I hope if I can help you with this at all, you come over and see me, and I will take the time to work it out. I hope it was pretty self-explanatory. If you need to get some cards in your life, and you need to get some things that will help you get where you need to be, you come and see me. I will work with you. If you need people to help you in your life, you need a support group, whatever you need. I will put those things in your life to help you get everything that you need to help you get where God wants you to be. Let us have prayer. Do not forget.