

“Wanted: Dead And Alive!”
Romans 6:11-12

Introduction:

1. **IE:** In The Old West - It Was Notorious For Being A Land Of Lawlessness! And So - Some Of The Celebrities Of That Time Were Criminals - With Such Famous Names As: Jesse James, Doc Holliday, And, Of Course, Billy The Kid! And They Were Hunted Down As Fugitives For Their Crimes Of Robbery And Even Murder!
 - Well - Their Wanted Posters That Were Posted All Throughout The West - Were A Bit Different Than The Wanted Posters That You Might Have Seen In The Post Office Over The Years!
 - Because - Back Then - They Were “Wanted: Dead **Or** Alive!”
 - And, It Didn’t Matter Much To The Sheriffs Or The Marshals Which Way They Came!
 - “Dead **Or** Alive!”
2. Well - As We Head Back:
 - In Our Bibles This Morning:
 - To Romans 6 - We Have Been:
 - Exploring Some Of The Effects:
 - Of Being Justified By Grace Through Faith:
 - As A Christian!
 - And - One Of Those Effects:
 - Is What We Find:
 - In 6:3-4 - “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? / Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life!”
3. So - When You Become A Christian:
 - By Turning From Your Sin & Self:
 - And Trusting In Jesus Christ:
 - As Your Personal Savior:
 - You Are Spiritually United With Christ:
 - And Are Given Spiritual Freedom Through Christ!
 - And - The Illustration / Object Lesson:
 - Of These Spiritual Facts:
 - Is Baptism - Where - As We Often Say:
 - You Are “Buried In The Likeness Of Christ’s Death” & “Raised To Walk In Newness Of Life!”
4. So That Now:
 - As A Christian:
 - There Is A New Kind Of:
 - “Wanted Poster” Out For You!
 - And One That Is Posted By God Himself!
 - And That Is - As You Can See From Your Message Guide:
 - You Are “Wanted: Dead **And** Alive!”
 - And - This Is What We Find:
 - In The Next Two Verses That We Will Focus On This Morning:
 - 6:11-12 - Which Tells Us:
 - What God **Wants** From You:
 - Now That You Belong To Him!
 - 6:11-12 - “Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. / Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof!”
 - In These Verses - We See That:
 - God Wants You:
 - “Dead **And** Alive!”
 - He Wants You To:
 - Be “Dead Indeed Unto Sin!”
 - **And** - He Wants You To:
 - Be “Alive Unto God!”
5. And - Since All Of This:

- Has Already Been Accomplished **For** You:
 - **By** Jesus:
 - Now - You Need To:
 - Accept And Appropriate:
 - His Death As Your Death & His Life As Your Life!
- And This Means:
 - As We First See From 6:11 - That:
 - There Now Needs To Be In Your Heart & Life:

1. ***A Great Reckoning!***

- A Great Reckoning:
 - 6:11 - “Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord!”
 - The Word Translated “Reckon” In The King James And Other Translations:
 - Is From A Word That We’ve Already Seen In Our Study Through The Book Of Romans!
 - It’s The Same Word That Describes How God Sees And Treats You When You Are Saved!
 - Even As He Did For Abraham In 4:3 - When - “Abraham believed God, and it was counted / imputed / reckoned unto him for righteousness!”
 - This Means That:
 - God Now Considers You To Be Righteous Before Him - Because:
 - The Righteousness Of Jesus Christ - In His Life & Death - Has Been Applied To Your Account!
 - And Now:
 - You Are To Reckon:
 - For Yourself:
 - What God Has Already:
 - Reckoned To You!
 - And What Does This:
 - “Great Reckoning” Include?
 - It Includes And Requires:
- A Special Consideration:
 - Of This Gospel Truth:
 - That - 6:11 - You Are:
 - “Dead Indeed Unto Sin!”
 - This Is Your Condition And Connection To Sin!
 - You Are Now - As A Christian - Dead To It!
 - The Word Translated “Dead” Here:
 - Is Not A Verb - Which Would Describe:
 - An Ongoing Process:
 - Of Dying!
 - Instead - It Is A Noun - Which Describes:
 - Your Condition:
 - As Already Dead! **IE:** Corpse!
 - So - Even Though - Physically:
 - You Are Not Dead **In** This World:
 - Yet - Spiritually:
 - You Are Now Dead **To** This World!
 - And - What Happens When You Are United:
 - With The Death Of Jesus Christ?
 - 6:7 - “For he that is dead is freed from sin!”
 - This Means That - As A Christian:
 - You Are No Longer Under:
 - The Domain Of Sin!
 - So - Now - You Need To Reckon And Consider Yourself:
 - To Be Truly Free!
 - This Also Means That - As A Christian:
 - You Are No Longer Under:

- The Demands Of Sin!
 - So - Now - You Can Reckon And Consider Yourself:
 - To Be Free To Say “No” To Any & Every Temptation You May Face!
- This Also Means That - As A Christian:
 - You Are No Longer Under:
 - The Destructive Nature Of Sin!
 - So - Now - You Must Reckon And Consider Yourself:
 - To Be Free From The Fear Of Death!
 - Which - For You:
 - Is Not The End:
 - But The Entrance:
 - Into Eternal Life With God!
- This Is How You Now **Can**:
 - And **Ought** - To Think!
 - **IE**: This Way Of Thinking Is Not A Daydream! This Way Of Thinking Is Not A Fantasy World! It Is Really True About You!
 - But - This Great Reckoning:
 - Goes Even Further - And Includes:
- A Special Conclusion:
 - Of This Gospel Truth:
 - That - 6:11 - You Are Also:
 - “Alive Unto God!”
 - This Is Now Your Condition And Connection:
 - To God Himself!
 - So - Even As Jesus Is Alive:
 - And Living In Heaven With His Father:
 - You Need To Believe:
 - That You Are Alive With Him!
 - **IE**: But - This Is Hard To Do - Isn’t It?
 - Especially When:
 - Our Bodies Don’t Feel So Alive Anymore!
 - And Also When:
 - Our Souls Still Feel The Weight Of Temptation At Times!
 - But - What Does The Apostle Paul:
 - Also Tell Us In 2 Corinthians 4:16 - “But though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day!”
 - So - Right Now:
 - Because You Are United To:
 - The Very Life Of Jesus Christ:
 - You Too - Like Christ:
 - Can - 6:10 - “Live Unto God!”
 - This Means That - As A Christian:
 - You Now Live:
 - In God’s Domain!
 - You Are A Citizen Of The Kingdom Of Heaven:
 - And Now - Owe No Allegiance To Your Former Country!
 - **IE**: Like When Immigrants Become Citizens - Renouncing Any Allegiance Or Political Connection To Their Former Country! “I hereby declare, on oath, that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, of whom or which I have heretofore been a subject or citizen!”
 - But - This Also Means That - As A Christian:
 - You Can Now Live:
 - For God’s Delight:
 - And To His Glory!
 - Even As It Says:
 - In 1 Corinthians 10:31 - “Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God!”

- As A Christian - Now - You Can!
- Because - As Far As God Is Concerned:
 - You Are Alive:
 - In And Through His Son:
 - At This Very Moment!
 - And Now - You Can:
 - And - You Need To:
 - Reckon This To Really Be True:
 - About You!
 - And - This Great Reckoning:
 - Is All Based On:
- A Special Counting:
 - Of This Gospel Truth!
 - Because - This Is All Done & Accomplished:
 - For You - 6:11 - “Through” - Or - “In Jesus Christ Our Lord!”
 - This Means That - As A Christian:
 - The History Of Jesus Himself:
 - Becomes Your History!
 - Because:
 - When He Died For Sin:
 - You Died With Him:
 - To Sin! And:
 - When He Arose From The Dead:
 - You Arose With Him:
 - Unto Eternal Life!
 - And This Is All Part:
 - Of The Great Reckoning:
 - That You And I Must Keep In Our Minds:
 - At All Times!
 - In Spite Of Our Feelings:
 - These Are The Facts That Can Be Grasped:
 - By The Hand Of Your Faith!
 - But Then - Along With This - As We Come To:
 - 6:12 - We Also Find:

2. ***A Great Responsibility!***

- A Great Responsibility:
 - 6:12 - “Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof!”
- You See - Even Though:
 - When You Believe In Jesus Christ:
 - You Die To The Reign Of Sin Over You:
 - Yet - Sin & Satan Himself Does Not Die To Its Resolve To Reign Over You!
 - And So - You Now Have:
 - A Responsibility To:
 - ***Live Out*** What You ***Think About***:
 - When You “Reckon” Yourself Dead To Sin & Alive To God!
 - And - This Means:
 - 6:12 - “Let Not Sin Therefore Reign!”
 - Remember - You Are No Longer A Part Of Sin’s Domain!
 - **IE**: And Yet - This Too Is Sometimes Hard To Live Out! Just Like A Foreign National - Who Moves To A Free Country From A Restricted Country - Sometimes Hard To Live Out That Freedom! Of Speech / Assembly - For Fear!
 - Remember:
 - The Rules & Laws Of Your Former Country:
 - Have No More Jurisdiction Over You!
 - So - 6:12 - “Let Not Sin Therefore Reign!”
 - This Responsibility Means That:
 - You Need To Keep Rebelling!

- Not As You **Once** Did:
 - Against God:
 - And His Reign!
- But Now - Rebel:
 - Against **Sin** - And Its Desire To Reign:
 - In Your Heart And Life!
 - And - Do Not Surrender:
 - To Its Attempt To Sway You:
 - No Matter How Strong It May Feel!
- Because - In & Through Christ:
 - It Has No More Power:
 - And - No More Jurisdiction:
 - Over You!
 - 6:12 - "Let Not Sin Therefore Reign!"
 - This Responsibility Also Means That:
- You Need To Keep Restraining:
 - Sin - And:
 - Choke It Off:
 - From The Fuel:
 - That Keeps It Raging:
 - **IE**: Like A Forest Fire!
 - 6:12 - "Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body!"
 - So - Even Though:
 - Spiritually:
 - You Are Alive In Christ:
 - As A Christian!
 - Yet - Physically:
 - You Are Still In A Period:
 - Of Transition - From The Kingdom Of This World To The Kingdom Of Heaven!
 - Romans 8:23 - "Even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body!"
 - And So - During This Time Of Transition:
 - We Are - In Our Bodies:
 - Still Mortal - Still:
 - Liable To Death & The Process Of Dying!
 - We Remain:
 - Fallen!
 - We Remain:
 - Frail!
 - We Even Remain:
 - Liable To Fail - At Times:
 - Apart From God's Grace!
 - So - As Long As You Are Living:
 - In This "Mortal Body":
 - You Need To Keep Restraining:
 - The Practices, The Passions, And The Pursuits:
 - Of Your Old Flesh!
 - Proverbs 4:14-15 - "Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men. / Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away!"
 - But - Even In This:
 - You Are Not To Do It Alone!
 - God Has Provided The Means To Conduct This Spiritual Warfare!
 - Especially Through His Word & Through Prayer!
 - So - Keep Restraining Sin:
 - In Your "Mortal Body" - Knowing That:
 - Even When You Fail:
 - You Remain Connected To:

- The Triumph Of Jesus:
 - Through Faith Alone!
- 6:12 - "Let Not Sin Therefore Reign!"
 - This Responsibility Also Means That:
- You Need To Keep Resisting:
 - Sin - Lest:
 - 6:12b - "Ye should obey it in the lusts thereof!"
 - Resist Sin:
 - With All Of The New Heart:
 - You Have Been Given By God!
 - The Word Translated "Obey" Here:
 - Describes A Process Of:
 - Hearing With Your Ears:
 - And Then Heeding:
 - What Was Said!
 - And This Is What Sin & Satan:
 - Still Do - They Ring:
 - Their Siren Call:
 - To Your Old, Fallen & Fleshly Desires:
 - In Order To Draw You Away From Hearing & Heeding:
 - The Pleasant Sounds Of The Gospel!
 - But - Even Though:
 - You May Sometimes Forget:
 - Who You Truly Are:
 - In Christ! And:
 - You May Even Sometimes:
 - Fail And Fall:
 - Yet - Sin Is Still No Longer Your Sovereign!
 - And - You Are No Longer Satan's Subject!
 - So - You Keep On:
 - Resisting & Striving:
 - Against Sin!
 - Even As We Are Told In:
 - James 4:7 - "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil!" - And What Is God's Promise? "And he will flee from you!"
 - And This Is All Part:
 - Of The Great Responsibility:
 - That You And I Have:
 - Now That We Are United With Christ!

Conclusion:

1. So - As A Christian:
 - You Are Wanted:
 - Both Dead **And** Alive!
 - Both - "Dead Indeed Unto Sin!"
 - And - "Alive Unto God!"
 - "Through / In Jesus Christ Our Lord!" (6:11)
2. So - Now:
 - Since You Are Dead Unto Sin:
 - **Reckon** It To Be **True**:
 - For **You!**
 - Let This Be Your Constant:
 - Meditation!
 - But Also:
 - Since You Are Now Alive Unto God:
 - Remember Your **Responsibility**:
 - To Live:
 - As The Citizen Of Heaven:

- That You Are!

3. Because:

- As William Newell Once Wrote:

- “We Owe Sin Nothing! We Are Dead To It; Justified From It, And [Are Now] Living In Another Sphere!”
- Even - Another World!

- 6:11-12:

- “Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. / Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof!”

* Have You Turned To & Trusted In Jesus Christ As Your Savior From Sin?

* Only Then Can The Gospel Truths Be True For You!

* If Not - Why Not?

* If So:

* Are You Now Reckoning In Your Mind & Heart:

- That You Are Both Dead And Alive?

- Dead To Sin / Alive To God?

* And - How Are You Dealing With Sin Today?

- Are You Rebelling Against It? Restraining It? Resisting It?

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