

Alive to God
Romans 6:11-14

Getting Started

- ❖ The Christmas season is celebrating the Incarnation of Jesus Christ, of Jesus taking on flesh and breaking into our world, making Himself known. Take time to share with one another examples of how Jesus is breaking into your life, making Himself more known to you.
- ❖ **Opening Prayer Time:** Let's take time to pray for those we care for, to whom we want Jesus to make Himself known.

Digging Deeper

- ❖ **Reread and discuss Romans 6:1-14.**
 - How would you explain the words “consider” and “reign” in verses 11 & 12?
 - Paul refers to the “body of sin” (vs.6), “mortal bodies” (vs.12) and “members” (vs.13) of our bodies. How could these verses be interpreted in an unhealthy way? What is Paul saying about our bodies as they relate to indwelling sin? More to the point is our body, i.e., the material “me” inherently good, evil or neutral?
 - Think of a way you struggle not to sin. What would it look like positively to offer that part of your body/character to righteousness?
 - God calls us to adopt a whole new way of viewing ourselves in v. 11: “consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.”
 - How does this truth provide ammunition for when we face temptation?
 - How does the reverse of this – being alive to sin and dead to God – impact how we understand the spiritual and moral state of those who don't believe in Jesus?
- ❖ **Time for some real transparency...** (You may want to segregate for this portion!)
 - “So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus”: What sins have you been considering yourself “alive” to rather than “dead” to? Why? How has that way of thinking affected your ability to resist those temptations?
 - “Let not sin reign in your mortal body”: Are there things in your life that are ruling over you? Has anything that is not necessarily sinful become so important to you that it occupies too much of your time and attention? What things have become idols in your life that you need to replace with Christ?
 - “Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness”: How have you allowed your body, your heart, your mind, your words, or your strength to serve unrighteous purposes? How have you used things that you own (e.g., your home, computer, TV, money, cell phone, car, clothes, etc.) for unrighteous purposes?
 - How should you repent? What would it look like for you to reverse the trend and present “your members to God as instruments for righteousness”?

(Over)

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- “Present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life”: In what ways do you need to present yourself anew to God as someone who serves him every day? What tangible differences will this make in your life this week?

Think About It!

“So the major secret of holy living is in the mind. It is in knowing (6) that our former self was crucified with Christ, in knowing (3) that baptism into Christ is baptism into his death and resurrection, and in considering (11, rsv) that through Christ we are dead to sin and alive to God. We are to recall, to ponder, to grasp, to register these truths until they are so integral to our mindset that a return to the old life is unthinkable. Regenerate Christians should no more contemplate a return to unregenerate living than adults to their childhood, married people to their singleness or discharged prisoners to their prison cell. For our union with Jesus Christ has severed us from the old life and committed us to the new. Our baptism stands between the two like a door between two rooms, closing on the one and opening into the other. We have died, and we have risen. How can we possibly live again in what we have died to?” (John Stott, *The Message of Romans*)

Praying Together

This week, share requests of whatever is on your heart, and pray for the person to your left.

(Note: In this year’s study of Romans, our study questions are being inspired by or derived from books, commentaries and bible studies authored by: Pastors Matt Smith, Max Lucado, John MacArthur, R.C. Sproul, Jack Hayford and Tim Keller.)

WORSHIP RESOURCE

December 15, 2019 | Third Sunday of Advent

WORSHIP SONGS

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

Latin Hymn | Music by John Francis Wade, 1751

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold him, born the King of angels!

*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation.
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above.
Glory to God all, glory in the highest!

Yea, Lord we greet thee, born this happy morning.
Jesus, to thee be all glory given.
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.

HE SHALL REIGN FOREVERMORE

Words and Music by Chris Tomlin and Matt Maher, 2015

In the bleak midwinter all creation groans;
For a world in darkness, frozen like a stone.
Light is breaking in a stable for throne.

*And he shall reign forevermore, forevermore.
And he shall reign forevermore, forevermore.
Unto us a child is born the King of kings and Lord of lords,
And he shall reign forevermore, forevermore.*

If I were a wise man, I would travel far.
If I were a shepherd, I would do my part.
But poor as I am, I will give to him my heart.

Here within a manger lies
the One who made the starry skies.
This baby born for sacrifice, Christ the Messiah.
Into our hopes, into our fears,
the Savior of the world appears.
The promise of eternal years, Christ the Messiah.

BEHOLD THE SAVIOR

Words and Music by Meredith Andrews and Mia Fields, 2013

Oh what innocence,
sleeping in a manger, under dreamless skies.
See the newborn King trading every glory for a silent night.
Here is the promise we have waited for,
He will not leave us in the dark.

*He will bear our weight,
He will wear our shame.
Come, lift Him high, behold the Savior.
Jesus Christ, law of love and light.
Come, lift Him high, behold the Savior.*

Veiled deity, praise of every angel, shepherds bowing low.
Sweet humility, mercy as a baby, God in flesh and bone.
Here is the promise we have waited for,
He will not leave us in the dark.

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, Emmanuel.

GREAT ARE YOU LORD

*Words and Music by David Leonard, Jason Ingram,
and Leslie Jordan, 2012*

You give life. You are love. You bring light to the darkness.
You give hope. You restore every heart that is broken.
And great are You, Lord.

*It's Your breath in our lungs, so we pour out our praise,
we pour out our praise. It's Your breath in our lungs,
so we pour out our praise to You only.*

And all the earth will shout Your praise.
Our hearts will cry, these bones will sing, great are You, Lord (3x)

DAILY READINGS | BOOK OF COMMON WORSHIP

SUNDAY | Ps. 110; Amos 9:11-15; 2 Thess. 2:1-17; John 5:30-47
MONDAY | Ps. 122; Zech. 1:7-17; Rev. 3:7-13; Matthew 24:15-31
TUESDAY | Ps. 85; Zech. 2:1-13; Rev. 3:14-22; Matthew 24:32-44
WEDNESDAY | Ps. 53; Zech. 3:1-10; Rev. 4:1-8; Matt. 24:45-51
THURSDAY | Ps. 62; Zech. 4:1-14; Rev. 4:9-5:5; Matt. 25:1-13
FRIDAY | Ps. 16; Zech. 7:8-8:8; Rev. 5:6-14; Matthew 25:14-30
SATURDAY | Ps. 72; Zech. 8:9-17; Rev. 6:1-17; Matthew 25:31-46

PRAYER OF ADORATION

O God of Isaiah and John the Baptist,
through all such faithful ones
you proclaim the unfolding future joy
and renewed life.
Strengthen our hearts to believe your advent promise
that one day we will walk in the holy way of Christ,
where sorrow and sighing will be no more
and the journey of God's people will be joy. Amen.



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