

Foundations for Spiritual Growth – Romans 6-8 – Week Two

How Real Change Takes Place

Romans 6:3-11

Introduction: In Romans 6:3-14 Paul establishes the process by which real change takes place. Change begins when we know specific details about our position in Christ and then vigorously embrace our new position as true. Then, on the basis of these truths, we present ourselves to God. This morning, we'll cover the first eleven verses of Romans 6 about "knowing" and "reckoning" and then we'll look at verses 12-14 next week.

1. These verses are highly controversial and have been interpreted in one of four ways.

- A. The view is a variation of the victorious Christian life view.
- B. The second view is something that I'm going to call the quick-fix view.
- C. The third view is the prosperity view.
- D. The view I'm going to teach is the *spiritual discipline view*.

2. KEY WORD: KNOW – Real change takes place when we know the truth about our new position in Christ. Romans 6:3-10

- A. Overview – Know is repeated three times (6:3, 6, 9). Positional truths are central to our growth.
- B. 1st truth – We are united with Jesus in three areas: death, burial and resurrection. 6:2-5
- C. 2nd truth – The power of indwelling sin was broken. Note the term, *rendered inoperative*. 6:6-7
- D. 3rd truth – We now live out the life of Christ. 6:8-10 (See also Galatians 2:20.)
- E. Summary: See chart.

3. KEY WORD: RECKON – Real change takes place when we enter the spiritual discipline of reckoning. Romans 6:11

- A. The command is to reckon! This is the first command in Romans.
- B. What are we supposed to reckon?
- C. Questions raised by reckoning.
- D. Becoming skillful at this command.

