

ROMANS

CRITICAL GRACE THEORY

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Week 18 – Counting on Christ

Introduction:

John 8:31b-32

“If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

Review of Chapter 6: Paul Addresses...

The _____ (vs. 1)

The _____ (vs. 2-10)

The _____ (vs. 11)

The first command Paul gives in Romans:

“Count yourselves...” = “to consider as fact by faith”

Now here is the very opposite of the teaching of false Christianity about a holy life. For these legalists set you to crucifying yourself! You must “die out” to this, and to that. But God says our old man, all that we were, has been already dealt with – and that by *crucifixion with Christ*. And the very words “with Him” show that it was done back at the cross; and that our task is to believe the good news, rather than to seek to bring about this crucifixion ourselves. (*William R. Newell, Romans Verse by Verse, Moody Press, 1938, p. 213*).

Paul Now Calls us to Spiritual...

_____ (The power of surrender - vs. 12-14)

Fervency = a warmth or intensity of feeling; zeal; fervor

Romans 6:12-13

Genesis 4:6-7

Romans 6:14

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

Personal Life:

1. In the weekend message, it was noted that Jesus made a distinction between "believers" and "disciples" (John 8:31-32). At what point in your spiritual walk with Christ would you say that you entered the path of discipleship? Why do you say this?

Ponderings:

2. Discipleship is critical to experiencing God's best for your life on this earth. On the path of discipleship, in what order of importance would you rank the following influences in terms contributing factors to your growth as a follower of Christ? Be prepared to explain your rationale...

God / Myself / My brothers and sisters in Christ / My spiritual leaders / Other

3. In Romans 6, Paul moves from identifying the *fear* (vs. 1), the *facts* (vs. 2-10), the *faith* (vs. 11) and now the *fervency* entailed in the discipleship process. What is spiritual fervency, according to verses 12-13?
4. In Romans 12:11 Paul will encourage the Romans with these words: "Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord." In what way(s) is Romans 6:1-14 critical as the foundation for such a command?
5. If you had to make a list of the most common "zeal-robbers" in the journey with Jesus, what would your list include?
6. In Genesis 4:6-7 and Romans 6:12 and 7:17, sin is presented as a personified principle that exists in us, but is different from our true identity. What are the similarities and differences between Cain's situation in Genesis 4 and ours as members of Christ's Church? Explain...

Promptings:

7. In what way(s) are you counting yourself dead to sin but alive to God in Christ on a regular basis? Are you growing in this endeavor? If not, what needs to change in order to begin relying more fully upon the Holy Spirit to empower this work in your life?