

## You Reign In Christ Jesus

By Mary Bernice

*“For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.” (Romans 5:17)*

Often times, I like to see what the original translation of a word used in Scripture states. So, please, bear with me for a moment as I explore the Greek/English of this verse. The word abundance is defined as superfluity (i.e. an unnecessarily or excessively large amount or number of something) and comprehensively all around. You have received that excessively large amount of Grace when you accepted Jesus as the resurrected Son of God into your life. The Grace that is mentioned is defined as favorable towards. And the gift of righteousness; righteousness being defined as judicial approval. So let's revisit that portion of the verse.

For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they (that would be you) which receive abundance [unnecessarily or excessively—comprehensively all around—large amount] of provisions of grace [favor towards] you and of the gift of righteousness [judicial approval]...

Wow!! That right there positions you above the natural. Aahh..., but there is more.

...shall **rule**: exercise **ultimate** (being or happening at the end of a process; final) power or **authority** (the power or right to give orders, make decisions, and enforce obedience), **enforce** is to *compel observance of or compliance with*) obedience—authority over. Over what? Those things in life that go against God's promises to you.

In this verse, we are encouraged in our reign in life through Jesus Christ whom we have received in our hearts by faith. Interestingly, the writer emphasizes a “much more” capacity to reign. One can see the darkness that this world presents. It often appears to be insurmountable. Yet, in Christ, the reign of death by Adam's offence is superseded by the reign of life that is by Christ Jesus.

God in the Garden of Eden said if you eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall surely die. And they died (note of this death is recorded in Romans 5:14, *“Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression”*) The Word tells us:

*Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. (Romans 6:12-13)*

Sin is bad in the eyes of God. In Leviticus 16:15-34 we read what anyone or anything that touched the scapegoat, that represented the sins of the people, had to do.

*And he that let go the goat for the scapegoat shall wash his clothes, and bathe his flesh in water, and afterward come into the camp. And the bullock for the sin offering, and the goat for the sin offering, whose blood was brought in to make atonement in the holy place, shall one carry forth without the camp; and they shall burn in the fire their skins, and their flesh, and their dung. And he that burneth them shall wash his clothes, and bathe his flesh in water, and afterward he shall come into the camp. (Verses 26-28)*

One might say, well that was under the Law. Yes. And it is through the Law that we become conscious of sin. Romans 7:7 states *“What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.”*

*“Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord... For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.” (Romans 6:11 & 14)*

We walk in the Grace, the favor, of God. Our association now being with the one man, Jesus the Christ. Paul points out in 1 Timothy 4:8 *“For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, **having promise of the life that now is**, and of that which is to come.”*

*“But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.” (Romans 6:22)*

Matthew 12:50 reads, *“For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.”* First Peter 1:3 states *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has **begotten us** again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,...”* Also in Romans 8:16 it says, *“The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:”* We should now continue in the operation of the family business. What family business? you might ask. Reigning in Life.

That sounds good, you might say, but I have a past that taunts me. One should not live in the past or ruminate about the past. One thing that psychology presents is that when a person is constantly attempting to forget something in the past, it tends to become more embedded in their memory. Paul encourages that we forget those things that are behind, Philippians 3:13. How then, can one purposefully forget something from the past if making an effort to forget only causes one to remember even more? I'm glad you asked.

The way that I found it to work is by acknowledging the past and addressing it with God's Word. Let's say you were a thief in the past. Stealing from any and every one you could steal from. Now you are born again in Christ with the promise of reigning in life and no longer a thief. But every time you start feeling like you are free, the thoughts of your past failures come to you. Rather than grabbing your ears and screaming to yourself “No! No! No! Go away!” Instead, you might say something like: “that is correct, I

have stolen in the past, but that is not me any longer. I am a new creation in Christ Jesus. 2 Corinthians 5:13 tells me '*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*' I am a child of God and I am forgiven." I have used this approach. It is amazing how well it works. Before long, you will not have those thoughts bombarding you. You are not attempting to deny anything other than that the past is past and the present is life eternal in Christ. Sin does not reign in your life unless you neglect to exercise your God-given, family-positioned authority. So then, God has left on record that we shall reign in life through Jesus Christ.

You Reign in Life! Time for another victory dance.