

August 25, 2008

TURN A CORNER!

Aren't God's pronouncements incredible? Don't you love the Word of God? These are the sort of truths I'm chewing over right now:

Romans chapter 6 begins, "Shall we go on sinning, so that grace [God's mercy and forgiveness] may increase? By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?"

God, the divine Coroner, has pronounced you legally dead, – dead to sin. Now it's up to you to count it to be true.

Here's an alcoholic. Every time he passes a certain bar he stops in and never quits drinking until he's out cold. How is he going to be helped over this? What can ever break his habit?

There's one sure cure: death. When he dies, he'll never drink again. You could run a bottle under his nose and he wouldn't respond. You could wheel his coffin right by the door of the bar; his friends could all be calling to him; and he'd never move. Alcoholism can follow him only as far as death; then he's free.

Jesus Christ died on the cross – and God counts you as having died with Him (Ro. 6:8). He isn't saying that sin is dead to you – oh, that would make it easier! – but you're to consider yourself dead to sin. Then it no longer needs to dominate you, distract you, defeat you.

The next time temptation assails you – tomorrow or five minutes from now – remember God says you're dead to that! You're free!

"Count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ" (Ro. 6:11).

Charles Ryrie calls being a Christian "a vital, pulsating, functioning involvement." Start living each moment of your life "dead to sin but alive to God in Christ"! Wonderful!

You'll have turned a corner.