

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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Reigning in Life

(Jerry Fite)

Adam, by disobeying God’s command, introduced sin into the world. Death, the separation from God, immediately followed as the promised consequence (*cf. Genesis 2:17, 3:6*). Beginning with Adam, Paul sees sin and death as “reigning” as he contrasts what Adam introduced into the world with what Christ accomplished. Through Christ’s obedience to death, grace reigns through God’s plan to make man righteous. Notice these points are in Paul’s concluding statement: “*that as sin reigned in death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord*” (*Romans 5:21*).

What does sin, death, and grace reigning have to do with you and me? Paul writes, “*For if, by the trespass of the one death reigned through the one; much more shall they that receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one, even Jesus Christ*” (*Romans 5:17*). Yes, dear Christian, we reign in life through Christ.

We once were dead in sin, but by the grace of God in sending His Son to die for our sins and

then resurrect Him from the dead, we too can walk in newness of life (*Ephesians 2:1, 5; Romans 6:4*). We are living, but more than that, we are ruling having overcome death through Jesus Christ. We are ruling now on earth as a kingdom of priests, redeemed by the blood of Christ (*Revelation 5:10*).

Reigning in life due to receiving “abundant grace” does not mean we may overlook sin as a Christian. God forbid that we should continue in sin, that grace may abound! (*Romans 6:1*). We are reigning life, so we should act like it! As Paul exhorts, “*Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey the lusts thereof...*” (*Romans 6:12*). As Christ died unto sins once, in like manner, we should die to sin. Through grace and Christ, we reign. Sin has had to abdicate the throne of our hearts

Continuing in belief in Christ and faithfulness to His cause, we will never have to suffer the “second death” (*Revelation 2:10-11*). This is a blessing of reigning in life. Jesus said, “*And whosoever liveth and believeth on me shall never die*” (*John 11:26*).

Reigning in life spiritually, does not mean we do not suffer

persecution or avoid physical death. Paul says, “*if we endure, we shall also reign with Him*” (*2 Timothy 2:12*). John saw “*the souls of them that had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus, and for the word of God, and such as worshipped not the beast, neither his image, and received not the mark upon their forehead and upon their hand...*” (*Revelation 20:6*). These were disembodied souls, put to death for not compromising the truth of God, and holding fast to the testimony of the gospel of Christ. Though dead physically, they still reign when God resurrects their cause by putting an end to such persecution for a full and complete time. These souls “*reigned with Christ for a thousand years*” (*Revelation 20:6*); and “*the second death hath no power*” over these (*Revelation 20:6*).

We reign in life, because spiritual death and the eternal second death have no power over us through Christ. Also, when Christ returns and commands our bodies to rise from the dead, then the last enemy, physical death, will have been abolished in victory (*1 Corinthians 15:25, 54-57*). “*Oh death where is thy victory?*” Receive God’s abundant grace, and reign in life through Jesus Christ!