

this, but the Holy Spirit, speaking through Paul, declares that that should be the attitude of the believer towards sin in all its varied forms. If every follower of Christ realized his position in the sight of God and his relation to God and to the world, what a stupendous power for good there would be in a single church, and what a separation from the world would follow! Let "dead to sin" be written on that little member the tongue; and let every Christian feel that God has written those words there, and then let every church member go forth to life's duties and to the work of the master, and what a transformation there would be in the state of affairs in the community, in the church and in the family. From what heartaches, from what alienations, discords, bickerings and schisms would the church be saved if every believer realized that God had written on the tip of his tongue, "Dead to sin." "Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin."

II. We now pass to consider the second thought contained in our text—the *believer alive unto God*. Life is imparted to the soul by the same faith by which we die to sin. Alive unto holiness is just as much a fact as is Christ's resurrection, and, indeed, rests on that truth. "For in that He died, He died unto sin once for all, but in that He liveth, He liveth unto God. Even so account yourselves to be dead unto sin and alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord." Does Christ live unto God no more to die? Even so is the soul that is united to Him by faith made alive unto God for evermore.

The great characteristic of a Christian, then, is *life*. It is this that primarily and radically distinguishes a believer from an unbeliever. There is a broad chasm between a regenerate and an unregenerate man; a chasm so broad that no effort of man, however arduous and persistent, can bridge it. To bridge this gulf is solely the work of the Holy Spirit. "And you hath He quickened (made alive) who were dead in trespasses and sins." Here, again, this life toward God is the starting point with the believer and not the goal. He works from life and not for life.

This life toward God, as well as the death unto sin, is impressively symbolized at the threshold of the Christian course by the sacred rite of baptism. "Buried with Christ in baptism, that like as He was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." Without seeking to develop this thought more fully, we come now to notice the *practical outcome of this truth*, "*alive unto God*." We have it stated in verse thirteen: "Yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness." *Consecration follows life*. We do not consecrate ourselves to God to get life, but because God has given life. "Yield yourselves as those that are alive," &c. Because the believer has been set free from sin's heavy yoke, because all the powers of his being have been ransomed by the precious blood of the Son of God, out of gratitude and love to his Emancipator, he comes to Christ, lays all down at His feet, and exclaims, "Let me use all these powers in Thy service and for Thy glory." Like the Hebrew slave spoken of in the Old Testament, whose day of freedom had come, who goes to his master and says, as he puts his ear against the wall, "Pierce it through; let me be thy bond servant for ever." I think it is Miss Havergal who has said that there is no *bondage* about true consecration. It is not a forced surrender. It is the voluntary, the glad response of a soul that has been made alive and set free by the blood of the Lamb.

Brethren, this consecration that follows life means a great deal. Here is holiness enjoined in daily living. If the believer seeks faithfully and diligently to put into practice that command, we will have a high type of Christian life, and a practical exemplification of sanctification as taught in the Word. Look at the teaching of this passage. It means that head of yours is set apart unto God. You henceforth are to think and plan for God. Did every Christian man and woman fully believe and recognize this fact, from how much scheming in business life, from how much intriguing, from how much unrighteous think-