

Message Eight

Reigning in Life

RM Hymns: 312, 885

Scripture Reading: Rom. 5:10, 17, 21; 12:5-7; 16:1-16, 20

- Rom 5:10 For if we, being enemies, were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more we will be saved in His life, having been reconciled,
- Rom 5:17 For if, by the offense of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.
- Rom 5:21 In order that just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness unto eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- Rom 12:5 So we who are many are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.
- Rom 12:6 And having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;
- Rom 12:7 Or service, let us be faithful in that service; or he who teaches, in that teaching;
- Rom 16:1 I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a deaconess of the church which is in Cenchrea,
- Rom 16:2 That you receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints and assist her in whatever matter she may have need of you; for she herself has also been the patroness of many, of myself as well.
- Rom 16:3 Greet Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus,
- Rom 16:4 Who risked their own necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles;
- Rom 16:5 And greet the church, which is in their house. Greet Epaenetus, my beloved, who is the firstfruits of Asia unto Christ.
- Rom 16:6 Greet Mary, one who has labored much for you.
- Rom 16:7 Greet Andronicus and Junia, my kinsmen and my fellow prisoners, who are of note among the apostles, who also were in Christ before me.
- Rom 16:8 Greet Ampliatus, my beloved in the Lord.
- Rom 16:9 Greet Urbanus, our fellow worker in Christ, and Stachys, my beloved.
- Rom 16:10 Greet Apelles, approved in Christ. Greet those of the household of Aristobulus.
- Rom 16:11 Greet Herodion, my kinsman. Greet those of the household of Narcissus who are in the Lord.
- Rom 16:12 Greet Tryphaena and Tryphosa, who labor in the Lord. Greet Persis, the beloved sister, one who has labored much in the Lord.
- Rom 16:13 Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord, and his mother as well as mine.
- Rom 16:14 Greet Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas, and the brothers with them.
- Rom 16:15 Greet Philologus and Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas, and all the saints with them.
- Rom 16:16 Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ greet you.
- Rom 16:20 Now the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

I. God's complete salvation is for us to reign in life by the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness—Rom. 5:17, 21:

- Rom 5:17 For if, by the offense of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.
- Rom 5:21 In order that just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness unto eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- A. Reigning in life is the full experience of the organic salvation of God—vv. 10, 17, 21.
- Rom 5:10 For if we, being enemies, were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more we will be saved in His life, having been reconciled,
- Rom 5:17 For if, by the offense of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.
- Rom 5:21 In order that just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness unto eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- B. The gift of righteousness is for God's judicial redemption; grace is for us to experience God's organic salvation—1:17; 5:10:
- Rom 1:17 For the righteousness of God is revealed in it out of faith to faith, as it is written, "But the righteous shall have life and live by faith."

Rom 5:10 For if we, being enemies, were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more we will be saved in His life, having been reconciled,

1. The gift of righteousness is God's judicial redemption applied to us in a practical way—3:24, 26.

Rom 3:24 Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus;

Rom 3:26 With a view to the demonstrating of His righteousness in the present time, so that He might be righteous and the One who justifies him who is of the faith of Jesus.

2. Grace is God Himself as our all-sufficient supply for our organic salvation—1 Cor. 15:10; 2 Cor. 12:9.

1 Cor 15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am; and His grace unto me did not turn out to be in vain, but, on the contrary, I labored more abundantly than all of them, yet not I but the grace of God which is with me.

2 Cor 12:9 And He has said to me, My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is perfected in weakness. Most gladly therefore I will rather boast in my weaknesses that the power of Christ might tabernacle over me.

- C. The highest attainment of pursuing Christ is to reign with Christ in His divine life through His abounding grace—Phil. 3:13-14; Rom. 5:17, 21:

Phil 3:13 Brothers, I do not account of myself to have laid hold; but one thing I do: Forgetting the things which are behind and stretching forward to the things which are before,

Phil 3:14 I pursue toward the goal for the prize to which God in Christ Jesus has called me upward.

Rom 5:17 For if, by the offense of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

Rom 5:21 In order that just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness unto eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

1. To reign in life is to conquer, subdue, and rule over Satan, the world, sin, the flesh, ourselves, and all the environmental circumstances—8:2, 35-37.

Rom 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life has freed me in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and of death.

Rom 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation or anguish or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword?

Rom 8:36 As it is written, "For Your sake we are being put to death all day long; we have been accounted as sheep for slaughter."

Rom 8:37 But in all these things we more than conquer through Him who loved us.

2. There is the need for all the believers who have received the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness to practice the restriction and limitation in the divine life—cf. Matt. 8:9.

Matt 8:9 For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, Go, and he goes; and to another, Come, and he comes; and to my slave, Do this, and he does it.

II. We need to enter into the experience of reigning in life— Rom. 5:17, 21:

Rom 5:17 For if, by the offense of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

Rom 5:21 In order that just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness unto eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- A. We were regenerated with a divine, spiritual, heavenly, kingly, and royal life; this life enthrones us to reign as kings over all things— John 1:12-13; 3:3, 5; Rev. 5:10.

John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the authority to become children of God, to those who believe into His name,

John 1:13 Who were begotten not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

- John 3:3 Jesus answered and said to him, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless one is born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God.
- John 3:5 Jesus answered, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.
- Rev 5:10 And have made them a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign on the earth.
- B. In experience, to reign in life means to be under the ruling of the divine life—Matt. 8:9:
- Matt 8:9 For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, Go, and he goes; and to another, Come, and he comes; and to my slave, Do this, and he does it.
1. Christ is a pattern of reigning in life by being under the ruling of the divine life of the Father—cf. vv. 5-13.

Matt 8:5 And when He entered into Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, beseeching Him

Matt 8:6 And saying, Lord, my servant is lying in the house paralyzed, terribly tormented.

Matt 8:7 And He said to him, I will come and heal him.

Matt 8:8 But the centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not fit for You to enter under my roof; but only speak a word, and my servant will be healed.

Matt 8:9 For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, Go, and he goes; and to another, Come, and he comes; and to my slave, Do this, and he does it.

Matt 8:10 Now when Jesus heard this, He marveled and said to those who followed, Truly I say to you, With no one in Israel have I found such great faith.

Matt 8:11 But I say to you that many will come from the east and the west and will recline at table with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of the heavens,

Matt 8:12 But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into the outer darkness. In that place there will be the weeping and the gnashing of teeth.

Matt 8:13 And Jesus said to the centurion, Go; as you have believed, so be it done to you. And his servant was healed in that hour.
 2. Paul is an example of one who, in his life and ministry, was under the ruling of the divine life—2 Cor. 2:12-14.

2 Cor 2:12 Furthermore, when I came to Troas for the gospel of Christ and a door was open to me in the Lord,

2 Cor 2:13 I had no rest in my spirit, for I did not find Titus my brother; but taking leave of them, I went forth into Macedonia.

2 Cor 2:14 But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in the Christ and manifests the savor of the knowledge of Him through us in every place.
 3. When we reign in life by being under the ruling of the divine life, we are delivered from the authority of darkness—Col. 1:13a.

Col 1:13a Who delivered us out of the authority of darkness ...
 4. When we are under the ruling of the divine life, we live in the kingdom of the Son of God's love, where we are ruled and restricted in the sweetness of love—v. 13b.

Col 1:13b ... and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,
- C. To reign in life is to subdue all kinds of insubordination—Rom. 5:17-18, 21:
- Rom 5:17 For if, by the offense of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.
- Rom 5:18 So then as it was through one offense unto condemnation to all men, so also it was through one righteous act unto justification of life to all men.
- Rom 5:21 In order that just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness unto eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.
1. A reigning spirit must be strong and living, active and not passive, positive and not negative, diligent and not loose.
 2. One who has such a spirit not only keeps the position of order and submits to God's authority but also has strong faith and exercises God's authority consistently in the

position of ascension—Matt. 28:18; Eph. 2:6.

Matt 28:18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

Eph 2:6 And raised us up together with Him and seated us together with Him in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus,

D. To reign in life is to have our hearts directed by the Lord—Prov. 21:1; 2 Thes. 3:5.

Prov 21:1 The king's heart is like streams of water in the hand of Jehovah; / He turns it wherever He wishes.

2 Thes 3:5 And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the endurance of Christ.

E. Since we reign in life as God does, we become God in life, nature, expression, and function but not in the Godhead—Rom. 5:17, 21; Col. 3:4; 2 Pet. 1:4.

Rom 5:17 For if, by the offense of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

Rom 5:21 In order that just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness unto eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Col 3:4 When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.

2 Pet 1:4 Through which He has granted to us precious and exceedingly great promises that through these you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption which is in the world by lust.

III. Reigning in life in Romans 5 is the key to everything in Romans 6—16:

Rom 5 be omitted.

Rom 6~16 be omitted.

A. We need to see everything in chapters 6 through 16 in this light.

B. Reigning in life is defined in chapters 6 through 16; all the matters expounded in these chapters are the issue not of our endeavoring but of our receiving the abundance of grace—5:21.

Rom 5:21 In order that just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness unto eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C. If we reign in life, we are in all the matters presented in chapters 6 through 16.

IV. The issue of our reigning in life, under the ruling of the divine life, is the real and practical Body life expressed in the church life—5:17, 21; 12:5-8:

Rom 5:17 For if, by the offense of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

Rom 5:21 In order that just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness unto eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Rom 12:5 So we who are many are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

Rom 12:6 And having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;

Rom 12:7 Or service, let us be faithful in that service; or he who teaches, in that teaching;

Rom 12:8 Or he who exhorts, in that exhortation; he who gives, in simplicity; he who leads, in diligence; he who shows mercy, in cheerfulness.

A. Each item of the living of the Body life in Romans 12—13 requires us to be ruled by the divine life to live to the Lord—cf. 2 Cor. 5:14-15:

Rom 12~13 be omitted.

2 Cor 5:14 For the love of Christ constrains us because we have judged this, that One died for all, therefore all died;

2 Cor 5:15 And He died for all that those who live may no longer live to themselves but to Him who died for them and has been raised.

1. We must present our bodies as a living sacrifice—Rom. 12:1b.

Rom 12:1b ... to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, well pleasing to God, which is your reasonable service.

2. We should not be fashioned according to this age, but we should be transformed by the renewing of the mind—v. 2.
Rom 12:2 And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect.
 3. We should not think more highly of ourselves than we ought to think, but to think so as to be sober-minded, as God has apportioned to each a measure of faith—v. 3.
Rom 12:3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think, but to think so as to be sober-minded, as God has apportioned to each a measure of faith.
 4. We should consider that in the Body of Christ we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function—vv. 4-5.
Rom 12:4 For just as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function,
Rom 12:5 So we who are many are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.
- B. We need to live a life of the highest virtues for the Body life by reigning in life:
1. We should love without hypocrisy and love one another warmly in brotherly love—vv. 9a, 10a.
Rom 12:9a Let love be without hypocrisy. ...
Rom 12:10a Love one another warmly in brotherly love; ...
 2. We should not be slothful in zeal, but we should be burning in spirit, serving the Lord—v. 11.
Rom 12:11 Do not be slothful in zeal, but be burning in spirit, serving the Lord.
 3. We should endure in tribulation—v. 12b.
Rom 12:12b ... endure in tribulation; persevere in prayer.
 4. We should rejoice with those who rejoice, and we should weep with those who weep—v. 15.
Rom 12:15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep.
 5. If possible, as far as it depends on us, we should live in peace with all men—v. 18.
Rom 12:18 If possible, as far as it depends on you, live in peace with all men.

V. We need to reign in life in imitating the apostle Paul to bring the local churches into the fellowship of the Body of Christ— 16:1-16:

- Rom 16:1 I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a deaconess of the church which is in Cenchrea,
- Rom 16:2 That you receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints and assist her in whatever matter she may have need of you; for she herself has also been the patroness of many, of myself as well.
- Rom 16:3 Greet Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus,
- Rom 16:4 Who risked their own necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles;
- Rom 16:5 And greet the church, which is in their house. Greet Epaenetus, my beloved, who is the firstfruits of Asia unto Christ.
- Rom 16:6 Greet Mary, one who has labored much for you.
- Rom 16:7 Greet Andronicus and Junia, my kinsmen and my fellow prisoners, who are of note among the apostles, who also were in Christ before me.
- Rom 16:8 Greet Ampliatus, my beloved in the Lord.
- Rom 16:9 Greet Urbanus, our fellow worker in Christ, and Stachys, my beloved.
- Rom 16:10 Greet Apelles, approved in Christ. Greet those of the household of Aristobulus.
- Rom 16:11 Greet Herodion, my kinsman. Greet those of the household of Narcissus who are in the Lord.
- Rom 16:12 Greet Tryphaena and Tryphosa, who labor in the Lord. Greet Persis, the beloved sister, one who has labored much in the Lord.
- Rom 16:13 Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord, and his mother as well as mine.
- Rom 16:14 Greet Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas, and the brothers with them.

- Rom 16:15 Greet Philologus and Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas, and all the saints with them.
- Rom 16:16 Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ greet you.
- A. Among all the churches that compose the one universal Body of Christ, there is no organization, but there is the fellowship of the Body of Christ—Phil. 1:5.
Phil 1:5 For your fellowship unto the furtherance of the gospel from the first day until now,
- B. The fellowship among the churches is the fellowship of the Body of Christ—1 Cor. 10:16:
1 Cor 10:16 The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the fellowship of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the fellowship of the body of Christ?
1. The Lord's recovery is based on the truth that Christ has only one Body, which is expressed in many localities as the local churches—Eph. 1:22-23; 4:4; Rev. 1:11.
Eph 1:22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church,
Eph 1:23 Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.
Eph 4:4 One Body and one Spirit, even as also you were called in one hope of your calling;
Rev 1:11 Saying, What you see write in a scroll and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamos and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.
 2. Because there is one Spirit, there is only one Body, and there is only one circulation of life in the Body; this circulation is the fellowship of the Body of Christ—Eph. 4:4; 1 John 1:3, 7.
Eph 4:4 One Body and one Spirit, even as also you were called in one hope of your calling;
1 John 1:3 That which we have seen and heard we report also to you that you also may have fellowship with us, and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.
1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from every sin.
 3. The fellowship of the Body of Christ is the circulation of the Spirit; when the Spirit is circulating within the Body of Christ, divinity, humanity, Christ's person, Christ's death, and Christ's resurrection are all circulating.
 4. The divine fellowship is the reality of living in the Body of Christ—1 Cor. 1:9; 12:12-13, 27.
1 Cor 1:9 God is faithful, through whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
1 Cor 12:12 For even as the body is one and has many members, yet all the members of the body, being many, are one body, so also is the Christ.
1 Cor 12:13 For also in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and were all given to drink one Spirit.
1 Cor 12:27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.
- C. It is by the churches' fellowship in the Body of Christ that the God of peace will crush Satan under our feet—Rom. 16:20.
Rom 16:20 Now the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

VI. Romans 16 gives us an excellent pattern of the apostle Paul in bringing all the saints into the blending life of the entire Body of Christ; it is in such a life that we can truly reign in life—5:17:

- Rom 16 be omitted.
- Rom 5:17 For if, by the offense of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.
- A. Paul greeted the saints one by one, mentioning at least twenty-seven names; this shows that he had a considerable amount of knowledge, understanding, and care with regard to every

one of them—16:1-16.

- Rom 16:1 I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a deaconess of the church which is in Cenchrea,
- Rom 16:2 That you receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints and assist her in whatever matter she may have need of you; for she herself has also been the patroness of many, of myself as well.
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- Rom 16:4 Who risked their own necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles;
- Rom 16:5 And greet the church, which is in their house. Greet Epaenetus, my beloved, who is the firstfruits of Asia unto Christ.
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- Rom 16:13 Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord, and his mother as well as mine.
- Rom 16:14 Greet Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas, and the brothers with them.
- Rom 16:15 Greet Philologus and Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas, and all the saints with them.
- Rom 16:16 Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ greet you.

B. Paul's recommendations and greetings express both the mutual concern among the saints and the mutual fellowship among the churches—cf. Col. 4:15-16.

- Col 4:15 Greet the brothers in Laodicea, as well as Nymphas and the church, which is in his house.
- Col 4:16 And when this letter is read among you, cause that it be read in the church of the Laodiceans also, and that you also read the one from Laodicea.