

## CONTROLLING SIN, SELF OR NOT

### Romans 8:13

**Introduction:** There are a lot of things we need to know about life and the most important thing is to know one's position/state before God based on what the Bible says and not on someone's particular belief or opinion. There are many passages in God's Word which reveal that needful information but the text (**Romans 8:13**) is about as clear as any other verse in the Bible that reveals a most important fact that every person needs to know.

### I. A WORLDLY, CARNAL, FLESHLY LIFE WILL END IN EVERLASTING MISERY

1. To "*...live after the flesh...*" is to make the satisfying of our old sin nature the great drive, end and purpose for living.
2. "Flesh" is not speaking of just the human body of flesh, but to the entire make up of the corrupt human nature.
  - "Flesh," in Bible terms speaks of sin which rules the unsaved and is always fighting against the spiritual nature of those who are saved.
    - **Galatians 3:17; 5:19-20; Romans 8:5; Philippians 3:19**
    - It is to be ruled by sin in all a person's desires and goals in life such as riches, honor, knowledge.
    - It is to have no higher aim in life than to attain these non spiritual goals.
3. To live such a life will end in eternal death.
  - The eternal death is not just that of one's human, physical body because every human being, both the saved and unsaved will experience physical death.
  - The eternal death for the carnal, worldly, fleshly minded person is the death of the soul which God's Word calls the "second death." (**Revelation 20:14**)
  - Any person who experiences such an eternal death has told God, in effect, "Leave me alone, I don't care for your ways, I'll be a "god" to myself and make myself happy in my own ways."
    - **Job 21:14; Psalm 12:4;81:11; Matthew 25:41**
  - Those who live such lives are living in a condition/state of spiritual death.
  - Is it any wonder that such a life terminates, ends in eternal, everlasting death?

### II. A LIFE OF DENYING SIN AND SELF SHALL END IN EVERLASTING HAPPINESS

1. To deny sin and what the old sinful human nature desires should be the constant goal in life for every Christian,
  - The "deeds of the body" identify with "the flesh."
  - Man's corruptness is often represented by his/her "body" because it is the instrument used to be involved in sin. (**Romans 7:24**)
  - Christians must watch against making their own self their "idol" and constantly work to keep their own desires under control in order that God can be honored in all parts of their lives.

2. The Christian needs help in not yielding to their old sinful nature and they are indwelt with such a help - the Holy Spirit.
  - It is only natural to walk after the flesh and have absolutely no difficulty.
  - It is un-natural to deny the desires of the flesh, the old sin nature and only with the help of the mighty power of God which is given through the presence of the Holy Spirit.
    - ***Ephesians 1:19-20; Luke 11:13***
  - As eternal death is the end of self-indulgence, so eternal life is the fruit of self-denial.
  - ***"...The wages of sin is death...(due to sin) but the gift of God is eternal life..." (Romans 6:23)*** which comes from belief in Jesus Christ and denying sin and self.

## CONCLUSION:

1. What if the scriptures said, ***"...if ye live after the flesh, ye shall have eternal life (go to heaven)..."*** ?
  - Every body would be going to heaven for the old sinful human nature would guarantee it.
  - How can anyone keep on living their lives in direct opposition to what God's Word says about what one must do to have eternal life?
    - Satan suggests to everyone, as he did to Adam and Eve, that ***"...ye shall not surely die.."***
  - Why do people believe Satan in opposition to believing God?
    - Did not listening to Satan in the Garden of Eden ruin the whole world?
2. Either put sin and self away and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, doing things God's way and be given the gift of eternal life or continue on to live for the old sinful human nature, self and reject God's offer of eternal life with Him in heaven.
3. God's Word says that ***"...if we live after the flesh, we shall die..." (Romans 8:13)***
4. If we put away sin and self and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, we shall have eternal life.
  - ***Colossians 3:5***