***Using our Bodies for God
RO74-01***

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We are studying the second increment in Romans 6:12-14 on the subject of "Living with a Deposed Sin Nature."

**The Human Body**

As you know, verses 12-14 are the practical application of the doctrine which Paul has explained in Romans 6:1-11. This all has been presented in answer to the objection of a legalist which was presented in verses 1-2 about salvation by grace alone apart from human doing. We saw that we have a command to Christians to reject the suggestion of permitting the sin nature to act as the sovereign authority over the believer's life. This evil reign is expressed through the human body, which has upon it the stamp of death. And for that reason it is referred to as "our mortal body."

**The Sin Nature**

The sin nature uses the human body, of course, to express its evil, and this evil is expressed in the form of human good and sins. That is the nature and production of the old sin nature. And Paul has pointed out that this sin nature operates through the human body, which means that the sin nature takes the normal legitimate functions and the desires of the human body, and it perverts them into evil uses. The sin nature does not have the power to produce the result of a Christian being subject to the evil expressions of the body's desire.

**The Human Body is the Temple of God the Holy Spirit**

The sin nature has the power to express that, but it doesn't have the power to compel a Christian any longer to have that kind of use of his physical capacities. The human body is the temple of the new sovereign in the Christian life, which is God the Holy Spirit.

Now, the unbeliever is totally different. The unbeliever is very helpless in the presence of evil desires being expressed through his body. The sin nature constantly cranks up these evil desires within him, and it expresses itself in a variety of ways through the physical body, even when the unbeliever knows that there are terrible and deadly and painful consequences to indulging that evil that the sin nature throws up within him, even when the individual (or the carnal Christian for that matter) knows that he runs a great hazard. He's taking huge chances with the scarring up of his life and the life of other people if he pursues something that the sin nature has thrown up as an expression through his physical body to pursue. Yet a carnal Christian is helpless, because of his status of carnality, to resist. The unbeliever is helpless to resist.

Now, that is the thing that a Christian has to understand is no longer necessary in your case. Romans 6:12 is not yet speaking about how to live a godly Christian life day-by-day in your experience. But it is laying the groundwork for that kind of experiential sanctification. And it begins with your understanding, as a believer, that the sin nature has had its back broken. It is very important that you understand that its back is broken. It seems very much alive; it seems very much of a threat to us; and, it seems very much of a problem, but its back is broken. Once you understand that, you have taken the first step toward godly Christian living (sanctification in experience).

So, now we begin at verse 13, which begins with the words "Neither yield your numbers as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin." The word "neither" looks like this in the Greek: "mede." It is a negative particle. It is used here to expand the prohibition which has been expressed in verse 12. We might translate this as "nor," because it's adding a little more. It's expanding something about the physical body.

**Do not Yield**

There is a statement which is made in verse 13. The first part of that statement is in a negative expression. This is the negative side of the statement made in verse 13 about the use of the parts of one's body. So, the implication here is "Nor, on the one hand, should you do this." "Nor, on the one hand, should you yield." The word "yield" looks like this in the Greek Bible: "paristano." "Paristano" means "to put at someone's disposal for the purpose of service." So, what you have implied in this word is authority. The idea here is placing yourself under an authority – to give power to something that you are going to serve. Serving someone, in the nature of the case, implies obeying an authority.

Now, the Christian places his physical body under service to the authority of the sin nature, or to God: to evil; or, to righteousness. And that's what verse 13 is presenting to us – that we can do either one. We can place our human body in service to evil or in service to God. And he says, "We are not to do this." This is present tense. We are continually not to yield ourselves in this way. It is active. It is the believer's choice. And this time, again, it's imperative, which means it's a command – a command in view of the facts of the fall of the sin nature from its position of authority.

What is it specifically, however, that we are not to you? What is it specifically that we are not to put at the disposal of the sin nature? Paul calls that "our members." The Greek word is "melos." "Melos" means "limbs" or "parts of the human body." These parts of the human body are the means by which we serve an authority who is in charge of our lives. The key part of the body, again I remind you, is the brain, in which the mentality of the soul resides. The orientation of the mind to divine viewpoint or to human viewpoint will determine the extent to which the sin nature is able to exert; control; and, use the various members of your body.

So, here the apostle Paul is becoming a little more specific. In verse 12, he made a general statement that the sin nature should not be viewed as having dominant authority in your life. Now he goes a little further and says, "You are not to take the parts of your body, as from your brain on down to all the various parts of the body, and to permit the sin nature to use them to express that which is evil. The body has legitimate functions and legitimate desires. The sin nature pervert's those. And he stresses the fact that it is "your" members. The word "your” refers to the particular physical bodies of Christians.

What he objects to (what he tells us we are not to do) is: "To permit the parts of our bodies to be used as instruments." That is the word "hoplon." The word "hoplon" is used in some cases to mean "weapon." In 2 Corinthians 10:4, you have the expression "weapons of our warfare." And you have this word "hoplon" for that word "weapons." The idea behind this is some kind of implement, or some kind of a tool. And weapon is indeed a very fitting idea here. It is an explanation of "members," so that members is explained by this second word "weapons." So, God the Holy Spirit is telling us that he's thinking about the parts of our body as weapons which are being used by the sin nature in the angelic warfare in which you and I are engaged in, in order to attack God. The very parts of our body are being used to promote evil, and are being used to strike out against God by this evil nature within us.

He says, "These parts of our bodies should not be used as weapons for this kind of service." This has a military connotation – weapons in the angelic warfare. Weapons for what purpose? For what he calls unrighteousness, which is "adikia" in Greek. This word "adikia" is a comprehensive Greek word for wrongdoing – using the parts of the human body to violate God's standards of right, and to attain evil goals. This is using the human body in order to produce the evils of human good and of sins.

**Sincerity**

Human good is particularly often justified by people who are guilty of that on the basis of the fact that they are sincere. Indeed, these people must be recognized as sincere individuals. When we look upon the leadership of our nation politically, in governmental circles, we recognize that we are plagued with evil men. It is not that these are not sincere men, and it is not that these are not honorable and good men in terms of ordinary human society, but that they are disoriented to God's principles for the institution of government. Consequently, they are forever using government, and they are forever using their authority in government for wrong purposes. They are acting as evil men in the process of seeking what is humanly good. But they are sincere.

This is the reason that we have cautioned you against sincere people. You should be aware of the fact that sincere people are very, very dangerous people. If their sincerity is lacking, the motivation of Bible doctrine truths, these are very dangerous people. If they are not motivated by the principles of the Word of God, that sincerity is a tool of the devil.

Sincere people who function on beliefs which are in conflict with the Word of God, often will doom their own souls. There are people who are very sincere in their beliefs: Mormons, for example. These people will respond: "Well, I sincerely believe this." And you cannot change their minds. And what they have done is sincerely taken themselves to the lake of fire.

So, sincerity is not the issue. And you have to understand that these people have good motivations, but they do not realize that they are out of tune with reality. The reason they don't understand that is because so many other people agree with their disorientation. If you get enough people believing your disorientation, you have the impression that you are correct.

"Do not place under the authority of sin nature the parts of your human bodies as weapons of wrongdoing. Do not turn this over unto the sin nature." And the Greek word for "wrongdoing" is again "hamartia," that we've had several times. And it has the word "the," because it is specifically referring to that evil quality that has been inherited from Adam. The sin nature is ready to use our bodies to reestablish its own authority over our lives, and to promote causes of evil.

You may turn on your television sets today. Undoubtedly, the news reports will be replete with vast numbers of people who descended upon Washington, DC today in order to protest nuclear power plants and nuclear power development. You'll be hard pressed, of course, to dismiss that all these people, under the leadership of men like Nader – that their motivation is not the good of the general public, and that they are not sincerely seeking to do what they think is right and good.

I want to read you an article, in part, entitled "Energy Analyst Dr. Petr Beckmann." He is a distinguished energy scientist who is one of the most knowledgeable men about nuclear energy in this country. It's from the April 18th, 1979 issue of "The Review of the News." It was written by John Reece:

"Unless the United States moves forward without delay in building nuclear fuel, electrical generating plants, says Professor Petr Beckmann of the University of Colorado, thousands of lives will be lost because of our reliance on far more dangerous fossil fuels such as coal, oil, and natural gas. Question: Once more then, what is the lesson of Three Mile Island? Answer: This has been a gigantic field test – a test in battle under the most adverse conditions at the very heart of the concept of nuclear safety: the multiple layer defense in depth. "And the second important point is the demonstration of the slowness with which nuclear reactor accidents develop. We have proven that there is plenty of time to work out whatever additional measures are needed to assure safety."

I think it's important for you to have that information from a man who knows what he's talking about when you turn on your TV sets, with the guff that you're going to hear there, all of which is purely the disorientation of human viewpoint men who are listening to the confusion spewed out by the old sin nature within them, which is why the apostle Paul is stressing so strongly in Romans 6:13 that we are not to give the parts of our bodies as weapons to advance the cause of unrighteousness under the control of the sin nature.

These men that are behind these movements, such as the anti-nukes, are men who have brains. They have a brain structure – an organ in their bodies, which contains the mentality of the soul, and they are using that part of their body as a weapon to produce unrighteousness through the human good that they're pursuing. You'll have a great opportunity tonight to see human good in one of its grossest, most disgusting examples and demonstrations. That is the kind of society in which we are living.

Out on the West Coast, the California state government has gone in and taken over Herbert W. Armstrong's operation. They moved in: lock; stock; and, barrel, and under the guise of what happened at Guyana, the government is moving in and saying, "We have the right to take over these resources, and your facilities as a religious organization, and scrutinize what you're doing to see whether we can approve it. Who can approve it? Somebody who sits up there with his human viewpoint sincerity?

"This is what the apostle Paul is trying to get across to us. We as believers can reflect that kind of sloppy thinking and that kind of vulgarity of distortion of the human soul – the capacity to be able to use the parts of our body as instruments of unrighteousness. Don't just think about this as being related to the sex organs, or to other parts of the body that obviously can be used to promote unrighteousness. Think about this in its finest light that our society would approve – the kind of people you're going to see on television tonight. And what are they doing? They are men and women who have been taken over by the gross monster of the sin nature which dominates them because they're unbelievers. That's the only kind of thinking they're capable of. That's all they can use the parts of their body for – as weapons, for righteousness. And there probably are some Christians among them who, sadly enough, are in the same identical, pathetic position. May God help us and preserve us.

"Neither yield your (turn over – to be dominated) the parts of your human body as weapons for unrighteousness in behalf of the sin nature.

Then, the latter part of the verse 13, says, "But yield yourselves unto God." The word "but" is the Greek word "alla." It introduces the positive side of the statement here in verse 13. It implies "on the other hand." Verse 13 began with the word "Neither," which convey the idea of "on the one hand." Now he contrasts that with the positive side. The first part of verse 13 introduced a negative concept concerning the use of the physical body. Now he turns around and says, "But here's what you should do with your physical body. This is the positive side."

Again, what you should do uses the same word on the positive side that he used on the negative side, "yield," which is the Greek word "paristano." The word "paristano" means "to put at someone's disposal for the purpose of service. It is in the aorist tense now because here the act of placing yourself under the disposal of another for serving that person is viewed as a whole. It's viewed as encompassing a status that you hold or a lifestyle that you assume. The first time he used the word "yield," at the beginning of verse 13, it was in the present tense, which meant that you were not to yield as a habit (continually) your body to sinful purposes.

Now he comes with this aorist tense (the same word but with a different tense), indicating that he's thinking about something as a whole, and in fact, thinking about it in terms of a definite point of action. And that's what the air sense indicates – that there's a definite point of action. And what the apostle Paul is saying is: "You do have to, as a believer, simply come to the point in your life where you take a definite position and say, "I am not going to place my physical capacities at the disposal of evil." You would think that Christians should not have to do that. But we know that this passage has not given us the slightest indication or suggestion that the sin nature is ever inactive. It only tells us that the sin nature has had its power withdrawn, but it is not inactive. For that reason, the Christian has to realize that he has to deal with the sin nature. That's one of the things the apostle Paul is trying to get across.

Paul is saying, "Some of you believers just never wake up to the fact that the sin nature is there, and it's an issue you have to face. So, you glide along with thinking, "Well, I learned the Word of God; I studied the Bible; I go to church; and, sometimes I'm engaged in Christian service, but that does not take care of the fact that you have a sin nature toward which you have to take a policy. Paul is saying a policy decision, and that's what aorist means. The time has come for a policy decision about this issue within you. Are you going to play around? Are you going to play footsie with the sin nature? Or are you going to take a policy that definitely takes a stand against any cooperation with the matter?

So, here's a statement to put yourself very definitely under a lifestyle; under an attitude of mind; and, under an outlook which is now going to be the opposite of what he previously said you should not do. It is also in the active voice, which means that you, as the believer, make the decision (and you are free to make this decision) to so place yourself at divine disposal. Furthermore, it's in imperative mood, which means that it's a command of God to the Christian who now is free from the sin nature's authority to take a position of service, as we shall see in a moment, in God's army for the purpose of righteousness.

He stresses this because he throws in the word "yourselves." This is the Greek word "heautou." "Heautou" stresses the fact of an action which is imposed on yourself. "Heautou" means "back on yourself." You are taking this position toward yourself. It refers, of course, to the Christians specifically here who were in Rome, to whom he was writing, but of course, it also applies to us. It connotes all we are as believers – all that you are: your body and soul together, and you are to make a policy decision concerning yourself. This is all that you as a human being. That's what this word means. All that you as a human being are you are – you are to place yourself now, not at the disposal of sin, but at the disposal of One who is called "theos" (God). This is "*the* God" in Greek, indicating specifically God the Father.

**You are now Alive**

You are to yield yourself, not to the sin nature, but now to "the God" as a special kind of person – as the person who is now alive ("zao"). This means one who is capable of responding, or one who has the capabilities, because he is spiritually alive, of making a response. This is present tense. You are constantly in this state because you are in Christ. Its active voice. This is the actual condition of a believer. He is spiritually alive, and it's in the participle mood because that's indicating a principle of truth.

You are alive from what? "From" is the Greek word "ek," indicating source from which you are alive, and that is from the "nekros" – the dead. "Nekros" is an adjective. It's used as a noun here to describe a condition – the condition in the old Adam of spiritual death. The Christian's new status quo is spiritual life through Jesus Christ now under the sovereignty of God the Holy Spirit. When you were in this condition, a spiritual death, then you were under the condition of being in Adam. Now that you are out of this condition of spiritual death, you are now in the condition of being in Christ. Here you are spiritually dead, but here in Christ, you are spiritually alive.

So, you are now to take a totally different viewpoint of yourself, and that is as those who are now spiritually alive, who are capable of responding, because you have been brought out of the death position in Adam. And he adds something more, getting back to the parts of your body: Your (stressing again your particular – you as an individual) members. That is the same word we had before ("melos") for the parts of the body as instruments. This is the same word we had before ("hoplon"), meaning the parts of the body in terms of being weapons. Christian service is a military operation. You may view the parts of your body as the weapons in this military operation.

For this reason, we have such phrases in the Bible as "fight the good fight of faith." Or we have an expression like: "put on the whole armor of God." All of these are carrying through the same picture that you fight (against) evil with the parts of your body. You fight for righteousness with the parts of your body. And for this reason, the human body becomes a very sacred thing. The human body, in God's eyes, is a very sacred thing, and it is treated as a very un-sacred and a very contemptuous thing by those who are outside of the family of God. But if you have God's viewpoint toward the human body, it is a very sacred thing.

For this reason, there are things that you do not do with the human body. For this reason, you do not stand around and find yourself entertained by what people do with the human body. All you have to do is watch a little television to understand how this principle is violated in our society. The things that are portrayed on television in connection with the human body, a Paul anybody who's got any kind of divine viewpoint sensitivity, because he recognizes that there the human body is being held in contempt, and is being used as Satan's weapons for wrongdoing, where God says, "Your body is too sacred. It is too important." It is to be a weapon that God uses in the angelic conflict to achieve a position of righteousness.

**Righteousness**

Put on the whole armor of God in order that you may accomplish what he calls "dikaiosune." There's our old word for "righteousness," meaning absolute righteousness. This standard that characterizes the work of God. This is the standard by which everything is judged; that is, actions which are compatible with the character of God. You are to use your body to accomplish what is compatible with the character of God.

So, think of all the deals you've been involved in this week. Have they've been compatible with the character of God? Think of all the kinds of conversations you've been involved in. Have they been compatible with the character of God? Think of all of the thinking that you've been involved in this week. Are those thoughts compatible with the character of God? Everything you did, whether it was compatible or incompatible with the character of God, was accomplished with parts of your physical body – your brain putting into action various parts of your body.

Paul says, "The sin nature is no longer king within you. Therefore," verse 13 says, "Do not place at the disposal of the sin nature what it wants to have at its disposal – the parts of your physical body." Do not take your brain and be stupid. That's one way that you put your body at the disposal of evil. You take your brain, and you come up with dumb decisions. You come up with stupid actions. You involve yourself in stupid situations. And you get yourself in a condition where you're under some painful stress, and you've brought yourself under there. Why? Because your mind was not oriented to that which was compatible with divine thinking, or you wouldn't have gotten in that position.

There is the same thing on the other side of the coin. You've made decisions that have just pleased you. They've just brought you nothing but blessings. They prospered your life. They blessed those around you. They've advanced the kingdom of God, and they've advanced your character and your well-being. Why? Because you have used your brain as an instrument for righteousness. That's what the apostle Paul was saying here – to take all the capacities of your body, and use them for absolute righteousness.

**God's Character cannot be Compromised**

This is the only way that God can work. We stress the fact that God has a way of salvation which He has made very clear in this book – that it's a way apart from any human doing. So, when we say that any Mormon that believes in his system of salvation is going to end up in the lake of fire, or when we say that any Moslem who believes in his system of salvation is going to end up in the fire, and we say that the religions of the world who have a system of works salvation are going to end up in the lake of fire, what we're saying is that God Himself cannot change the way of salvation. If *God* wanted to say, "Well, I just don't want to let those Mormons enter the lake of fire. I just don't want to let the Muslims all enter the lake of fire. They're trying to reach out for Me. I just don't want to do it." Even if that was what God wanted, God could not change it, because His character is absolute righteousness. His character cannot be compromised.

That's what we are telling people: that your sincerity does not make any difference. Your appeals to God make no difference. Your approaches to Him make no difference. God cannot violate what He is. And absolute righteousness is the basis and the standard upon which everything is judged.

**The Righteousness of God**

So, what we're being called upon to do is to use our physical body to be absolutely coordinated with God. Now that's amazing. That scares you, even to think about this. But the truth of the matter is that it's possible to do it. Paul is saying to us that the only normal lifestyle for a believer is complete compatibility with absolute righteousness. And if you are still staggered by it, then you still haven't caught on to what Paul is saying here. It is possible for you to be that kind of absolute righteousness with every part of your body. It is the righteousness, very specifically, to make it clear, he says, "Of God," using the word "theos" again. This is not the righteousness of man, which is a relative compromising righteousness. It is the righteousness of God.

The Christian is in service to God in the angelic warfare. The human body is the Christian's weapon in behalf of absolute righteousness. The worst thing about the sin nature is that parts of God's temple can be prostituted to the evils of the sin nature. It is possible for you and me to be traitors to God. That's what we are when parts of our physical structure are used for anything less than absolute righteousness.

**Consequences of Using Ourselves to God**

There are certain consequences that come to us when we use ourselves to God. It would be well just to know things.

**Cleansing from Evil**

First of all, if you follow Paul's advice, and you yield yourself as one who is spiritually alive from the death position in Adam, and parts of your body as weapons for the purpose of absolute righteousness unto God, one of the things that will be the result of that kind of disposing of yourself to God's service is that he will cleanse the life of you as a Christian soldier from evil. The Holy Spirit within you will be able to point out broken fellowship. That is one of the most important things that the Holy Spirit should be free to do. If you are so callous from your carnality that the Holy Spirit cannot say, "Hey, wait a minute. You've just broken fellowship with the Father. You're in a bad way." That is one of the most important ministries of the Spirit of God should be free to do – that you are sensitive to say, "I know that was wrong," and you can take action.

He will cleanse you by developing moral character within you. He will cleanse you by refining your taste and elevating your ambitions. It is terrible for Christians to be cheap in their ambitions, and to be cheap in their tastes. And you meet people, and people who are unbelievers, and people who are outside of the family of God, and many times they have great sums of money, but they're cheap; they're crude; and, they're uncouth. And maybe they do all the things that are the manners by the book, but they have a jaded quality about them. They have a coarseness to them in spite of all their manners; in spite of all their wealth; and, in spite of all their fine surroundings.

What the Word of God does for you is that it defines you as a human being. It cleanses evil from your soul, and it puts you into a proper relationship to other people. It puts a woman in proper relationship to the males around her. It puts a man in proper relationship to the women that surround him. It puts children in proper relationships with their parents. It puts employers in proper relationships to their employees, and vice versa. It just puts everybody in the right relationship to one another.

Yielding yourself to God will cause evil to be cleansed for you, because when you yourself, then God the Holy Spirit is going to keep punching away at every breakdown in your life. He's just going to keep putting His finger on it, and it's going to be like putting a hot branding iron on every point that you're out of line with the plan of God, and with the character of God. And you're going to learn what it is to walk in absolute righteousness.

**The Filling of the Spirit**

Another thing that will be the result is that God the Holy Spirit will feel you as a yielded believer. The result there will be that you will be controlled by divine viewpoint thinking. You will have true perspective. You will have directions from God the Spirit for successful living. It will protect you from pseudo spirituality – the spirituality of the legalists who think that they please God, and are spiritual by things they don't do. It will protect you from the perversions of the charismatic movement under its subtle manipulations of Satan. It's a great thing to be filled by God the Holy Spirit, and that comes from yielding your physical self to the manipulation of the Spirit of God, and to have His true perspective.

That's the problem with people who are policy makers in our society today. The people who make decisions for our society today are not manipulated by God's point of view. Therefore, they do not have a true perspective on things. And you shake your head in bewilderment. You say, "Why can't these people see it?"

One of you gave me an article on what's happening in social studies in the public school system. Most of you will shake your head. You won't believe what the kids in the public school are being taught about relationships between human beings, all of which are specifically designed to bring about a socialist, communist, one-world type of mentality, and one which is to break down family loyalties, and one which is to be antagonistic to the free enterprise system. The whole thing is such a ludicrous, inane viewpoint that you can only say, "This is because intelligent people do not have a true perspective on things, because they do not think from God's frame of reference." If they had God's point of view, these things would fall into better balance.

**Parenting**

It is absolutely pathetic – the attitude toward parental authority toward children. It's horrendous what is taking place in our society, and it is all under the guise of improving the lives of children. We're in the year of the child now. This is the year in which children are being informed about their rights with their parents, and the things that their parents don't have a right to do with them. And these people are getting all excited if a parent spanks a child and leaves some black and blue marks on him.

Well, the Bible says, "When your son exercises willfulness, before he is a couple of years old, the first thing you have to break in your son and in your daughter is his will." You must crush his will. You must crush his will until he understands obedience. If you don't do it before he's a couple or three years old, you're going to have a (tough") time doing it after that. You do not crush his self-respect, but you crush his rebellion which is there from the sin nature.

The Bible says that the process by which you do this is to train him in the way he should go. Then it explains that the way you train him is with a big stick on a certain part of his body that God has designed for the entrance of absolute righteousness into his soul. And you use this stick on that part of the body that God has designed as the gateway of absolute righteousness into his soul. And it says that in the process, you may scar up the gate a little bit. It says that it might even turn black and blue. That's what the Hebrew says. "But it says, "He won't die, but he will learn to subject his will to authority.

Now, that's divine viewpoint. And these fools who run our society are telling us, "No, parents can't lay the hand on them. Parents can't get too heavy. That's out of line." And what do they equated with that? They equate it with this mad woman that has just been sentenced to life in prison who took a screwdriver and stabbed it into the eyes and skull and chests of her children because they took some money from her purse. Nobody's talking about that kind of toleration of abuse. And that certainly is not biblical. And the Bible has very specific guidance for that kind of action too on the part of a parent. The fact is that the New Testament makes it very clear that parents are never to open their mouths in such a way as to bestir indignation to evil on the part of their children. The Bible says that you speak to your child in such a way that he must respect your authority, whether he agrees with what you're telling him to do or not.

To yield yourself to God enables you to be filled with the Holy Spirit, and that gives you the beauty of having God's viewpoint in all that you do. It also enables you to be used in Christian service. That is provided because of your yielding – the capacity to produce divine good works, and the capacity to know what is divine good in distinction from what is human good.

I must smile at these opponents of nuclear energy. We have people who are moved by this human-viewpoint, doing-good-for-mankind principles who do not understand what is actually taking place, and that these are problems which must be worked out. I'm just waiting to see a march on Washington to stop the drilling of oil rigs out in the Gulf. It looks like eight to twelve men got killed this week. I don't hear a whisper of: "Stop using oil. It's dangerous. Drilling for oil kills people." Not too many people have gotten killed, in the nuclear thing, but all the smart-alecs are so confident and competent because they all have been listening to Jane Fonda, who knows everything.

It also provides you with rewards for eternity in heaven. Divine good protection, as you know, is storing treasures in heaven. And heaven is a safe depository for your treasures. Treasures are things that one enjoys, and you'll have them secure there.

It also makes provision for our daily needs. God supplies his soldiers for the battle. One Bible teacher has put it in military terms, which are indeed fitting for Christian soldiering, by calling it logistical grace – grace that provides everything that you need to do the job. The word "logistics" is a military term for transporting supplies and for equipping troops with everything they need in the theater of battle in order to perform the service in which they're engaged. That's what God does. When you yield yourself to God, logistical grace comes into play, and everything you need is provided by God, the great Quartermaster of the Christian soldier. It gives you and me this provision that we need, and it enables us to handle the provisions of our daily need. It gives us the understanding of our role as stewards of God's possessions. And that is a great thing to understand – to understand our role as stewards of God's possessions.

This is one of the hardest things for Christians to learn, and it is one of the most spiritually debasing things. Most Christians cannot grasp the fact that God uses them as bankers to whom He deposits material things as the result of their labors, and that they do not own what God has deposited. They are privileged, like a banker, to use a certain amount of it to make profit and to cover expenses, but most of it belongs to God. And you turn to Him, you say, "Now Lord, Here it is. You've given me $2,000 this week out of my efforts. You've given me $200 out of my efforts. That's the deposit You made. I'm going to use this much of it for myself. What do you want me to do with the rest of it?" Now that is what happens when you start using your body as a weapon for righteousness. God gives you provisions and enables you to know how to use them.

"Neither yield your members as weapons unto the sin nature for unrighteousness (for the production of evildoing). But on the other hand (on the positive side), place yourselves at the disposal of God as those who are now alive from the condition of the spiritual death in Adam, and the parts of your body as weapons for the purpose of achieving absolute righteousness under God."

Now that is a great answer to the question of letting the sin nature reign supreme. Paul says, "Not that kind of godless thinking, but this kind of thinking is the answer to that." The final statement comes in verse 14, and we shall take that up next time.

Dr. John E. Danish, 1977

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