

Romans 14:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.

Analysis

For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's—Ean te gar zōmen, tō kyriō zōmen, ean te apothnēskōmen, tō kyriō apothnēskōmen. ean te oun zōmen ean te apothnēskōmen, tou kyriou esmen (ἐάν τε γὰρ ζῶμεν, τῷ κυρίῳ ζῶμεν, ἐάν τε ἀποθνήσκωμεν, τῷ κυρίῳ ἀποθνήσκομεν. ἐάν τε οὖν ζῶμεν ἐάν τε ἀποθνήσκομεν, τοῦ κυρίου ἐσμέν). The fourfold repetition tō kyriō (to the Lord) emphasizes total consecration. Living and dying both belong to Christ—no moment is ours, all is His.

Tou kyriou esmen (τοῦ κυρίου ἐσμέν, 'we are the Lord's') is the foundation: believers are Christ's possession (1 Corinthians 6:19-20, 'ye are not your own'). This undergirds vv. 1-7: if we belong to the Lord, we have no right to judge His other servants. Whether they eat meat, observe days, abstain—they're doing it 'unto the Lord' as His property. This also grounds Christian confidence in death: even dying is 'unto the Lord,' not tragic loss but consecrated offering.

Historical Context

This echoes 1 Corinthians 3:21-23, 'all are yours, and ye are Christ's, and Christ is God's'—the chain of ownership. Early Christians faced martyrdom ('dying unto the Lord') with confidence, even joy (Acts 7:59-60). Polycarp's martyrdom (AD 155) exemplified this: 'Eighty-six years I have served Him, and He has done me no

wrong. How can I blaspheme my King who saved me?' Death 'unto the Lord' meant dying as worship. This text also shaped Christian burial practices: funerals as witness to resurrection hope, not pagan despair.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What areas of life do you treat as your own rather than living '*tō kyriō*' (unto the Lord)—career, relationships, leisure?
2. How does understanding death as 'unto the Lord' change your perspective on mortality, suffering, or martyrdom?
3. If 'we are the Lord's' (*tou kyriou esmen*) in life and death, how does this affect daily decisions in disputable matters?

Interlinear Text

ἐάν	τε	γὰρ	ζῶμεν	τῷ	κυρίου	ζῶμεν	ἐάν	τε
and whether	G5037	For	we live	G3588	the Lord's	we live	and whether	G5037
G1437		G1063	G2198		G2962	G2198	G1437	
ἀποθνήσκωμεν	τῷ	κυρίου	ἀποθνήσκωμεν	ἐάν	τε			
die	G3588	the Lord's	die	and whether	G5037			
G599		G2962	G599	G1437				
οὖν	ζῶμεν	ἐάν	τε	ἀποθνήσκωμεν	τοῦ	κυρίου		
therefore	we live	and whether	G5037	die	G3588	the Lord's		
G3767	G2198	G1437		G599		G2962		
ἐσμέν								
we are								
G2070								

Additional Cross-References

Philippians 1:20 (Parallel theme): According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death.

1 Thessalonians 5:10 (Parallel theme): Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.

1 Corinthians 15:23 (Parallel theme): But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

Acts 21:13 (References Lord): Then Paul answered, What mean ye to weep and to break mine heart? for I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.

Revelation 14:13 (References Lord): And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.

Acts 20:24 (References Lord): But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

Philippians 2:17 (Parallel theme): Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy, and rejoice with you all.

Acts 13:36 (Parallel theme): For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption:

John 21:19 (Parallel theme): This spake he, signifying by what death he should glorify God. And when he had spoken this, he saith unto him, Follow me.

Philippians 2:30 (Parallel theme): Because for the work of Christ he was nigh unto death, not regarding his life, to supply your lack of service toward me.

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