

Romans 6:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

Analysis

God forbid (mē genoito, μὴ γένοιτο)—Paul's strongest negation, appearing 10 times in Romans. Literally "may it never be!" This emphatic rejection introduces Paul's theological explanation: believers have **died to sin** (apethanomen tē hamartia, ἀπεθάνομεν τῇ ἁμαρτίᾳ)—the aorist tense indicating a definite past event at conversion.

The phrase "dead to sin" uses the dative of reference: believers died with respect to sin, breaking sin's mastery. This isn't sinless perfection but a changed relationship—sin no longer has legal dominion over justified believers. Paul's rhetorical question expects the answer: **How shall we... live any longer therein?** The question assumes moral impossibility: for those truly united to Christ's death, habitual sin is theologically and spiritually incongruous. The present tense zēsomen (ζήσομεν) asks about ongoing lifestyle, not isolated acts.

Historical Context

In Roman law, death freed a person from all legal obligations—Paul uses this legal metaphor. The Greek concept of death as separation from former relationships would resonate with his audience. Jewish thought connected righteousness with life and sin with death (Ezekiel 18), providing theological background for Paul's argument about dying to sin's dominion.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. What does it mean practically that you have 'died to sin' while still experiencing temptation?
2. How does understanding your death to sin's dominion change your battle against specific sins?
3. In what ways might you be 'living' in what you've already died to?

Interlinear Text

μὴ	γένοιτο	οὔτινες	ἀπεθάνομεν	τῇ	ἁμαρτίᾳ	πῶς
God forbid	G1096	shall we that	are dead	G3588	to sin	How
G3361		G3748	G599		G266	G4459
ἔτι	ζήσομεν	ἐν	αὐτῇ			
any longer	live	therein	G846			
G2089	G2198	G1722				

Additional Cross-References

Colossians 3:3 (References God): For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

1 John 3:9 (Sin): Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

Romans 7:4 (References God): Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.

1 Peter 2:24 (Sin): Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

Galatians 2:19 (References God): For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God.

Romans 7:6 (Parallel theme): But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter.

1 Peter 1:14 (Parallel theme): As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:

Colossians 2:20 (Parallel theme): Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances,

Psalms 119:104 (Parallel theme): Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way.

Galatians 6:14 (References God): But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.