

Romans 6:7

You referenced Romans 6:7 in a couple of places. I think it is worth looking at that verse for a moment. If we look back to Romans 5 we see that Paul is discussing the fact that death came to everyone through our sin and that Salvation became available through Jesus Christ. (5²¹ so that, just as sin exercised dominion in death, so grace might also exercise dominion through justification leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.) In Romans 6 the discussion is continued as Paul tells us that we have died in Jesus. (6³ Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?) The whole chapter bears the message that since we have died in Christ we should no longer sin. Verse 6 (6⁶ We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin.) points out that our old self was crucified and is dead to sin. So verse 7 (7⁷ For whoever has died is freed from sin.) amplifies the point, as it is clear that someone who is dead no longer continues in their sin. It has nothing to do with the guilt or consequence of sin but rather that the act of sin is no longer possible for a dead person. The following verses (10¹⁰ The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. 11¹¹ So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.) re-enforce and solidify the point that as we have died in Jesus, we must forsake sin and live for Jesus. Therefore it is clear that verse 7, in spite of WT claims, does not have anything to do with removing or forgiving the guilt or debt of sin. It is rather an explanation that as we have died with Christ we have also died to sin.