

Romans 6

Introduction

In chapters four & five, we found God's plan for salvation of man. His plan for our salvation is unique among the religious systems of the world. In all the religions of the world, including Catholic, Islam, Mormon, etc. you have to pay. In other words, it is a works based experience. In Christianity, (Judaism) is the only group that is by Grace through faith alone. This applies to our sanctification which is the study of chapter six.

Verse 1 *What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?*

Shall we continue in sin that Grace may abound? Of course Paul's answer was "God forbid." In Chapter 5, Paul had taught them that when sin abounded, Grace did much more abound. So their reasonings were "let's sin more so we can experience more grace." But notice Paul gave them God's remedy for sin in the Christian life, and that is, "how can we that are dead, live any longer therein." It is just as absurd to suppose that a Christian should desire to live in sin as that a dead man should be able to do any good works. To be dead to something is not to feel any inclination to do it. This is the basis of our walk of freedom from sin under the grace of God. Therefore we realize believing God's word is the correct path. We must understand that this is God's way for us. We trust in God's word. When we trust in God's word all the power of God and His Kingdom come to bear upon us.

- **Colossians 3:3** *For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.*
- **1 Peter 2:24** *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.*

Sin shall not have dominion over you for you are not under law but under grace. When many believers consider the statement "dead to sin," immediately we begin to reason. Reasoning breeds doubt and looks for a way of freedom from sin that is more understandable. However if we will simply believe God's word, we will find that God by His Spirit will guide us into all truth. He will also guide us into a practical walk of righteousness.

Verse 2 *God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?*

In the Greek, this is given in the past tense. It should read "we who have died." We realize that Paul is speaking of reasoning our way through this difficult problem but rather to believe that this victory was made possible at the cross. We did not do it; we simply believed it. It is then that God's power comes to us bringing victory and rest.

Verse 3 *Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?*

Now we have the blessed truth of our identification with Christ in His death and resurrection. As we saw in chapter five, by one man sin entered the world. Now we are seeing in one man, Christ, the riches of God's Grace.

Verse 4 *Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*

It appears that Paul is speaking of water baptism here and it seems to have been a common practice. However, Paul was using baptism as a symbol of the greater truth which is our union with Christ in His death and resurrection. By being baptized, we are saying that is the end of all we were in the world and rising to a new life in Christ.

- **2 Corinthians 5:17** *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*
- **Matthew 20:22-23** *But Jesus answered and said, You know not what you ask. Are you able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? They say unto Him, We are able. And He saith unto them, You shall drink indeed of my cup and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with ; but to sit on my right hand, and on my left is not mine to give, but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared of my Father.*

Jesus uses baptism to refer to the cross and His death. He also identified Himself with His followers by saying, “you shall be baptized as I will be and drink of my cup.” This verse is telling us we can walk in a new life as we identify with Christ’s life.

Verse 5 *For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:*

Paul uses a metaphor, in the word “planted” to say the same thing as baptism in verse 4. Notice, it is “planted together” in the likeness of His death. The teaching of our identifying with Christ in His death is sending a very strong message to us and the world; we are now sold out to the Kingdom of God and all it stands for.

Verse 6 *Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.*

“Our old man is crucified with Him.” Most Christians today believe this is referring to our old selves. I see this also, but I believe the scriptures are intending to say more. Adam was the head of the first creation and as we were in Adam who was fallen, so also were we. When Christ went to the cross, He took away the headship of Adam for those who are part of the new creation. Jesus became the head of the new creation of which we are now a part. I believe this is an important part of the teaching of Verse 6. We are careful not to say that our being removed from the first creation, Adam’s headship, is the great part of our victory over sin. We know we were crucified with Christ and thus, walk in new life. I think all these things together make up our position in Christ and thus, our place in His victory.

“Body of sin”

- **Colossians 2:11** says this very well: *In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:*

Therefore the body of sin here, is talking of our bodies which are subject to sin - the circumcision that is made without hands is the work of the cross. Notice verse 12 of Colossians 2: We are risen with Him through the faith of the operation of God. It is God that works in us to will and to do of His good pleasure. Therefore, our bodies are rendered powerless to sin as we believe what God says of our position in Christ and our reckoning it to so.

Galatians 2:20 *"I was crucified with Christ".. This annuls the body of sin.*

Verse 7 *For he that is dead is freed from sin.*

The original translation of *"for he that is dead"* is: He that has died. The scriptures are teaching us that our death with Christ is important and basic to all we are to be in Christ. Life comes out of death. This is why Jesus said if we would follow Christ, we would deny ourselves and take up our cross daily. The translation of *"is freed from sin"* should read "is justified from sin. This become the key to Chapter six .

- **Hebrews 9:14** *How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?*

The victory of the cross has the power to purge our conscience from dead works. This leads us to a complete trust in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Verse 8 *Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:*

The teaching of verse 8 is very basic and becomes a tenant of our faith. Our death with Christ being understood now becomes the reason we shall live with Him. This is saying we shall live with Him now and forever.

- **Galatians 2:20** *I am crucified with Christ nevertheless I live yet not I but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*

Verse 9 *Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.*

The wages of sin is death. Christ took our sin upon Himself and died. But His resurrection proved He was who He said He was, and thus, we were raised with Him. Death is swallowed up in victory.

- **John 8:51** *Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death.*
- **Revelation 1:18** *I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.*

Verse 10 *For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.*

For in that He died,

He died unto sin once; His work on the cross for sin put away sin and brought forgiveness to us, past, present and future.

- **Hebrews 10:10 & 12** *By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all 12 But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;*

Our victory is complete! Nothing can change that work, and we are enjoying it, in fact, glorying in it. That victory applies to us today as stated in the last part of the verse *"he liveth unto God.*

Verse 11 *Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

If we reckon in this manner, sin shall have no influence or control over us any more than the world has over those who are in their graves. Many of God's people do not experience the wonderful victory offered in this verse.

Our relationship to sin is exactly the same as Christ's. Why? Because He joined Himself to us in removing us from under the headship of the 1st Adam; thus Jesus became the head of the new creation of which we are a part. Jesus' action of death to sin involved all who are connected with Him. When Jesus died unto sin once, He ended forever having to deal with sin anymore. And if we reckon on this truth, it will take care of the sin question for us as well. We will be enabled to walk in the spirit just as the scripture says. The word "*reckon*" is a valuable word. It is used 35 times by Paul. 19 of those in Romans alone and 11 times in Chapter 4 alone. The meaning of "*reckon*" is: to take an inventory, estimate, to impute or put to one's account.

Verse 12 *Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.*

Because of the cross and our union with Christ in death and resurrection, we can say without any doubt that sin must not reign in our mortal bodies whereas before all were under sin. There were none righteous, not one. But now, we become righteous simply by believing.

- **Hebrews 9:26** *For then must He often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath He appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.*

Jesus appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. Remember where sin reigns, it is master and the person is servant.

Verse 13 *Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.*

In verse 13, we come face to face with our "will", or to say another way we could say "self". We are to yield ourselves as those who are alive from the dead. Our victory here is not by some form of self effort.

- **1 Corinthians 6:19 & 20** *What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.*

We are to reckon ourselves dead to sin. Jesus said "deny self".

Verse 14 *For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.*

The Law could not set people free from sin, but Grace could. The Law only told the people what not to do, but could not help them do it. Paul is therefore telling them not to put their trust in the Law. If we look to the Law to be made free from sin, we will only find more bondage because the purpose of the Law is to make sin more sinful.

Verse 15 *What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.*

The questions of Verses 1 & 15 warn about abusing our liberty in Christ. They show the fallenness of human nature. Our relation to sin is broken forever and we may walk in newness of life.

Verse 16 *Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?*

The question of Verse 15 is answered in this verse. You must realize that to whom you yield yourself as a servant to obey, his servant you are. This means human beings find that they cannot remove themselves from this bondage of sin, only through the shed blood of Christ. Even when men see themselves and their families being ruined, they are powerless to remove themselves from the bondage of sin.

Obedience unto the gospel will bring us into righteousness.

Notice: We *obey unto sin*, and *we obey unto righteousness*. This shows the place God has given our will. When Jesus said for us to deny ourselves in order to follow Him, He was dealing with our will.

Verse 17 *But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.*

When we obeyed from our hearts the doctrine of salvation by faith, we were set free.

- **Ephesians 2:1** And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

This freedom from sin and bondage is an act of God whereby we are called to serve righteousness. Only God can bring this change of heart. We have been removed from any connection to Adam and now we are under the headship of Christ. We share in the vast riches of Christ in the new creation. The word “delivered” is saying we become partakers of the blessings of God, not “to live up to” but a place where we are blessed with all the blessings in heavenly places.

Verse 18 *Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.*

We see what happens when we enter into the freedom in Christ. We become His bond servants. This results from obeying from the heart the Truth of the Gospel. Sin is no longer our master. At the risk of repeating ourselves, we say we can become servants of righteousness by obeying from the heart that doctrine that was delivered to us.

Verse 19 *I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness*

His purpose in this manner of speaking is to relate to them in the social order or everyday life. They would understand the common life language. The word “infirmity” means weakness, feebleness. It is the opposite of vigor and strength. Flesh is used to express the low or corrupt passions of men. On the other side of this issue may be the moral or intellectual understanding being misguided by their lack of previous teaching. As they had given place to uncleanness and iniquity, Paul is saying give place to God as you did to the world previously.

Verse 20 *For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness.*

Again, using their common life experience, he stated when they served sin, they were free from righteousness. They were entirely controlled by the inclinations of the flesh. This is a strong proof of the depravity of the human race. This shows us that there is no good thing in the flesh. The implications here are they ought to be equally free from sin, now that they belong to the new creation.

Verse 21 *What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death.*

What a simple argument Paul is using to show the truth of their dedication to the issues of this new life. There certainly was no fruit to God from the old life style. Therefore do not use the old ways of the flesh to do the things of the spirit. The effect of their old ways lead to death.

- **Ephesians 5:12** *For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret.*

Verse 22 *But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.*

I love Paul's "But now". When God comes on the scene, everything changes, and that is because of His great power and love. It is because we are made free from sin, by the blood of Christ, that we can become profitable servants of God. The results of being good servants of God is fruit. This is the proof of true abiding in Christ.

- **John 15:5** *I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.*

We become fruitful and of course, the end of this way is eternal life. What a beautiful hope.

Verse 23 *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.* For those who choose sin, death is the certain wage of that way of life. Death is the proper reward of sin. There will not be one pain inflicted on the sinner that he does not deserve. Even in the lake of fire, the treatment is exactly what is deserved. But the Gift of God is eternal life. What an incentive to turn to Jesus Christ with all our hearts.