

## THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

APRIL 17TH - 18TH, 2021 // BOOK OF ROMANS

### DYING TO LIVE (ROMANS 6:1-7)

#### ABUSING THE GOODNESS OF GOD

Paul teaches us a gospel of being saved by grace through faith, meaning there is nothing we can do to achieve salvation. Paul assumed that the response from some would be, "If we can do nothing to be saved, why not keep sinning? Doesn't it just multiply grace?"

- The answer is a resounding "**Absolutely not!**" The problem is we forget who we are.

#### HOW CAN WE STILL "LIVE IN IT?"

Paul will spend the rest of this chapter explaining that since we have died to sin and were reborn under Christ, we are dead to the old way of living.

- This simply means that our post - conversion self should look dramatically different than our pre-conversion self. **This doesn't mean perfection, but direction!**

#### HOW ARE WE DEAD TO SIN?

Paul asked, "...are you unaware that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized unto His death?" Baptism is a symbolic act that has huge spiritual implications!

- Our obedience in baptism connects us with the obedient act of Jesus dying for our sins. **Like His flesh died, our sinful nature is put to death.**

#### BECAUSE OF DEATH, WE ARE ABLE TO LIVE

When we choose to lay our desires aside and pick up the pursuit and things of God, we truly experience what life is. Baptism is a sign of that choice. This is why v4 says, "so we too may walk in a newness of life."

- **By the same power that raised Jesus from the grave, we can live righteously. This begins with submission to Christ.**

#### LIKE DOGS BACK TO THEIR VOMIT (PR. 26:11)

Paul makes the argument that we shouldn't keep living in sin because we have been set free from the wages of sin.

- **The practical argument is that if your old ways worked, why did you come to Christ, repent, and get baptized?** Sometimes we have to be reminded that without God there is no genuine life.

#### YOUR IDENTITY IS NOT THE SAME ANYMORE

V6 says, "For we know that our old self was crucified...so that the body ruled by sin might be rendered powerless" and we are "no longer enslaved to sin."

- **Though we will still make mistakes, we can be free from a lifestyle of sin.** We can also grow in holiness and make sin a less frequent act and temptation.

#### WE MUST DIE TO LIVE

If we will live humble and repentant lives, Christ will not only forgive our sins, but He will give us the strength to live holy lives.

- This means we must willingly crucify self (our desires and wants) and choose to allow God to lead us. **If we will do this, we will find peace, joy, and contentment.**

#### ALIVE TO GOD (ROMANS 6:8-14)

##### LIVING BECAUSE HE LIVED

If we have faith in Jesus, we "live with Him." This means we experience a transformation in our daily lives. Sanctification happens both instantly and over time.

- Sanctification is us **changing more into the likeness of God. In this process, God uses us more and more to bless His kingdom.**

#### SANCTIFICATION IS LIVING WITH JESUS

All people that want to be free and build a relationship with God can. In this relationship we find confidence in the work of Christ through the cross and His resurrection.

- **It all goes back to faith.** We must believe that God loves us and wants the best for us. When we have faith in that, we experience the joy of living with God!

#### THEREFORE ...

Because we have not only been offered this freedom, but we claim to have experienced it through our baptism and verbal commitment to Jesus, we have a responsibility to live in a way that honors our faith.

- **This means we repent for and move away from sinful actions, and how we think about and treat others changes.**

#### WE'RE TO US OUR BODIES FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS

We are called to consecrate (fully dedicate) our lives to God. Because of this, we're to use our bodies in a way that honors Him. This simply means we live out the teachings of the Bible.

- **This applies to sex, attitude, how we treat people, how we treat ourselves, our thoughts, and how we respond to the call of God.** Basically, how we are living.

#### IT IS NOT JUST POSITIVE THINKING

This isn't "name it claim it" or new age positive thinking, this is us asking God to conform our minds and allowing God to transform us from the inside out.

- When we have faith we understand, through the Word and our experiences, that **God's word is alive and bears fruit in the genuine Christian.**

## DELIVERED & SAVED (ROMANS 6:15-23)

### MORE OF THE SAME

The 2nd half of this chapter is teaching the same points, but it uses different illustrations. Paul is asking in v15 if grace should allow us to live however we please. Of course the answer is "Absolutely not!"

- A slavery analogy would've been relevant because the majority of Rome was comprised of slaves of some sort.

#### SLAVERY TO GOD?

Slavery in the Roman empire was a demoralizing forced obligation. Sin is also a demoralizing master and it leads to "death," both in the spiritual and literal sense.

- Being a "slave to righteousness" is completely different. **When we experience freedom in Christ we become willingly and lovingly obedient to Him.**

#### "GREATER AND GREATER LAWLESSNESS"

Paul says that when we offer ourselves as slaves to impurity we yield lawlessness that gets worse and worse.

- Have we not seen an escalation of both moral and civic lawlessness? **If our God is a God of peace and order, chaos is never of God. Are we people of peace and order?**

#### "SO WHAT WAS THE FRUIT...?" (V.21)

The Bible is surprisingly practical. Paul simply asks the Christians that came out of sinful lifestyles, "What was the result of your past choices? Did it work out for you?"

- Jesus said in Matt. 7, "**You will know a tree by its fruit.**" This is the greatest barometer of spiritual health. What is our fruit? What about society?

#### A NEW AND BETTER "FRUIT"

Paul says, "since [we] have been set free from sin and have become enslaved to God" we will produce good and fulfilling fruit "which results in eternal life! For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life."

- Again, the fruit proves the point: **living without God brings destruction, but choosing to follow Him brings life and contentment.**

#### "...WHICH RESULTS IN SANCTIFICATION"

- If we choose to follow Christ, we will not only bear fruit that is honorable and fulfilling, we will also think and act more like God.
- This means we should always be evolving. If we claim Christ, we should also display sanctification. We will not be perfect, but we should be conforming to His image.

#### A LOVE FOR GOD IS THE MOTIVATION

- The motivation for change should be because we love our Savior. The abuse of grace is not an option to the true follower of Jesus.
- We must dig deeper. Our minds must be focused on how close can we get to Him, not how far can we stray and still be saved. It's a true love issue.

#### FREEDOM AND HOPE

- We must ask if the path we have been walking, as a society and as individuals, has given us the quality of life we desire. Are we convinced that we need a change?
- The old you can be put to death, and a new you can come alive and thrive. Jesus offers us freedom, hope, peace, and eternal life. Will we lay ourselves down for Him?
- **Isaiah 1:18-20 (CSB)**