

# Romans: The Crown Jewel of Salvation

## *Using Truth to Break the Power of Sin*

### **Romans 6:1-14**

*Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / Jan. 19, 2014*

Sanctification: the ongoing PROCESS of how we fight against the POWER of sin that still remains in our lives as a Christian.

Justification: Christ's FINISHED work on the cross that paid the PENALTY for our sin once and for all.

**Romans 6:2** "How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?"

**Romans 7:21-25 NIV** "So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. <sup>22</sup> For in my inner being I delight in God's law; <sup>23</sup> but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. <sup>24</sup> What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? <sup>25</sup> Thanks be to God—through Jesus Christ our Lord!"

**Galatians 5:17** "For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things you wish."

New life in Christ leads you into a brand new fight that's much more intense than it ever was before you were a Christian.

"In one sense, life doesn't get complicated until you become a Christian. But when you do, you enter into a fierce struggle between the old man and the new man." –R.C. Sproul

## **I. So... What Does Paul Mean When He Says that You Can't Go On Living in Sin?**

### **A. Sin No Longer Characterizes You**

It might still plague you, but it no longer characterizes you! Sin does not represent the overall PATTERN of your life now.

### **B. Sin No Longer Owns You because Jesus is Your New Master**

**Romans 6:6** "Our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin."

Paul's telling us that the effect of being crucified with Christ is that we're no longer "slaves to sin."

**Romans 6:14** "For sin shall not have dominion (NIV 'be master') over you, for you are not under law but under grace."

In Christ, you've been set free from slavery and bondage to sin, but you haven't been removed from the presence of sin yet.

The fact that there's still a fight doesn't mean you're not free. Don't allow the struggle that still remains to rob you of the joy and confidence that God's Word is true.

You have to renew your mind with God's truth about who you are now in Christ. Otherwise, you'll just stagger your way through life with a slave mentality even though the cross of Christ stands as your emancipation proclamation of freedom from sin.

**C. Sin through Your Flesh Lies to You All the Time ~ So You Better Learn to *Talk* to Yourself instead of *Listening* to Yourself So Much**

"Have you realized that most of your unhappiness in life is due to the fact that you're listening to yourself instead of talking to yourself?"  
- **Martyn Lloyd-Jones**

On a daily basis we're faced with two simple choices:

- (1) We can either LISTEN to ourselves and our CONSTANTLY CHANGING feelings about our circumstances
- (2) Or we can TALK to ourselves about the UNCHANGING TRUTH of who God is and what He's accomplished for us in His Son on the cross.

Too many times we're just passively listening to ourselves as we sit back and let our view of God and life get shaped by our constantly shifting feelings about our ever-changing circumstances.

**Psalm 103:1-5** <sup>1</sup> Bless the LORD, O my soul; And all that is within me, *ble*ss His holy name!  
<sup>2</sup> Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: <sup>3</sup> who forgives all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases, <sup>4</sup> who redeems your life from destruction, who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies, <sup>5</sup> who satisfies your mouth with good *things*, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's."

**Psalm 42:5, 11; 43:5** "Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him for the help of His countenance... v. 11 Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; for I shall yet praise Him, the help of my countenance and my God... 43:5 Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; for I shall yet praise Him, the help of my countenance and my God."

You better learn to speak truth to yourself and form the habit of speaking to yourself more than listening to yourself and your fickle feelings.

"Feeling is the play of emotions over the will, a kind of musical accompaniment to the business of living, and while it is indeed most enjoyable to have the band play as we march to Zion it is by no means indispensable. We can work and walk without music and if we have true faith we can walk with God without feelings." *The Root of the Righteous* Pg.127 AW Tozer

Successfully living the Christian life boils down to a battle between our SUBJECTIVE feelings and God's OBJECTIVE truth.

**John 8:32** "You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free."

But feelings want to RULE don't they? And once they've been allowed to rule, they don't give up easily. They keep trying to usurp the rightful place of God's truth in your life. But don't let 'em. Fight! Fight back with truth.

"Feelings are great liars... Feelings are important in many areas, but completely unreliable in matters of faith... The Bible wastes very little time on the way we feel... We think that if we don't feel something there can be no authenticity in doing it. But the wisdom of God says something different, namely, that we

can act ourselves into a new way of feeling much quicker than we can feel ourselves into a new way of acting.” *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction: Discipleship in an Instant Society*, Eugene H. Peterson, pg 49-50

You will NOT defeat sin in your life with good feelings. You defeat sin with the Sword of Spirit – which is the Word of God – His truth.

Our ability to fight sin and our freedom from slavery to sin is *not* based on our feelings, but on God’s Word, and our union with Christ who defeated sin and Satan once and for all at the cross.