

ROMANS: TRANSFORMED BY GRACE

(Romans 6:1-5)

Romans Theme: "Righteousness" = is God's way for us to be in right relationship w/ God, others, creation (our own vs. grace)

Ch 1. Gentile sins (Open rebellion against God & His holy nature) = Gentiles w/o Christ = **unrighteous**

Ch. 2 Jewish sins (Hidden sins; pride; judgmentalism) = Jews w/o Christ = **unrig/No partiality w God**

Ch. 3 Paul answers key questions on Salvation: How are we saved? How saved in OT? Why J. die?

Ch. 4 Paul argues that Salvation is by FAITH and not by our own works of the Law

Ch. 5 Paul describes what is original sin & why salvation is necessary if we are depraved sinners

How Bad is the BAD NEWS? The Good News of gospel needs context: How bad? *Jesus died!*

Ch. 6: Paul begins the **Practical** lesson of **HOW DO WE DEFEAT SIN HABITS IN OUR LIVES?**

-Paul is helping us realize that the practical steps to DEFEATING SIN HABITS in our lives is to really understand 1) what has happened to us when we were saved/transformed; 2) who we have now become as Believers in Christ; 3) what sin-crushing power is readily available to us; 4) who is with us every step of the way in life & in temptation; and 5) what are we called to do until we go to heaven.

MAIN POINT: As Believers who are walking in new life, we are to remember our death to our old life -and how we were TRANSFORMED into NEW LIFE. Especially as we struggle with temptation and sin, we help ourselves by remembering what Christ saved us from – what He saved us out of (**slavery to sin and imminent destruction, decay, and death**)– and what He saved us into (**new life and victory over sin and death**).

-Salvation was not simply a transaction, but a TRANSFORMATION (death to life spiritually) And when we came alive spiritually, WE PUT TO DEATH our OLD LIFE (lifestyle/habits/sin

- Lose baby teeth(toothfairy)/we never use them again. Dead skin cells = can't reuse.

-Paul is helping us realize that the practical steps to DEFEATING SIN HABITS in our lives is to really understand **1) what has happened to us when we were saved/transformed;**

***Read Romans 6:1-5**

-Do you have a pet sin? A Hidden sin? No one knows about? Want to stop it, but keep going back to it, over and over? – Gracie: "Dog to vomit" Prv. 26:11 "Like a dog that returns to its vomit, So is a fool who repeats his wickedness/foolishness."

***-In Chapter 6, Paul begins arguing against non-believers and Believers who would use the argument (mockingly) that "since we are saved by grace & Not our own works" – it stands to reason that the more we sin, the more God is glorified by giving us more and more grace.**

Vs. 5:20 **but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more,**

6 Vs. 1: What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase?

– **This is an outrage Vs. 2: Far from it!** [lit. No, may it never, no never be] since... **How shall we who died to sin still live in it?** – IN Christ, spiritually alive = DIED to old life/died to sin/slavery -to conflate willful sinning and disobedience against God *as somehow something good.*

-Is. 5:20 **"Woe to those who call evil good and good evil"**

-For the Believer, Paul argues against Antinomianism =a twisted argument by those wanting sin -ANTINOMIANISM: Choosing to reject biblical obedience to moral law as legalism:

"I'm forgiven anyway" "God is too gracious to judge me" "Christ has already paid the price for this sin, so there is no penalty" "Obeying the law in scripture is antiquated for the Christian, therefore I can live freely and do what I feel is right" "No reason to forsake sin because in Christ all sin is forgiven." "committing lesser sins prevents me from committing greater sins"

***Spiritual danger =License/licentiousness *What is Paul's response to the question of sin/grace?**

6 Vs. 1: What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase?

Vs. 2: Far from it! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?

-Paul is asking what does life have to do with death? Light with darkness? If as Christians we have been raised from spiritual death to life, why would we keep hanging around the graveyard?

-If our identity has changed (new creatures) IN CHRIST, then what happened to us at conversion, who we are, what we do, & where we are headed all changes. =diff. desires/needs

-Salvation was not simply a transaction, but a **TRANSFORMATION** (death to life)

*This is the theme of Chapter six: **Died to Sin** = Old life, old self, old desires, old man/corpse

Vs. 2: Far from it! How shall we who died to sin still live in [sin]?

Paul is helping us realize that the FIRST practical step to DEFEATING SIN HABITS in our lives is to really understand 1) what actually happened to us when we were saved/transformed.....

-We were dead in our own sin-depraved existence (unable to seek God or do good)

-Jesus sought us, died for us, the Holy Spirit regenerated our dead hearts to life -gave faith

-As He rescued us from death and gave us NEW LIFE, we died to our old life, our past life.

-The reality of our spiritual death is not fancy, made up words/*christianese*. Not just symbol

*Our Radical conversion/transformation is spiritual – is Spiritual/physical/ment. now & in Heaven will be the most REAL reality ever in the universe. FACTS. Saved/Not. Preg/not

-You were dead spiritually. Made alive by Christ spiritually = & DIED to your old life.

-Col. 3:3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

-Col. 2:20 If you have died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world, why, as if you were living in the world, do you submit yourself to worldly decrees,

-2 Cor. 5:17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *this person is* a new ^[a]creation/creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

-2 Cor. 5:14 “For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died”

Why is death such a big deal? **Biblical Paradox**: Divine reality: **Greatest?=become the least; Wise?=become fools; Free?=servant of Christ; Gain Life?=lose it for His sake - *Through death= life***

-Jn 12:24 “unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.” **There is NO salvation unless sinless Jesus died in our place =Death/LIFE**

-AND Unless we die to our natural selves (flesh), we cannot live spiritually. Unless we die to our flesh (sinful nature) and are born-again to new life, we remain spiritually dead and helplessly shackled to our sin and death = NO HOPE. No Power. Just death.

-Rom 6:7-8 “The one who has died is freed from sin.⁸ Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him,”

Vs. 3: Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Vs. 4: Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too may walk in newness of life.

-What happens at salvation is that through the death of Christ, Jesus defeats sin and death forever; therefore – in Jesus’ rescue of our lives from spiritual death, He grants us, by His grace, victory over sin and death. We are TRANSFORMED by His blood from death and spiritual depravity, being slaves to sin and death **TO** being raised to **new life** as a **new creature**, with a **new identity**, and a **new hope**, and a **new resurrection power** living within us through the Holy

Spirit – who then gives us **NEW desires**, a **new perspective**, and new (**renewed mind**) so we can know what we believe about God, His Word, and Truth and live in it!! **To pursue HIM/please Him**
-Our Salvation experience is a wonderful reality that we have been “brought from death to life” spiritually AND that our OLD SELF was crucified/killed, buried =death to old life/flesh/SELF AND we were raised from that spiritual grave into Spiritual life for ALL eternity.

*That’s WHY we baptize by immersion = symbol of death, grave, burial, RAISING from dead to NEW life forever. SYMBOL of what has already happened to you spiritually by His blood.

-DO YOU NEED TO FOLLOW THROUGH in obedience to Christ for baptism???? Mt. 28:19

-BAPTISM is a powerful symbol of death/resurrection (most important event in history) & WE GET TO IDENTIFY with Jesus’ powerful resurrection in symbolism of BAPTISM: entrance to CH.

Vs. 4: just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too may walk /live/ abide in newness of life.IF that’s TRUE ...**So why would we want to go back and hang around the graveyard of sins, lies, defeat, destruction, decay, and death?** Why go back to play with deadly sins which stink of corruption?

-2 Tim. 2:11 **This is a trustworthy saying: If we died with Him, we will also live with Him;**

*Are you experiencing true victory daily over sin in your life? OR still slave to sin?

Why celebrate Juneteenth? The law of the land said slaves were officially freed, Emancipation Act (Jan. 1 1863: declared legally free); but it took 2.5 yrs for the news and the reality of emancipation to take affect in the south, when Union Soldiers came ashore in Galveston to set them free physically. * Jesus has declared those in HIM to be justified, righteous, and forgiven - & yet daily we have to pursue sanctification (battle of Flesh vs. Spirit) b/c not all of our heart recognizes what it true – that we are NO LONGER slaves to sin; but FREE; powerful; unleashed!

MAIN POINT: As Believers who are walking in new life, we are to remember our death to our old life -and how we were TRANSFORMED into NEW LIFE.

-**Salvation was not simply a transaction, but a TRANSFORMATION (death to life spiritually)**

-**What happened in our transformation (Metamorphosis)?**

Vs. 5: For if we have become ^[a]united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be ^[c]in the likeness of His resurrection,

APPLICATION – what does this mean for my life?

1. We have to check our own heart and attitude- that as a believer it’s ok to sin. To rebel against God and His Word. To willfully and knowingly reject what is explicit in the Bible as far as moral law and standards for holiness (Christlikeness). We have been lying to ourselves that this behavior is ok for the Christian. **-As a Believer, do you feel conviction when you sin?**
2. We have to reject the lie the Satan throws at us in temptation- that little sins don’t count for much. *Or that no one will find out.* Or that as long as you aren’t harming anyone, it’s ok to do as you please. -BUT, God knows. Our sin is against a holy God who sees and knows all!
- We lie to ourselves when we give ourselves a pass to sin as we see fit.
-As a Believer, do you regularly remind yourself of what is TRUE, for always & forever?

=God’s Word is true, relevant to your life, and it is sufficient to teach you, rebuke you, correct you and train you in Righteousness that you would be “complete” / mature in Christ.

3. We must remember what it means to be UNITED/ONE with Jesus in every part of our life and journey on this earth; especially when we struggle, are tempted, experience loss & suffer. To be united with Him in death changes how we see our old lifestyle, our old choices, our old sinful habits, and attitudes/perspectives of the world and our self-centered, me-driven life.

-As a Believer, do you pursue daily your relationship with Jesus (since you are already ONE with Him), **asking the Holy Spirit to help you please the Lord in every aspect of your life?**