

**Welcome - (~2 min)****Opening prayer – (~1 min)****Opening Comments – (~4 min)**

- What should we (believers) say to a believer who is wondering why he/she still sins?
- Maybe you wonder that too?
- Some believers might say, “Well, if you are a TRUE Christian you have died to sin and therefore since you are dead to sin, you won’t respond to it anymore because TRUE believers can’t respond to sin”
- Have you ever heard that, or maybe, you have even been taught that
- Some respond, “The way to less sin is to crucify the old self” – have you heard that?
- Others might say, “What you have to do is to die to sin every day” – ever hear these statements?
- We need to gain a more Biblically accurate answer for such a question.
- Paul is talking to men who have been *justified by grace through faith* in our Lord Jesus Christ
- Paul has made it abundantly clear in these first five chapters that there is no other way to be reconciled with God except through His Son Jesus Christ
- Warren Wiersbe says, “The repetition of the word “know” in Romans 6:3, 6, and 9 indicates that Paul wanted us to understand a basic doctrine.
- Christian living depends on Christian learning; duty is always founded upon Biblical doctrine.
- **If Satan can keep a Christian ignorant, he can keep him impotent.**
- At Romans 5:12, Paul made a transition from discussing “sins” to discussing “sin” – from actions to the principle, from the fruit to the root.”
- He goes on to say, “Justification by faith is not simply a legal matter between you [I] and God; it is a living relationship.
- It is “a justification which brings [freedom and] life (Rom. 5:18).”
- You [I] are in Christ and identified with Him.
- Therefore, whatever happened to Christ has happened to you [me].
- When He died, you [I] died. When He arose, you [I] arose in Him.
- You [I] are now seen [by God] as being seated with Him in the heavenlies! (see Eph. 2:1-10; Col. 3:1-3).
- Because of this living union with Christ, the believer has a totally new relationship to sin.”<sup>1</sup>
- What is this new *relationship to sin* that a believer has? Let’s go through our study and see:

**Discussion of the Study Lesson – (~50 min)**

**This week’s Aim: The Gospel’s Power to Free the Found: Perfect Freedom**

**Topic for Day 1: Overview – Read 6:1-23****1. (Start time \_\_\_\_\_) Identify three verses you find key to this chapter:**

- This should be interesting to see how different people have been affected by this chapter already

**2. (+2 min) Name one or more items/verses that you see as good news and tell why:**

- Another good question to begin getting people to open up and begin discussing thoughts

3. (+2 min) **How many times are the words "free" and "freed" used in this chapter:**

- Freed – 6:7; Free – 6:18, 20, 22

(+1 min) **Application 1: Identify a thought(s) from the sermon that you will apply to your life this week?**

- Again, encourage people to take notes during the sermon. Identify something they can apply to their lives for the following week and maybe forever!

**Topic for Day 2: Freed from sin. - 6:1-7**

1. (+2 min) **What was said in the previous verses that caused Paul to ask the question he does in 6:1?**

- Paul is referring back to **5:20** – in his wisdom, he is anticipating his reader's questions – we should too.
- Paul knew some of his audience would be thinking, "The more we sin, the more His *grace* will be seen, thus glorifying Him all the more! People do jump on thoughts like this!
- **Read 6:2** – To paraphrase Paul, he is basically saying "That's stupid!" – Greek words are literally, "Let it not be" (same as Young's Literal Translation).
- Other translations have "May it never be!" (New American Standard), "God forbid!" (KJV, American Standard Version), "No!" (New Century Version), "Absolutely not!" (New English Translation), "By no means!" (New Revised Standard Version), and "Far be the thought" (Darby's).
- Paul gives us three good reasons why believers can't **continue** living in sin
- 1<sup>st</sup> it is impossible because believers are united with Christ and He *died* to sin once for all
- 2<sup>nd</sup> because of Christ's imputed righteousness, **believers don't relate to sin as they did in the old life**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> believers need to *imagine* the **reality of their new life in Christ** and move on, knowing they are **free from the slave master – sin!**
- **Believers need to KNOW they have victory over sin! They are freed from sin!**
- Thinking back over the previous chapters, Paul has said we died **in Christ**, He took our place for our sins in this life
- We *died* to sin in Christ – but friends, we are never impervious to sins temptations – we do sin
- But Paul is saying "for true believers it is **impossible** to live in sin"
- He is saying it is **impossible** for a believer to live a life that is dominated by sin!
- If a believer continues to follow a path of sin, a desire to live in sin, God will stop you.
- He will do one of two things will happen: 1) He will make your life so miserable that you will be Him to get you out of your sin; 2) He will put an end to your life!
- An example of this is Paul saying in, **1 Corinthians 11:27-30** – "*Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. <sup>28</sup> A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. <sup>29</sup> For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself. <sup>30</sup> That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep*"
- God is serious about our sin even though we may not be!

2. (+5 min) **Paul uses the term baptism in 6:3-4. What do the following verses say about baptism: Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 10:44-48; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13; Galatians 3:26-27; Ephesians 4:4-6; Colossians 2:11-12?**

- **Matt. 28:19-20** – "*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded*

you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age” (**water baptism – external recognition of an internal new life in Christ**)

- **Acts 10:44-48** – “While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. <sup>45</sup> The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. <sup>46</sup> For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God. Then Peter said, <sup>47</sup> “Can anyone keep these people from being baptized with water? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.” <sup>48</sup> So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days” (**water baptism**)
- **1 Cor. 12:12-13** – “The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body-- whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free--and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.” (**Holy Spirit baptism**)
- **Gal. 3:26-27** – “You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, <sup>27</sup> for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.” (**Holy Spirit baptism**)
- **Eph. 4:4-6** – “There is one body and one Spirit-- just as you were called to one hope when you were called-- one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.” (**Holy Spirit baptism**)
- **Col. 2:11-12** – “In him you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the circumcision done by Christ, <sup>12</sup> having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead” (**water baptism**)
- Sometimes **6:3** is misunderstood, one commentator said, “If you find water in this verse you have missed the meaning!”
- Paul isn't implying that water baptism isn't important, but he is speaking of the believers identification with Jesus Christ
- The time when through the Holy Spirit we were spiritually **baptized into Christ** and identified in **His death!**
- We know when we get something that must be put together, there are instructions to help
- Sometimes it's difficult to follow the instructions and we make mistakes but that doesn't make the instructions incorrect!
- In a similar fashion, Paul knows there are some fundamental instructions the believer in Rome needed to get into their heads and understand – things which were very important for them to live a life free from sin
- There are certain things we need to *know* – we need to *know* that when Christ died over two thousand years ago and we **believed** in Him that we are now **identified with Him**
- The day He died for you/me He took us there Spiritually
- We were the guilty ones – He was innocent; it was our sins, yours and mine that put Him on the Cross!
- We all held the hammer in our hands that nailed Him to the cross!
- Paul is saying that believers are identified with Him and His death – **we need to know and remember that!**
- Paul notes that not only were we identified in His death but in **6:4** we are also identified with His resurrection!
- As **believers**, we are joined to the *living Christ* – **All our sins are already judged!**
- So we can see that what Paul is saying is true – as a believer we are *dead to our sins* and are **freed from them!**
- What Paul says is true, as a **believer** it is **impossible** to live in sin! At least not for long!

3. (+6 min) **How would you explain being united with Christ?**

- We have union with Christ, our old self, old nature has been crucified with Him
- Remember the old self is the unregenerate person we were in Adam
- A new birth has taken place – your old self was crucified with Christ – it is a past action – done forever!
- We are now united with Christ – we are credited with His *righteousness*
- Like the hymn “It Is Well With My Soul” – **being united with Christ guarantees** that is true!

4. (+1 min) **What is the good news in 6:6-7?**

- Paul makes four statements of *good news* which all believers need to be reminded of:
- 1) “we know” – old self is crucified with Christ
- 2) “we know” – the body of sin might be done away with
- 3) “we know” – we are no longer slaves to sin
- 4) “we know” – that if we have died with Christ, **we have been freed from sin!**
- Paul is in essence saying that sin no longer has power over us – we are free from its slavery!
- **Because you have Christ’ imputed righteousness, you are no longer a slave to sin!**

(+2 min) **Application 2: Write a brief prayer of appreciation that *you are free from sin*. Pray it throughout the day.**

- It is encouraging to others to hear how people write/pray – try to get a couple of volunteers

**Topic for Day 3: Freed to live to God. - 6:8-13**

1. (+2 min) **What do Paul's words "we died with Christ" mean to you?**

- Have a couple of people comment on this – it is a two part question so be sure to get their answer to the second part!
- “*we died with Christ*” means that when we became **believers** as we accepted the death He died for our sins, accepted Him as our Lord and Master, and we have been given the Holy Spirit to help us desire and serve Him.
- It also means that **our old nature was crucified, rendering our old life as inoperative!**

2. (+2 min) **What does it mean to you that "the life He lives, He lives to God?" How is it an example for you?**

- Again, this is a two part question and be sure to get answers to both parts when someone answers
- This is an example for us for we are not the person we used to be, we have experienced a new birth
- From William Barclay, “The man who enters upon the Christian way is committed to a different kind of life. He has died to one kind of life and been born to another.
- In modern times we may have tended to stress the fact that acceptance of the Christian way of life need not make so very much difference in the world.
- Paul would have said that it ought to make all the difference in the world.
- ...there is more than a mere ethical change in a man’s life when he accepts Christ.
- There is a real identification with Christ.

- It is, in fact, the simple truth that the ethical change is not possible without that union.
- A man is *in Christ*. A great scholar has suggested this analogy for that phrase.
- We cannot live our physical life unless we are in the air and the air is in us; unless we are in Christ, and Christ is in us, we cannot live the life [to] God.”<sup>2</sup>
- Christ lives to God and as believers we are **free to live to God!**

### 3. (+2 min) **What is our responsibility as believers according to 6:11-13?**

- Paul identifies at least four major responsibilities believers have in their new life in Christ:
  - 1) *“count yourselves dead to sin” but “alive to God in Christ Jesus”*
  - 2) *“do not let sin reign... so you obey its evil desires”*
  - 3) *“do not offer parts of body to sin, as instruments of wickedness” but “rather offer **yourself to God**”*
  - 4) *“offer yourselves to God as those brought from death to life” and “offer the parts of your body to Him as instruments of righteousness”*
- Number 1 is a statement that should excite all believers; Paul is indicating that believers have victory of sin regardless of how things may appear!
- Number 2 it is a conscience decision to turn away from sin – sin is rarely the devil/Satan’s influence but rather our selfish desire(s)!
- Number 3 in order to take our mind/thoughts off sin, we need to focus on being **free to offer ourselves to God**
- When we are contemplating sin, we need to ask what He would have us do instead!
- More or less a prayer of HELP!
- Number 4 is another encouragement from Paul to assure believers that they are a new life!
- We now live in Christ so we have, through Jesus, the power to turn from sin – in fact, Paul says we have victory over sin!
- We need to focus more on **how to offer ourselves as instruments of righteousness to God!**
- One way to discover how to do this is through studying the Bible!

### (+2 min) **Application 3: How will you "live to God" today? This week? Forever?**

- Ask for a few example of “how” and what might some week long/forever things look like.

### **Topic for Day 4: Freed to be slaves to righteousness. - 6:14-18**

#### 1. (+2 min) **Why does Paul say, "sin shall not be your master?"**

- Simply put, **because he has made it abundantly clear that sin is not a believer’s master - period!**
- Paul is emphasizing again that sin is not the master of believers because of *grace* – believers are not under law.
- The law was given to control the old natures – Paul says believers are not to live by the old nature or the law.
- Believers have a **new nature** and we are to yield ourselves or present ourselves to God!
- What a glorious, wonderful privilege it is to present ourselves to Him!
- Believers need to **know** that **sin is no master of the believer!**

2. (+1 min) **Does being "under grace" mean believers are free to sin? Explain:**

- NO! Paul says that in **6:15**
- **Read 6:15B-16** – Paul is basically saying, we are slaves to whatever our obedience honors!
- For instance, obedience to tobacco; alcohol; sports; work; "you name it" – we can soon be a slave to it
- Jesus said in **John 8:34**, "*I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin*"
- Our obedience works the same way when we give ourselves to a worthy cause for Christ!
- By volunteering at church, in a senior home, with foster children, leading Sunday school, etc., you may find yourself head over heels in love with serving the Lord!
- Jesus made this principle clear in **Luke 16:13**, "*No servant can serve two masters, either he will hate the one and love the other or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other*"
- Scripture says in multiple places that we cannot serve both God and man!
- We either alien ourselves with sin which leads to death or we align our obedience to Christ' *righteousness* which leads to eternal life.
- We can't have it both ways! **We are not free to sin!**

3. (+1 min) **In 6:17, what does Paul mean when he says, "you wholeheartedly obeyed...?" How do you do that?**

- Paul is happy to acknowledge that his readers have renounced the service of sin and are now *wholeheartedly* obeying Christian teaching.
- KJV mistranslation at this point says "*that form of doctrine which was delivered to you.*"
- In some other context Paul might have expressed himself that way, because he frequently spoke of Christian tradition, that which had been handed down to the church as apostolic teaching.
- But here the normal order is reversed – "*you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were committed.*"
- By virtue of becoming Christians, the believer had obligated themselves to obey what we might call the law of Christ (Gal. 6:2).
- Even though he had not founded the Roman church, Paul was confident that those who had preached the gospel there and taught the converts had reproduced the characteristic teaching that had been standard from the beginning (Acts. 2:42).
- Just as the gospel had certain ingredients, so the teaching relating to the life of the believer was expected to live was standard throughout the church.

4. (+2 min) **What does it mean to you, that you are free to be a slave to righteousness?**

- As believers, what you/I used to be was dead, what we are now is a whole different matter
- We have been **set free from sin** and have become **slaves to righteousness** – Praise the Lord!
- You need to understand that as a believer you **are** a slave to Christ! He is your Master!
- Does that terminology bother you? It does some people --- but think about it:
- Christ paid the price for us – He bore our sins – He bore our condemnation – He bore our punishment!
- We cost Him dearly! Our salvation was anything but free! He deserves to be our Master!

- Think about this: **How could being a slave to a Master who would die for you be anything but positive?**  
--- **What greater love could a Master have than to die for His people!**

(+2 min) **Application 4: What will others see in you, if you “live to righteousness” today?**

- Ask for people to volunteer their ideas of what their *living to righteousness*, would look like to others

**Topic for Day 5: Freed to have eternal life through Jesus Christ. - 6:19-23**

1. (+2 min) **Using 6:19-21, describe the difference between the believer and the unbeliever:  
What are the end results of each kind of life?**

- **6:19-21**, “I put this in human terms because you are weak in your natural selves. Just as you used to offer the parts of your body in slavery to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer them in slavery to righteousness leading to holiness.<sup>20</sup> When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness.<sup>21</sup> What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! “
- Unbeliever: weak; slave to impurity/wickedness; slaves to sin
- **Believers:** slaves to righteousness; leads to holiness ---- Results of **unbelievers** – death!
- Not sure what the word “weak” represented.; it may have been weak in understanding or weak in faith
- Paraphrasing: Paul seems to be saying that living as in Adam, we are “free from *righteousness*”
- Was life good when you were *free from righteousness*? Most say no and are ashamed of their former selves and the way they lived
- We know that being a slave to sin is a bummer! There is **no good** that comes from it – **just death!**
- Paul’s words should encourage us in **6:19** in that being believers, **we are free to offer our bodies as slaves to righteousness leading to holiness!**

2. (+2 min) **What does it mean to become a *slave to God*? What are the benefits?**

- **6:22**, “But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life “
- Many of us know verse 23 but what about this verse? It is awesome!
- Look again what it says: 1) you have been set free from sin – we are no longer a “slave” to sin!
- Paul’s been saying this all through this chapter but once again he emphasizes our freedom!
- 2) You and I are now slaves to God – is that negative? No!
- He loves you so much He let His Son die for you; He loves you so much He extends His grace to you
- He loves you so much that He gave us the Bible so we may know Him better
- Being a slave to God is anything but negative!
- In fact, it’s the **only true life** a person can experience!
- 3) You benefit from being a slave to God because it leads to *holiness/sanctification*
- All those things Paul has been commanding us to do will result in your fruit, your growth, *holiness*
- 4) Paul closes this verse with the wonderful result of being Christian: **Eternal life with Christ!**
- Now that’s something that should make all of us want to REJOICE!

3. (+3 min) Paul mentions *holiness* in 6:22. How would you describe the importance of *holiness* based on these verses Exodus 15:11; 1 Chronicles 16:18-29; Psalms 29:2; and Hebrews 12:10 & 14?

- Exodus 15:11 – “Who among the gods is like you, O LORD? Who is like you-- majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders?”
- 1 Chronicles 16:18-29 – “...worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness” (last verse)
- Psalms 29:2 – “Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness”
- Hebrews 12:10, 14 – “Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness” and 14 “Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.”
- Holiness is very important to God as is shown in Isaiah 6:1-3 where a description is given of the angels singing to the Lord – “Holy, holy, holy”
- Isaiah 6:1-3, “In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup> Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. <sup>3</sup> And they were calling to one another: “*Holy, holy, holy* is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.”
- **Note this truth:** You/I are being made complete (*sanctification*) in Christ, as we offer ourselves to God – He leads us to *holiness*!

4. (+3 min) What assurance do you gain from 6:23?

- John MacArthur says, "The word "wages" is a very interesting word. It is just what it appears. It means "something you've earned." In fact, the word is used commonly of the rations that were given to soldiers for their military service in exchange for their duty. It was just compensation for service rendered. Wages, just like you pick up your check. The idea is this. You earn death. That's right, you earn it. When God brings to bear on a life eternal death, hell forever, it's because the person earned that. It is just, it is fair, it is proper compensation for their sin because there is an inexorable law in the universe that says the pay for sin is death. God made laws in a physical dimension, there can be laws as well in the spiritual, and here's one of them, the wages of sin is death. The payoff for sin is death, eternal death, spiritual death. It's what you earn."
- Quite a contrast from the previous verse! But wait!
- **The gift of God is eternal life!** You/I receive this gift by *faith*
- You are saved by faith through Jesus Christ – not your complete understanding of everything but *faith*
- We are to walk moment by moment by *faith* – we cannot live to God by our own efforts!
- We must live in constant dependence on Him, looking to Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit!
- You and I are being made complete in Christ, as you offer yourself to God you are **freed to be a slave to righteousness!**

(+1 min) **Application 5: Being free to have eternal life through Christ Jesus comes with the responsibility to share that news with others (Matthew 28:19-20). Write the steps you would go through to explain this freedom to someone if you only had 10 minutes:**

(+2 min)

### Closing Comments – (~3 min)

- All this raises a final question - a personal one, because religion is always personal; it must be
- Are you in Jesus? That is, 'Is Jesus your Savior, your Lord?'
- There are only two answers to that question: "Yes" or "No." He is either your Savior or not!
- If He is, are you living for Him? If you are not, then the question begs, why not?
- He died for you and me, the least we can do is live for Him.
- Why would anyone willingly keep going down a self-destructive path, particularly when the way of salvation is known to him/her?
- Charles Haddon Spurgeon ended his sermon on this text by referring to the question God asked the prophet Ezekiel when he stood in the Valley of Dry Bones. "*Son of man, can these bones live?*" (Ezek.37:3).
- Ezekiel was too wise to say what we probably would have said in those circumstances.
- He said, "*O Sovereign Lord, you alone know.*" (We would have most likely not answered that way).
- But when Ezekiel was told to preach to them he did, and those dry bones came together, took on flesh, rose up, and became a great army.
- That is what is necessary if one is to be delivered from sin, says Spurgeon.
- The wages of sin is death, and spiritually speaking, unbelievers are as dead as those dry bones.
- No one but God can bring life out of death. No one but Jesus can make your spiritually dead life alive.
- God can do it! And He will if you will come to Him.
- Don't chance it by "thinking so" or "hoping so" but rather, "know so!"
- Put an end to questioning once and for all now!

### Closing Prayers – (~1 min)

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<sup>1</sup> Warren W. Wiersbe, "*The Bible Exposition Commentary*", Cook Communications Ministries, pp. 530-531

<sup>2</sup> William Barclay, "*The Letter to the Romans (revised edition)*", The Daily Study Bible Series, pp. 85-86