

## **Important Truths that Lead to Personal Freedom**

Romans 6:1-23

### **The Essential Context**

- To understand that Jesus Christ, God's Son, lived and died as our Representative. He alone is the source of freedom through the power of His redemptive work.
- To understand His relationship with us. Every believer participated in each historical deed. We lived in Him, died in His death, arose in His resurrection, and ascended in His ascension. The purpose and grace of each redemptive act was credited to our account. That is the meaning of grace.
- To understand the personal nature of our identification in and with the Lord Jesus in His redemptive work.

Through identification with Him in His life – we are credited with keeping the Law of God – we are therefore declared righteous. Romans 5:1,19; 8:1-4; 10:4

Through identification with Him in His death – we are credited with paying the penalty for our sin – we are therefore forgiven. Ephesians 1:7

Through identification with Him in His resurrection – we are credited with His freedom from sin and His power over sin in all its manifestations. Romans 6:4

Through identification with Him in His ascension – we are credited with His authority over all that sin, the world, and Satan stands for. Ephesians 1:18-23

(These benefits are a legal reality. We are inescapably involved in His work whether we want to be, live that way, or feel like it. His work defines who we are.)

### **The Implementation of these Benefits**

- *In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin.* Romans 6:11

To “count” or “reckon” is to accept as fact – that we died to sin in Christ's death. (See Col 3:3) This truth is a basic presupposition all believers must accept. We are –legally – dead to sin in spite of how we live or feel.

- *...But alive unto God in Christ Jesus.* Romans 6:11

A second truth – presupposition – that we must accept is that we are alive spiritually. His resurrection power – the new nature is within us in spite of circumstances that would contradict it.

- *Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires.* Rom 6:12

Sin always reigns when permitted to do. However, according to presupposition 1 and 2 sin is a dethroned king! Sin will reign only by our permission. Every believer has the ability to make choices of faith to *“Say ‘No’ to ungodliness and worldly passions and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives ...”* Titus 2:11,12

- *Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness.* Romans 6:13

The “parts” referred to are basically our functions: eyes, ears, brain, emotions, will, bodily desires, spiritual desires, social relationships, etc. Instead of offering ourselves to sin – we are to offer ourselves, and our functions to God and to righteousness.

### **A Practical and Personal Reminder**

- *Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey--whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness?* Romans 6:16

### **The Experience of the Believers in Rome**

- *But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.* Romans 6:17,18

The words “wholeheartedly obeyed” can be translated “obeyed from the heart.” That is a basic issue. What is it that we really want? Every believer knows from experience that once we yield to temptation and commit sin – it’s not worth it. It may take a little time but *“...Be sure your sin will find you out.”* (Numbers 32:23) Sin will always produce death-like effects in our life: bondage, sorrow, shame, confusion, grieving the Holy Spirit, opening a door to the enemy, and defiling social relationships.

### **Conclusion**

While this Chapter in Romans presents us with important information as to how to be free from sin and live in righteousness – it is not the full story, nor was it intended to be.

There are three or four Biblical teachings that we need to keep in mind when we do what is outlined above and still find ourselves in some kind of bondage.

- The need for honesty in a correct listing of our priorities. (Matthew 6:33)
- The need to understand the work of the enemy. (Ephesians 6:10-18)
- The need to accept the truths of our dependence upon one another. (Galatians 6:2)
- The need to assume responsibility to “take charge” of our life. (Titus 2:11:12)

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