

Introduction. This morning, I would exhort you as Peter did in his writing: “Gird up the loins of your mind....” Listen up, what will be said this morning in this sermon is the Word of God, and you are not to be vain listeners, but diligent and faithful. I do not say that it will not be mixed with error, for I am a weak servant of the Lord, and my duty is to preach the Word of God as faithfully as I can, and your duty is to listen, receive what is indeed God’s word, and give diligence to believe and to obey.

Context of Romans 6. Romans 1-5 is about the doctrine of justification by faith; that we are justified by a righteousness not our own, by the perfect righteousness of Jesus Christ. Abraham was justified by this faith and it was said of him, “blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.” The true blessedness is the covering and putting away of sin, through the blood of Christ, and this is totally by faith without the works of the law, as we read in Romans 3:19-28

“19 ¶ Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. 20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin. 21 But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; 22 Even the righteousness of God *which is* by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: 23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; 24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: 25 Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; 26 To declare, *I say*, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. 27 Where *is* boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith. 28 Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law. 29 *Is he* the God of the Jews only? *is he* not also of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also: 30 Seeing *it is* one God, which shall justify the circumcision by faith, and uncircumcision through faith. 31 Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law.” (Ro 3:19-31 AV)

We know we are on the right track when we preach this Gospel, for when we preach it, we get the same objection that Paul got. “Well, then, you can just do anything you like, and God will forgive you, and honor His grace, so that the more you sin the more grace is honored. You expect me to believe THAT.”

Why not? Because the doctrine of the Gospel is much much more than a caricature of justification expressed in revivalism and child evangelism. Paul is going to

expound the true doctrine, beginning in Rom. 6:1 and continuing until the end of chapter 8. He will leave this objection no place to stand, and this true doctrine will rejoice your heart and change your life.

Paul develops his case in three proposition. Three propositions that are so incredible to the natural man, that you have to be born again to receive them.

I. Dead to sin? Really?

A. How can you keep sinning if you are dead to sin? You gotta be kidding me? Really?

B. What it does NOT mean?

1. That you never sin any more. Vs. 13, you can yield you members
2. That you are incapable of sin. Gal 05:16ff
3. That you cannot make a fool of yourself. Eph 5:15 See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,
4. That you cannot be used of the devil for a time. Peter and Barnabus as Antioch, rebuked by Paul
5. Deceived: 1 John 1:7-10

C. What It does mean:

1. Throughout Romans 3-5 Paul is speaking in legal terms. He is speaking forensically: in terms of a man's legal status before the law.
2. Baptism is the certificate that you have believed the Gospel and that the law of sin and death is nullified in those who believe.
3. You cannot sin unto death. You have been made free from the law of sin and death.
4. You cannot die because you are already legally dead.

D. Put it simply: Christ fulfilled the law for you. His death is your death; 26 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

E. You are in a new legal world and standing before God, all you sins, past, present, future, will never be counted against you forever and forever. God has given you His Spirit, and that is the reason you believe this.

F. The is a confession of faith: reckon yourself to be dead to sin. Vs. 11; You confess, repeat after God. This isn't positive thinking, or name it a claim it. It is simply accepting the form of doctrine that was delivered to you.

II. Alive to God? Certainly! Verses 8-16

- A. This is also a confession of faith. It is because, God says it it, through faith in the form of doctrine that was delivered to you.
- B. This is simply stating what John tells us in 1John 3:12ff. We have a hope that is given to us. We have been predestined to be like Christ. Sin cannot triumph.
- C. Eph 2:8-10. Christ has begun a work in us.
- D. Php 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:
- E. You begin to yield your members to Christ: body parts. Compare with Jesus words "If your right hand offend you...." That's the law: this is the gospel. This is the way to quit sinning with your tongue: start speaking the truth;
- F. Put off the old, and put on the new: Be a new creature. Eph 4:17-34
- G. Whose Servants ARE You. You confessed and were baptized into the Name of Jesus Christ, Now start living like it.

III. Obedience to Doctrine? Absolutely. Vs. 16-22

- A. You obeyed from the heart the form of doctrine that was preached to you.
- B. The Gospel proclaimed you liberty from the law of sin and death; Sin cannot damn you. Sin cannot separate you from the love of Christ.
- C. Vs. 19 new form of service. A voluntary giving up the self to Christ.
- D. Vs. 21 Ashamed of the old life.
- E. Vs. 22 You begin to have some fruit: See HC. 58
- F. Even David recognized this: Psalm 37:22-24
- G. "Form of doctrine: type: or impression. The wax conforms to the mold; the metal conforms to the mold. The mold does not conform to the metal. The doctrine is the mold. You are dead to the law, because the Gospel says so; you are alive to Christ because the Gospel says so.

Conclusion:

1. First: Romans 12:1,2.
 - i. Your bodies belong to Christ as a living sacrifice.
 - ii. Conform to the doctrine of the Gospel: not the world. Don't fight the doctrine. The word is different [conform rather than form], but the meaning is the same.
2. Second: Do not follow that pattern, of the world. What is that pattern you are I are to follow? See: HC 1 I am not my own, but belong to Jesus Christ.