

Blessed Hope Bible-Presbyterian Church
Adult Sunday School
24 March 2019
Romans 6:1-7 (KJV)

¹ What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? ² God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? ³ Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? ⁴ Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. ⁵ For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also *in the likeness of his resurrection*: ⁶ Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with *him*, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. ⁷ For he that is dead is freed from sin. (Rom. 6:1-7 KJV)

Shall We Continue in Sin?

(1) Shall We Continue in Sin?

Romans 6:1-2 *What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? 2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?*

The great themes of the gospel has been categorically presented:

1. Sin (1:18-3:20)
2. Salvation (3:21-5:21)
3. Sanctification (6:1-8:39)

The word “sanctification” means “making progress in living a life of holiness”. This is the new thought from chapters 6-8. Having become a Christian by God’s grace, let us be grateful for this new life in Christ. Receiving pardon for sin, being freed from the bondage of sin, sin does not have a stranglehold on our lives, we are “*dead to sin*”.

The Apostle Paul reasoned with us that we should not continue in sin, like a dog going back to its own vomit. Our life as a Christian, forward-looking, must not be still plagued with the ravages of sin. Just because we receive the pardon from sin by God’s grace does not mean that we should delight in sin since pardon is forthcoming each time. The Christian life ought to understand the blessing of living in the beauty of holiness. The sinning Christian is a misnomer because he is not making spiritual progress. Borrowing the Malay word “Hentak Kaki” in marching drills meaning “marching on the spot” to help us see the sad plight of the Christian making no spiritual progress, still being entangled with sin.

Many Christians are in this state. The Apostle Paul understood “their struggles”. He will now help them to see the causes and the hindrances to their spiritual progress so that many reading this epistle may be helped in the journey of sanctification. May God help you too.

(2) Walking in Newness of Life

Romans 6:3-4 *Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? 4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*

The Christian ought to be vibrant and filled with the vitality of godliness for he is walking in newness of life. And yet, it can be observed, many in the church today lose their first love and are no longer making progress spiritually. The Apostle Paul is writing to address this by helping Christians understand the great work wrought for their salvation through Jesus Christ. It is such a sad plight in the church scene. He would be addressing the heinous entanglement of sin in the believer’s life.

But before that, he reminded his reader of their salvation, this new birth. More than physical life, the Christian now has spiritual life. Here, he is not speaking of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in the believer’s life which we know consist the new birth. Rather, he described how the Christian baptism with water, identifies a believer with the death of Christ. The old life of sin is crucified with Christ on the cross, buried, done away with. It also signifying the triumph over sin and death by Christ’s resurrection from the dead three days later. This is wrought by the glory of the Father to signify that God gets all the praise for this work. We are undeserving sinners whom God saved! Indeed, when Jesus Christ appeared to His disciples after His resurrection they were pleasantly surprised. This resurrection life that triumphs over sin and death is a life worth living. He reminds the Christian of his new nature and how vital to walk therein. Thank God for this new life. May we cherish it and live it to the fullest.

(3) We Should Not Serve Sin

Romans 6:5-6 *For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection: 6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.*

Born again Christians are no longer under the bondage of sin because the old nature is crucified with Christ on the cross at Calvary. They have the power to say “no” to sin. The reason, the Apostle Paul expressed, is that we been united together with Christ in

both His death and resurrection. He is helping us to understand the nature of Christian conversion. There is a complete change.

This is the testimony of a brother in Christ concerning the change described by the Apostle Paul.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow: Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host, praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. I was a drug addict since the age of 16. I came from a broken home. I tried many ways to kick my drug habit but was not successful. Thank God, one of my wife's friends introduced me to a Christian Rehabilitation Centre. Jesus paid it all, behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world (John 1:29). There I received Jesus Christ as my personal Lord and Saviour. I was transformed immediately on that day. I would like to thank God for my salvation and redemption. I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety-nine just persons, which need no repentance (Luke 15:7). Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today and forever (Hebrews 13:8).

(4) Freed From Sin

Romans 6:5-7 *For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: 6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. 7 For he that is dead is freed from sin.*

The "old man" refers to our previous unregenerate, godless behaviour. With no understanding of God, no fear of God, no true moral standard, we can choose to do what we want. We were sold to sin. Till God intervened in our lives to show us there is a living and true God who is our heavenly Father. God sent His Son to redeem us back to Him.

This is a true story from the days of American slave trade. A young black girl was being sold by auction, a common occurrence in those days. She was tall, slim and beautiful. The bidding was keen, and quickly mounted higher and higher. At last, only two men were left. One was a lowly uncouth fellow who swore each time he raised his bid against his competitor, a quiet refined gentleman.

Finally, the bidding stopped and to the gentleman who bid so earnestly was given the legal papers which made him the owner of the younger girl. With a push the auctioneer roughly presented her to her new master. Proudly and defiantly, she stood upright before him with contempt on her face and hatred in her eyes.

Then an amazing thing happened. Her new owner took the papers of ownership and tore them up into pieces. Then throwing them on the ground, he said kindly to the astonished girl, "My dear, I bought you that I might set you free. Now you may go – free!"

This is a wonderful testimony of God's love for us when He sent His only begotten Son to free us from the bondage of sin.

Truly, we must be too stunned for speech, at what God had done for us through Jesus Christ, to free us from the cruel slavemaster, the bondage of Satan. It must cause us to be eternally grateful and cherish our newly bestowed freedom. Amen.