

Pt 18 Romans 6:15-23, Under Grace

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Romans 6:15-23

15 What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.

16 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

17 But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.

18 Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.

19 I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.

20 For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness.

21 What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things *is* death.

22 But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

23 For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

We pick up here in the middle of Chapter 6 where we left off 2-Sundays ago. If you remember we spent a lot of time looking at what Paul had to say about proper Christian living and how we are to be dead from sin but alive in Him.

The very last verse we read was verse 14 and I want us to read it again this morning so I can show you a running theme in this chapter: **Romans 6:14** For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

Now look at the first verse of our opening text this morning in verse 15 **What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.**

Did you notice anything similar? In both verses Paul uses the phrase “under grace.”

- John is known as the Apostle of **Love**.
- Peter is known as the Apostle of **Hope**.
- But Paul is known as the Apostle of **Grace**.

The word “**Grace**” is used **130-times** throughout the New Testament and **99-of those times** it is used by the Apostle Paul?

One of the most challenging things for Paul during his ministry was leading the Jews out from under the bondage of the Law and into the freedom of Grace.

May I say to you that is also one of the most challenging things for preachers today. Oh, our culture knows nothing of living under the Jewish laws but there is an inherent nature inside of us that does not want to embrace the freedom of Grace.

I find it interesting that the Church speaks a lot about Grace. We sing about it, talk about it, preach about it, and boast about it but deep down inside we have very little of it.

Think about it for a minute. Whenever we are confronted with something we look at it as good or bad, right or wrong, black or white, guilty or innocent – that is also how the Law looks at things. We cannot even fathom the idea that there is an alternative way of looking at things and that is through the eyes of Grace.

That’s also how the Jews in Paul’s day saw things. But once they were introduced to Grace, they became confused and wondered why they shouldn’t just continue living in sin if they were forgiven by Grace?

That’s the rhetorical question that Paul proposes:

“What then? Shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace?”

These that Paul is writing to were thinking “well, if our Spirit cannot be condemned now that we have been saved by grace, then can’t we just live any way we want and continue living in sin?”

I’ve been a Baptist all my life and I have never once heard any preacher, pastor, evangelist, or missionary claim that once you are saved you can live any old way you want. Yet, our detractors want to make such claims. “**You Baptists think someone can get saved and live any old way they please!**” If I’ve heard that once, I’ve heard it a hundred times. And it is always from those that do not believe in eternal security. Those who do not believe the blood of Christ is powerful enough to save someone and keep them saved. What a distorted and miserable way to believe.

If I thought I could lose my salvation every time I committed a sin then I would denounce my Christian faith and just live the life of a Pagan. I may as well worship **Zeus, Jupiter, or Odin**. After all, why live a Christian life if Christ is not Who He claims to be? Or as Paul wrote to the Church at Corinth – **1 Corinthians 15:19** If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

But the truth is, if a person is truly saved, they will NOT want to continue in sin. We know that we no longer belong to ourselves – we belong to Christ. We do not want to bring shame to His name. So, in essence, we can live the way we want to because we should now want to live for Christ.

This subject has already come up several times in our studies in Romans and Paul’s answer has always been the same: “**God forbid.**” Don’t think such a thing.

Then he goes into the reasons we should not think such a thing:

16 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

17 But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. 18 Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.

Before we were saved, we were servants of sin, servants of the Prince of this world, servants of the god of this world – Satan. We obeyed our flesh, we obeyed our carnal nature, we obeyed our old self.

But after we were saved, we no longer obey those things or the god of this world, but the God of the world to come. No longer in disobedience to unrighteousness, but in obedience unto righteousness. We do not serve sin because we have been made free from sin. Instead, we serve righteousness.

21 What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things *is* death.

All your life you have read it in the Bible and heard it preached that Christians are **known by their fruit**. Well, the same is also true of non-Christians. Whereas a Christian should **bear the fruit of righteousness**, a non-Christian will **bear the fruit of unrighteousness**. Unrighteous fruit is shameful, and as Paul says – **the end of those things is death**.

Turn over to the Book of **Galatians 5:16-25**

- 16 *This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.*
17 *For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.*
18 *But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.*
19 *Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,*
20 *Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,*
21 *Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.*
22 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,*
23 *Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*
24 *And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.*
25 *If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.*

Look at verse 16 again: 16 *This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.*

Paul says *Walk in the Spirit* – this indicates that it is a conscious effort that must be put forth; which is true for all Christian living. Yes, we have the Holy Spirit to guide us but we also must make effort to obey the Spirit.

You will see such things mentioned throughout the Bible such as:

- Put on therefore.
- Put on the new man.
- Put on Christ.
- Put on charity.
- Walk in the Spirit.
- Walk in love.
- Walk worthy.
- Walk as children of light.
- Walk circumspectly.
- Walk in the ways of.
- Walk ye in him.
- Walk in wisdom.
- Walk honestly.
- Walk in truth.

Before we were saved, we only had one voice talking to us – the voice of the flesh, the old man, and we walked in the ways of the flesh.

Paul gives us a long list of the fruits of the flesh: 19 *Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,* 20 *Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,* 21 *Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings...*

But, after we were saved, we have a new voice talking to us – the voice of the Spirit, the new man and we should now be walking in the ways of the Spirit.

Paul also gives us a list of the fruit of the Spirit: 22 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,* 23 *Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*

Jesus says in **Matthew 6:24** *No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.*

Our problem as a Christian is we have a constant battle going on inside of us between the flesh and the Spirit. It is up to us to obey the voice of the Spirit and it's not an easy thing. This flesh is very powerful.

Paul understood that and in the next Chapter (Romans 7) he will go into great detail about this battle, and he will say in **Romans 7:24** *O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?*

But we will get deeper into that in our next message.

Now, turn back to our opening text in Romans 6:22-23 and we will be finished.

22 *But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.*

23 *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Verse 23 of course being another one of those “**Roman Road**” verses we use whenever witnessing to someone and we place a lot of emphasis on the sin and death part – but I think we also need to place a great emphasis on the gift of God and eternal life through Jesus Christ.

Yes, we need to know the bad news, but we so badly need the Good News. That is after all, the Gospel.

Paul says in **Romans 1:16** *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*

Let me ask you something this morning – If you are saved, are you walking in the Spirit? Are you living your life for Christ? Are you living in Grace? Are you showing grace to others?

If you are lost – I want you to know that you do not have to die in your sins and go to hell. Because this same grace that we are talking about this morning is the same grace that can save you. Grace is simply God's free gift of redemption for those that have faith in him to be saved. He gives this to you freely – it is an unmerited, undeserved favor from God. Would you accept His Grace today and be saved?