

## **Romans 6:1-23**

Well, I think that these chapters that are before us here the next few weeks are really some of the most important truths that you and I can work through as believers in Jesus.

In these chapters we are going to be learning about how we are no longer held captive by our sinful nature...and just to define our sinful nature we need to understand that before we came to Jesus Christ we were all and that means all of us lost in our sin. We had no hope, we had no future, we had no eternity in heaven with the Father.

The good news though and we have discussed this thoroughly is that Jesus died on the cross for our sins to pay the ransom that we could be set free from our sin...And last week we had a compare and contrast section of scripture where we looked at those who are found in Adam and those who are found in Jesus.

Those found in Adam are found to have a sinful nature and the result of this life is death both spiritually and physically, as in Adam we all deserve the wrath of God.

Those who are found in Jesus however are seen to find life, forgiveness, sanctification, justification and reconciliation to the Father.

And if you remember last week as we laid this out we said that you and I get to make a choice as to which of these two individuals we are going to be associated with. We can choose to live in the fallen position of Adam or we can choose to live in the restored and forgiven position that is found in Jesus.

I would hope that as we looked at these two individuals that the best choice is obvious for in Adam is no hope and in Christ is found all hope.

Paul as we move forward this week is going to be talking to those that have chosen to receive Jesus Christ and he will now be talking about how we have been set free from the old ways and we have a new life in Jesus.

Let me just ask you a question...As you have come to know Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior did you find that your battle against the sinful tendencies in your life went away? Or did it perhaps intensify?

An interesting thing happens when we come to Jesus for when we begin to agree with God and the Holy Spirit comes inside us, we begin to have a new desire to please and honor the Lord...and yet what we discover is that while our spirits are renewed and given life inside of us the physical part of us that is sinful is still right there with us.

So the question becomes what do we do about our sinful tendencies? How do I find victory over my flesh? Have you ever wondered that in your life as you attempt to serve Jesus?

I can tell you from personal experience that I still have to deal with the desires of the flesh on a regular basis. Over in 1 Peter 2:11 the Word says this about our flesh. <sup>11</sup> **Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, In other words get ready for battle against your flesh.**

One final comment here to set us up for verse 1...If you just look with me at Romans 5:20 which says this <sup>20</sup> **Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded,**

**grace abounded much more,** so what Paul had been saying is that even though sin abounded that grace also abounded much more...and Paul knowing the hearts of humanity, I believe knew that if people heard just this portion of the letter he was writing that they might take things out of context and the thought might become “well if my sin gives God opportunity to show His grace more and more...does it really matter if I live a holy life, or can I just embrace my sin and then rejoice in the grace of God that is given freely to me.”

In other words the idea can become that I can just live my life however I want to and I can just rely on the forgiveness of Jesus to cleanse me...I have to say that's a backward idea...and Paul addresses this in verses 1-2 of chapter 6 if you look at it with me they say **What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? <sup>2</sup> Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?** I have to say that it's very sad that there are some who proclaim to be Christians and yet they make excuses for choosing to live in a sinful behavior or attitude...they might even choose to just continue on in the Adamic sinful nature resisting the simple fact that now that they are in Jesus they have access to the throne of grace which empowers us to live a life away from the sinful ways of the world.

Paul as he asks this simply responds by saying NO WAY Should we live in sin and continue in it that grace might abound...The wonderful truth of living for Jesus is that we are set free from the old ways that once held us captive...I'll just apply this to my life here but before I came to Christ I was lost in the ways of this world, I was living for myself and myself alone...but the beauty is that when I came to Jesus something

changed...the old sinful Adamic nature lost its grip on me and faded into the background and we'll talk about that here in just a little bit...I don't want to get ahead of myself here.

So listen if you are going to name the name of Christ then you need to just know that you cannot continue in your sin, you have no excuse for it for in Christ you have all you need to find victory in your life.

Now notice at the end of verse 2 that Paul says that we should not continue in sin and then he gives us a reason saying that we have DIED to sin and no longer live in it...and we might say well what does that mean?

Paul goes on in verses 3 and 4 by giving us an example if you look at that it says <sup>3</sup>**Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? <sup>4</sup>Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.**

Now I have to point out to you that here we have the word KNOW do you see that? You might want to underline the word KNOW in verse 3 and then you might just glance down and notice that there are some other things we need to KNOW down in verse 6 and verse 9.

What Paul is saying here is that you should KNOW these things experientially and you should know them through and through...I believe that there are times that we simply don't KNOW things that we should KNOW as Christians and I believe the truths here in this chapter before us are things you and I have access to but often times we simply don't know or understand that we have access to them...It

was kind of like a few weeks ago how we said that there are more benefits to receiving Jesus than just having an eternity with the Father as ours one day.

Paul wants us to KNOW that as we are baptized into the body of Jesus Christ that we also in a way entered into His death on the cross...When we come to Jesus it as if our sinful body is also crucified on the cross with Jesus that we might also rise with Him and walk in the glory of His resurrection...In a spiritual sense that absolutely took place. Our old life is dead, it is gone, it no longer has mastery over us and we need to live our lives with this knowledge in place.

When we face our fleshly desires in life we should approach them with the knowledge that the truth is that the old nature is dead, gone and no longer functioning...Later on in this chapter Paul will say we must RECKON the old man dead and that is an accounting term that means to count it as such, or accept it as such.

Now I do think that water baptism is a great illustration of what Paul is talking about here in the text. When a person is baptized in water they are publicly associating with the Lord Jesus Christ, they are saying that they no longer identify their lives with the sinful nature of Adam and that now Jesus is the Lord of their life.

When a person goes into the water it is a picture of the old sinful life dying and being buried and then when you come out of the water it is a picture of how you are a new creation in Christ, that the old has gone and the new has come.

You need to KNOW if you are in Christ and you need to RECKON it to be that the old nature that was found in Adam is now dead and

buried...and you need to keep it dead and buried...for some reason we are really good at getting a shovel out and heading out to the graveyard and digging up the old sinful nature...some of us are regularly performing CPR on our sinful flesh and we are giving that sinful flesh power over our lives that Jesus set us free from.

Ok let's move forward here if you look at verses 5-6 which say <sup>5</sup>**For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection,** <sup>6</sup> knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. As we come to Jesus in our lives notice that we are united together with Him in His death in order that we might also be in the likeness of His resurrection...So we died with Christ and we also shall rise in Christ.

The old man has been crucified with Him meaning it is dead, it is gone, it no longer exists and the body of sin is now done away with...therefore we are no longer slaves of sin.

John 8:34-36 puts it this way saying <sup>34</sup>**Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin."** <sup>35</sup>**And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever.** <sup>36</sup>**Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.**

Perhaps you need to hear this today...perhaps you have a sin that badgers you constantly in your life...YOU need to know that if you have received Christ in your heart that you are no longer a slave to that sin...in Christ it no longer dominates your life the way it used to.

Now some of you may look at that and you may say well Pastor Jared if that's so why is there a particular sin destroying my life still? I want to just point you over to Galatians 5:16-18 which says this

**<sup>6</sup>I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. <sup>18</sup> But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.**

In life you and I are to KNOW or reckon the Old man dead who is related to Adam and we are to walk in the newness of life that is found in Jesus...As we seek to do this in our lives you and I both know that there is a war that takes place in our lives...our old sinful nature does not just roll over and die...it constantly shows up in our lives looking for our attention and we must constantly reckon it to be dead.

Your flesh will tempt you to please it on a regular basis...it is your job to put the flesh to death by the power of the Holy Spirit and you will have to do so continually in your life.

In the book of Galatians again chapter 6 verses 7-8 say this **<sup>7</sup>Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. <sup>8</sup> For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.**

If you are struggling with a certain sin in your life repeatedly its because you are choosing to give in to the desires of your flesh. You and I must learn to walk away from the desires of the flesh, embrace Jesus and choose holiness. I know that is easier said than done...BUT it can and MUST be done as we follow Jesus.



Romans 13:11-14 says this <sup>11</sup> And do this, knowing the time, that now *it is* high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation *is* nearer than when we *first* believed. <sup>12</sup> The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. <sup>13</sup> Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. <sup>14</sup> But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to *fulfill its* lusts.

If you are stuck in sin it's time to wake up and work towards victory. I know its frustrating at times, I get it, I have been there but I will tell you as you submit to His Word and put it into practice, as you remain accountable to others to do the right thing **you CAN have victory and in Christ you already DO have victory.** It will probably be a process, but you can find yourself walking in the freedom that you have in Jesus Christ from the sinful nature.

How amazing that Jesus not only died to save us eternally but to save us from these wretched sinful natures that cause havoc in our lives.

Verses 7-9 say <sup>7</sup> For he who has died has been freed from sin. <sup>8</sup> Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, <sup>9</sup> knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him.

The simple truth is those who are dead are no longer physically dominated by the flesh...I mean think about it when a body dies in this world where does it go? Well, it goes back to the earth...and do you do anything with a dead body after this? You don't, its finished, its over...that person has moved on into the eternal state.



You and I in Christ are to have this mindset. We have died in Christ and are now free from sin...and because Christ lives and rose from the dead you and I in a spiritual sense also walk in that same resurrection power and victory.

So the point Paul is making is that you aren't the same person you used to be anymore...the sinful nature that was within you has now died in Christ, the relationship you had with your sinful self has changed...it's no longer what dominates you.

Now I know I have shared this before but when I came to Jesus I learned very quickly that I was no longer the same person I used to be...I realized really quickly that the sinful nature that so dominated and destroyed my life was no longer driving my life...I realized I had a new master in my life and it was the Spirit of God living inside me and I hope you have seen that in your own life as well...If you can't sit here today and say with absolute certainty that you are different than you used to be I want to strongly encourage you to not only come forward for prayer after the service but to begin to accept that these truths Paul speaks of are actually part of your life...The question is DO YOU KNOW THESE THINGS we are talking about and if you don't you need to cry out to Jesus to make these things a reality in your life.

Look with me at verses 10-11 which say .<sup>10</sup> **For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.** <sup>11</sup> **Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

The death Jesus died was a finished work, He died once to sin and He did it for all and just as Jesus accomplished this on our behalf, you

and I also are to reckon ourselves to be dead to sin as if it is on the cross with Christ and you and I are alive to God.

Perhaps you never knew this about the benefits of knowing the Lord Jesus...now you do, there is power and there is victory found in Jesus...I have to warn you that the power is not in yourself, you won't be able to just say one day that you are done with a particular sin and just walk away from it...You can only have victory as you constantly tap into the ever present power of the Holy Spirit...and we'll get to that in chapter 8 of Romans.

**As a summary statement you could say...You can put to death the misdeeds of the body by the power of God's Spirit as you walk in the Spirit, as you sow to the Spirit, as you live unto Him.**

Now because we are alive in Christ and because we can have victory over our flesh and because our sinful nature that we had in Adam is now dead Paul says this in verses 12-13 which say this <sup>12</sup>**Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. <sup>13</sup> And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.**

I want you guys to hear my heart as I say these things...I am not some crotchety old pastor who thinks he has everything together...I say this with all humility and with all hope and with all expectation...You as a believer in Jesus are not to let sin reign in your life anymore! You do not have to obey the lusts of the flesh anymore!

I have said this before but the very nature of the Holy Spirit that lives in your heart is to lead you to victory over your flesh and to lead you to a life of holiness.

I believe WE can be very quick to make excuses for ourselves and we can make provision for our flesh and simply said this is WRONG! To continue in sin as if nothing has changed is contrary to the words of the Bible and it's contrary to what we see here in these verses.

**I will not judge another person when it comes to whether someone is saved or not...**but I will say if you have prayed a prayer to Jesus and asked Him into your life but nothing has changed in your heart then you need to very seriously consider your life and your relationship with Jesus.

If you are in Christ the old nature is done away with and we have a new life in Him...therefore sin is no longer the master and we should walk in the newness of life that is found in Him...**Does this mean we are perfect?** No, sadly I still make mistakes in my life...but my heart says "I do not want to sin against the One that gave His life for me!"

We must take these things to heart...And we should receive these with great joy not with a sense of dread! How amazing that Jesus has set us free from the cruel master of sin!

**Notice one more thing here and then we'll move on...**Paul says we are to present our members or ourselves as being alive from the dead in Christ Jesus and we are to present our lives as instruments of righteousness as we go through life.

Before Christ you only lived for self...now that you have been set free **you can make a choice to present yourself to His** service or to present yourself as an instrument of sin.

**Verse 14 says <sup>14</sup>For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.**

Sin no longer has authority over us...the law spoke death to us and left us with no hope while grace gives us access to the throne of God, the power of God and the glory of knowing Him.

Now let's move forward here and Paul will summarize this if you look at verse 15 which says <sup>15</sup>**What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not!**

Again just because we are under grace, just because we are forgiven and we are clothed in the righteousness of Jesus does not mean we can just choose to sin and live how we want.

Christ died to allow us to live a life that would be pleasing to Him...and I would simply say choosing to live in sin is extremely disrespectful towards the sacrifice Jesus made on our behalf...To sin willfully and repeatedly makes a mockery of the cross.

**Look at verses 16-18 which say this <sup>16</sup>Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin *leading* to death, or of obedience *leading* to righteousness? <sup>17</sup> But God be thanked that *though* you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. <sup>18</sup> And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.**

Now I said this just a minute or two ago but you have a choice in your life now to either present yourself to Jesus in holiness or to present yourself to the sinful nature and indulge in sin.

Before Christ you had no choice in the matter, you were fully a slave to sin...I can attest to this that before I came to Christ I can remember many times saying to myself and those around me that this is the very last time I was going to use drugs...and I think I did mean it to some degree in my heart...but do you know what happened? Within just a few minutes or hours I would be right back at it.

I found that I had no control over the things that worked to destroy my life...Sadly, I found the same thing true when it came to pornography...I was lost in that sin, I had no control over it, I had no ability to walk away from it...I was a slave to it.

But when I came to Christ I found that I was no longer a slave to sin but instead righteousness began to be my master...When we come to Jesus we find that there is a new sheriff in town...Jesus begins to command our lives and we find that instead of being a slave to sin we are suddenly given this opportunity to make a choice to live for the right thing.

When you and I come to Jesus the Spirit of God comes in and gives life to that dead spiritual part of our lives that is within us...For me, I learned very quickly that things were not ever going to be the same in my life after I received the Lord.

I can remember the Holy Spirit being present within me guiding me and helping me to see the difference between right and wrong. It was very weird for me because before I gave my life to Christ I had no

conscience, I did whatever I pleased but suddenly after the Spirit of God had moved in I found that I felt bad when I cursed or when I chose to lie, or when I chose to take drugs again...that was very different and I learned very quickly that the Spirit of God had woken me up spiritually and He was working to lead my life and guide me.

If you are here today and you are in Christ then you should be able to attest to the work of the Holy Spirit in your life. You and I now have a choice to make and that choice is will I yield to the Holy Spirit's work and authority in my life or will I yield to the fleshly desires that are still around in my life.

Jesus said this in Matthew 6:24 which says <sup>24</sup> **"No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."**

Even the well known musician Bob Dylan said "You gotta serve Somebody" and while I would never say go listen to this man's music I think the message rings true.

It verse 17 of our text we read that we obeyed from the heart the form of doctrine to which you were delivered and just to make that simple when you see the word doctrine you could just think of that as a word that means teaching...So we submitted ourselves to the teaching that set us free from sin and simply said that teaching is the teaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We'll move on here in a second but just listen to what Paul says over in Romans 12:1-2 which says this **I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living**

**sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is your reasonable service.* <sup>2</sup> And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.**

Because of all the Lord has done for us and in us there is only one logical conclusion as to how we should live our lives...Because He has set us free from sin we should routinely and regularly offer ourselves as a living sacrifice that is holy and pleasing to Him...We should no longer be governed by the things of this world and we should no longer allow the world to have any authority or influence over us...instead we should give our lives wholly to His will and His work in us.

Let's move on here if you look at verses 19-22 which says this

**<sup>19</sup> I speak in human *terms* because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness *leading to more lawlessness*, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness.**

**<sup>20</sup> For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. <sup>21</sup> What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things *is death.* <sup>22</sup> But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.**

Again we have a contrast here between the life of Adam and in that life we were slaves of uncleanness, we were lawless, we were lost...in that life of sin what was produced? That life led to death and things that brought about fruits of unrighteousness.



In Christ though we have fruit that leads to holiness and everlasting life.

I sure hope that as we are looking at these chapters in Romans that your appreciation for all we have in Jesus is growing and growing...We have been set free, therefore we should live for Him.

Look at verse 23 which says this <sup>23</sup> **For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Now this is an important truth...As we move through life without Jesus, as we sin and do that which is wrong we need to know that the payment we deserve is death...What we have earned for our sin is an eternal separation from God.

When I do a job in life I expect to be paid for that job...It's just the way that God has ordained things to be in life...and you and I let's face it before Christ we were master craftsmen with PHD's in our knowledge and ability to sin...therefore we deserved the wrath of God as we have discussed previously.

Paul though after reminding us of the terrible fruit of sin which is death then reminds us of the gift of God which is eternal life in Christ Jesus. How amazing it is that we can walk in the grace of God, how incredible that we can receive the gift of salvation at no cost.

It's rather incredible that Jesus died on the cross that you and I could go free, that we might have eternal life in Christ.

I have to ask you two things today...First I want to ask you have you received Jesus Christ in your heart for the forgiveness of sins? Have you accepted the free gift of salvation that was paid for by Jesus in your heart?

If not I would just plead with you that right now today you would receive Jesus in your heart and if you would like to do that today I encourage you to just come forward during our time of worship and I would love to pray with you and you can begin a new life with Jesus Christ.

And the second thing I want to ask you today as we close is IF you have received Jesus in your life DO you regularly choose to present yourself unto Him and Do you choose to live your life as a living sacrifice for His glory? Or do you find yourself digging up that old dead sinful nature and choosing to engage in sinful activities?

Simply said Jesus desires that you would live for Him and that you would choose Him...and listen if you are here today and you know you have been headed the wrong way and choosing the wrong thing the answer to that is to repent and turn your heart to Jesus once again...to ask Him to convict you of your sin afresh and to just come in humility before Him seeking His great work in your heart...You can't find victory in your own will or your own strength...you must look to Him and His Spirit to give you all you need.

Let's pray today and listen if the Lord is doing a work in your heart just come on up to the front during worship and I would love to pray with you.

Let's pray.

## **Romans 6:1-23 “Free From The Reign Of Sin”**

Cross References

### **Introduction**

1 Peter 2:11

Romans 5:20

### **Verses 5-6**

John 8:34-36

Galatians 5:16-18

Galatians 6:7-8

Romans 13:11-14

### **Verses 16-18**

Matthew 6:24

Romans 12:1-2