The Book of ROMANS
Chapter 6
"BE SET FREE!"

> Theme of Chapter 6 - *Sanctification!* In **chapters 1 through 5** Paul defined our ***justification***, the **removal of the guilt and penalty of sin**. In **chapter 6** he begins to explain our ***sanctification***, which **removes the growth and the power of sin.**

> In JUSTIFICATION Jesus Christ IMPUTED His RIGHTEOUSNESS to our account for SALVATION; in SANCTIFICATION Jesus Christ IMPARTS His RIGHTEOUSNESS for our DAILY LIVING!

- Warren Wiersbe writes, "Paul made a transition from discussing "sins" to discussing "sin" - from the actions to the principle, from the fruit to the root. Jesus Christ not only died for our sins, but He also died unto sin, and we died with Him."

> Perhaps a chart will explain the contrasts better:

Romans 3:21-5:21	**Romans 6-8**
Substitution: He died for me	**Identification: I died with Him**
He died for my sins	**He died unto sin**
He paid sin's penalty	**He broke sin's power**
Justification: *righteousness imputed* **(put to my account)**	**Sanctification:** *righteousness imparted* **(made a part of my life)**
Saved by His death	**Saved by His life**

> THREE KEYS TO FREEDOM:

> FREEDOM KEY #1 - BE FREE FROM THE SLAVERY OF SIN AND DEATH! (v1-7)
> FREEDOM KEY #2 – BE ALIVE IN JESUS CHRIST! (v8-13)
> FREEDOM KEY #3 – BE FREE FOREVER! (v15-23)

> FREEDOM KEY #1 - BE FREE FROM THE SLAVERY OF SIN AND DEATH! (v1-7)

(v1) *"To continue in sin" -* *Epimeno* (to continue) speaks of a ***habitual persistence* to live a sinful lifestyle.** Paul is destroying this kind of ungodly philosophy, which says, "Since we are saved by grace, we can live a sinful lifestyle and this will make grace abound, thus bringing more glory to God."

(v2) The term "*Certainly not!*" or literally "*May it never be!*" This is one of the strongest repudiations made in Greek context. The next question is *"How shall we who died to <u>sin</u> live any longer in it?"*

- One Bible commentator writes, "The old man, the old self, is the unregenerate person. He is not part righteous and part sinful, but totally sinful and without the slightest potential within himself for becoming righteous and pleasing to God. The new man, on the other hand, is the regenerate person. He is made pleasing to God through Jesus Christ, and his new nature is entirely godly and righteous. He is not yet perfected or glorified, but he is already spiritually alive, and holiness is at work in him. The new man will continue to grow in that holiness, no matter how slowly or falteringly, because, by its very nature, life grows.

- Teacher <u>Dr. Donald Grey Barnhouse</u> writes, "Holiness starts where justification finishes, and if holiness does not start, <u>we have the right to suspect that justification never started either.</u>"

(v4-7) <u>From death to life!</u> - <u>Listen to Jesus in John 12:23-26</u> - *But Jesus answered them, saying, "The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified. Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain.* ***<u>He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor</u>****.*

- **<u>Observe three applications for our Christian life</u>:**
(1) Just as Christ was raised from the dead, we are raised from the deadness of sin (*born again*) and can walk in the <u>newness</u> of life, which is His life!

> ***<u>Fruit of the Spirit</u>!*** **- Galatians 5:22-25 -** ***But the fruit of the Spirit is:***

~ ***<u>Observe SPIRITUAL FREEDOM</u>:***	~ ***<u>Observe SINFUL SLAVERY</u>:***
- LOVE	***- HATE***
- JOY	***- ANGER***
- PEACE	***- WAR***
- PATIENCE	***- DEMANDING***
- KINDNESS	***- RUDENESS***
- GOODNESS	***- EVILNESS***
- FAITHFULNESS	***- IRRESPONSIBLE***
- GENTLENESS	***- HARSHNESS***
- SELF-CONTROL	***- OUT OF CONTROL***

Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

(2) United with His death and <u>resurrection</u>. <u>Look at Luke 24:44-49</u> (<u>*discipleship*</u>)
(3) Who is this old man and how does he change? <u>Colossians 3:5-17</u> (<u>***sanctification***</u>).

> <u>FREEDOM KEY #2 – BE ALIVE IN JESUS CHRIST! (v8-13)</u>
(v8-10) A life changing illustration: He died - we died! He lives - we live! He lives to God - we live to God! Notice that death does not have dominion over Him, through Jesus Christ our Savior we experience the same!

(v11-13) The word *"reckon"* is used 41 times in the New Testament, nineteen times in Romans. *"Reckon"* means ***"to put to one's account."*** It simply means to believe what God says in His Word is really true in our life.

- **What do we reckon?** We are dead to sin, and it will not have dominion over us. We are alive to God in Christ, capable of living the new life through His resurrection power. **<u>Thus we *obey* His Word, not our lust</u>**. Believers are lust busters, and Word worshippers! We present our members (heart, mind, will, body) to righteousness, not to sin.

> <u>FREEDOM KEY #3 – BE FREE FOREVER! (v15-23)</u>
(v15-16) Whose slave, are you? - Jesus said in John 8:31-36- *Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.* ***<u>And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."</u>*** *. . . . "Most assuredly, I say to you,* ***<u>whoever commits sin is a slave of sin</u>****. And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever.* ***<u>Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.</u>***

(v17-21) Samson is a good illustration of one who presented himself as a slave to sin which led to self-destruction. (Judges Ch. 16)

- What is <u>RIGHTEOUSNESS</u>? Holy and upright living, in accordance with God's standard. The word righteousness comes from a root word that means ***"<u>straightness.</u>"*** It refers to a state that conforms to an authoritative standard. Righteousness is a moral concept. God's character is the definition and source of all righteousness (<u>Gen 18:25; Deut 32:4; Rom 9:14</u>). Therefore, man's righteousness is defined in terms of God's.

- <u>What is HOLINESS</u>? Moral and ethical wholeness or perfection; freedom from moral evil. Holiness is one of the essential elements of God's nature required of His people. Holiness may also be rendered "sanctification" or "godliness." The word holy denotes that which is "sanctified" or "set apart" for divine service. The theme of sanctification or growing into God's likeness and being consecrated for His use, is prominent throughout the

Bible. Like Jesus, the apostles taught that sanctification, or true holiness, expressed itself in patient and loving service while awaiting the Lord's return. Peter urged the suffering Christians of the Roman Empire to follow God's example of holiness in their trials: "As He who has called you is holy; you also be holy in all your conduct" (1 Peter 1:15). Paul's prayer for the saints at Thessalonica is timeless in its application to the church and individual believers: "And may the Lord make you increase in love and abound in love...so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints" (1 Thess 3:12-13).
(from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

(v22-23) We are *FREE* from sin! We're slaves to God! We have fruit to holiness! We have eternal life! Don't work for the grim reaper (the wages of sin is death). Receive God's gift today, the Lord Jesus Christ! Be blessed with a *brand-new life*, an *abundant life*, and *eternal* life!