

Sermon Notes
Good News Church
Romans - The Righteous Will Live by Faith
Chapter 6 – “Slaves Set Free”
Drue Warner
10-25-26

PRIMARY MESSAGE OF ROMANS

For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: **“The righteous will live by faith.”** – Romans 1:17

THEMES

- CH. 1-3 Depravity, Justice, and Grace
CH. 4-5 Faith – Origins and Impact (O.T. Reflections > Abraham and Adam)
CH. 6-7 Living in Grace – motivation, frustration, and salvation

PURPOSE

The primary purpose of today’s message from Romans 6 is **to understand how to live under grace as slaves, not unto sin but unto righteousness.**

TAKE AWAY

*“Through faith in Christ, you are a new amazing **creation** with a new beautiful **identity**, a new **way** of deeply satisfying life, a new loving **authority**, and a new confident and joyful **hope** of eternal life.”*

OUTLINE

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|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. New Creation | 4. New Authority |
| 2. New Identity | 5. New Hope |
| 3. New Way | |

TEXT (Romans 6:1-23) // **CONTEXT:** As a result of Justification by Faith, we have received 1) Peace with God 2) Purpose in Suffering 3) Poured out Love 4) Perfect Representation, **and we are now “slaves set free.”** (Jubilation!)

1. NEW AMAZING CREATION - In Christ, you are a new creation! (see 2 Cor. 5:17)

1 What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? (repeat of Romans 3:8)
2 By no means! **We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?** 3 Or don’t you know that **all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?** 4 **We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so that we, in newness of life should walk.** 5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his.

- **“Baptized into Christ”** is a metaphor for a change of identity, allegiance, and leadership rather than a literal water ritual (see 1 Corinthians 10:2 “baptized into Moses”).

- Those who are “Baptized into Christ” also have a mystical union in His death (to sin), burial (to the old self), and resurrection (to new life).
- **vs. 4 “so that we, in newness of life should walk.”**
 - There has been a massive change at the foundational level of our hearts and lives.
- **What is the process? (i.e., Nick Saban)**
 1. **Election** – chosen, in love, before time
 2. **Regeneration** – God makes our dead hearts alive
 3. **Faith & Repentance** (us – we turn and “cling” to Jesus) | **Justification** (Jesus)
 - Old self (flesh) crucified > New self (spirit) united to Christ
 4. **Adoption** – made legally accepted sons and daughters of God
 5. **Sanctification** – should > want to > do
 - *God turning our “should do’s” into “want to’s” and our “want to’s” into “do’s,” and wherever “we “do” and “don’t” is completely covered in Christ’s “done.”*
 6. **Glorification** – made perfectly beautiful; we are washed completely clean of sin and all of the misery and suffering of this life, and made fully and completely transformed into the likeness of Jesus Christ

2. NEW BEAUTIFUL IDENTITY - *As a new creation, you now have a new identity.*

6 For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with (rendered powerless), that we should no longer be slaves to sin— 7 because anyone who has died (crucified with Christ) has been set free from sin.

- **“The body ruled by sin” – “We had free will but our will was not free.”**
 - Our only ability was to choose those things that were opposed to God.
 - We were “slaves to sin.”
- As a result of the work of Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit, being justified by faith, the prison door that has enslaved us to sin has swung open, and we are free to walk out of that jail cell. And we’ll see in the following verses that Paul instructs us to leave the jail cell!

8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. 9 For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. (Jesus killed death) 10 The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. 11 In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. > NEW IDENTITY

- **We are no longer defined by our sin. Our identity is not according to our sin. Yes we are still sinners, but we are now beloved sinners.**
 - For people who have battled in their lives with addiction, I sometimes question when they identify themselves (for example) as an alcoholic. I do understand why that is, because while alcoholism is a sinful behavior, **it’s also a disease or an illness in the same way that someone would identify themselves as a diabetic.** My point is that I think it’s important that our identity as a beloved son or daughter of the living God is

stronger than being defined by our sin. Our greatest identity must be that of being a child of God. *"I'm a sinner, yes! But I'm a beloved sinner."*

3. NEW WAY OF A DEEPLY SATISFYING LIFE - *As a new creation, you now have a new way of living.*

12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires.

13 Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness.

4. NEW LOVING AUTHORITY - *As a new creation, you are now under a new authority.*

14 For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace.

15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? (third time asked)

By no means! 16 Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness?

- The law is good because it shows us our inability to keep the commandments of God and thus our need for Christ, but the law can only point us to Christ. It does not have the power to save us. Do you remember from CH. 1 what does have the power to save us?
 - **"I am not ashamed of the Gospel, because it is the power of salvation to all those who believe." – Romans 1:16**
- **vs. 14 "Sin shall no longer be your master" - ILLUSTRATION: Old Captain (bad, mean) vs. New Captain (good, kind)**
- **vs. 15-16 Actions speak louder than words.**
 - **TEST:** If we say we love one thing, but we invest our time, energy, affections, and resources towards a different thing, which one do we truly love?
 - **REFLECTION:** As you take an honest look at how you invest your time, energy, affections, and resources, would anyone else be able to tell that you're a Christian?

17 But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to obey from your heart (Greek - kardia) the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance. 18 You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.

- **vs. 18 "Slaves to righteousness" - Whereas previously we were enslaved to sin, we are now slaves unto righteousness, and to God.**
- **We now have POWER and a way of escape as relates to sin.**
 - **"No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way of escape so that you can endure it."**
- 1 Corinthians 10:13

5. NEW CONFIDENT & JOYFUL HOPE OF ETERNAL LIFE

As a new creation, you now have the confident hope of holiness and eternal life in Christ.

- Because we are now slaves to righteousness, we not only have power to say “no” to sin, but we also have a confident hope that we will overcome it, in this life and in eternity.

22 But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap (the things you want to do) leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- *“The essence of Christian theology is grace, and the essence of Christian ethics is gratitude.”*
- G.K. Berkouwer (noted theologian, published 18 volume, “Studies in Dogmatics,” leader in the Reformed Churches in Netherlands)

Martin Luther & Reformation Day (Oct. 31, 1517)

A Mighty Fortress (1529)

*V. 2 Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,
were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing.
You ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he; Lord Sabaoth his name,
from age to age the same; and he must win the battle.*

Luther knew and had experienced these truths expressed in Berkouwer’s quote, in Romans 6, and all throughout scripture, of grace and gratitude.

“The heart overflows with gladness, and leaps and dances for the joy it has found in God. In this experience the Holy Spirit is active, and has taught us in the flash of a moment the deep secret of joy. You will have as much joy and laughter in life as you have faith in God.” — Martin Luther

CONCLUSION – ROMANS 6 summarized

Through faith in Christ, you are a new amazing creation with a new beautiful identity, a new way of deeply satisfying life, a new loving authority, and a new confident and joyful hope of eternal life.

And THAT’S Good News!