

SERMON STUDY SUMMARY

Romans Part 13: A New Me – Dying to Live in Freedom

INTRODUCTION

In Chapters 6-8 of Romans, the Apostle Paul talks about how we can grow closer in our relationship with God. In the first 5 chapters of this book, there is a significant focus on sin. Sin is, basically, pride. Our defiant attitude of independence rejects God because we tell Him that we don't want Him or anyone else telling us what to believe or how to live our lives.

Romans 5:8 tells us that God's love for us is clearly demonstrated because, while we were still sinners, His Son Jesus Christ died on the cross, paying the penalty for our sins and thereby satisfying God's wrath and justice against our sin. In Chapters 6-8 of Romans, we learn how we can be set free from the power of sin so we can grow in our friendship with God and experience the abundant life God wants for us. There are three actions we should pursue: (1) KNOW the truth of who we are in Christ; (2) BELIEVE this truth, and (3) RESPOND to this truth. In this message the focus is on the first point: Knowing the truth of who we are in Christ.

The Bible tells us that we are both physical and spiritual beings. Christians are privileged to live in both these realms. 2 Corinthians 4:18 says we should fix our eyes on the unseen spiritual realm because it is eternal, and not on the visible physical realm which is temporary. The spiritual realm is the realm of positional truth or what God says about who I am. It is the realm of justification. The temporal and seen is the realm of "I am becoming more like Christ", or the realm of sanctification. Both realms are vital to God because He made them, and Scriptures speak to both realms (Hebrews 10:14).

The spirit is like a vase inside a person (2 Corinthians 4:7). The Bible teaches that when humankind was first created, Adam and Eve's spirit/'vase' was filled with the greatness and glory of God; His loving, joyful, caring, holy character permeated every part of who they were – body and soul. When they sinned and rebelled against God, their spirit died; the vase was emptied of God's holiness, and it was filled instead with a deadly poison which impacted all aspects of their humanity. This nature was passed on to us through the generations; we are now born spiritually dead.

Jesus said that all evil comes from within us and defiles us; Paul repeats this in Romans 6. When we choose Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we are baptized with His Holy Spirit, are dead to sin, and become spiritually alive in Christ. While we may still battle with sin, it is no longer our master (Romans 6:5-10). You are free because you are filled with Christ, He is in you. Your spiritual vase is full again with the very life of God.

Knowing and believing this truth is the key to finding freedom from the power of sin in our lives, and our attitude, behaviour and life will begin to change for the better. Let's both live out and share this joyful news!

SERMON STUDY GUIDE

IN - PURSUE RELATIONSHIP

1. What motivates you to live a good life?
2. If there was one law you could break without costs or consequences, which one would it be?

UP - PURSUE GOD

Read Romans 6:1-13 and 2 Corinthians 4:18

3. How does knowing about the two realms (2 Corinthians 4:18) allow us to understand Romans 6:1-13?
4. In Romans 6, “death” and died” are used many times. What does it mean to be “dead to sin”? What is the main point Paul is trying to make?

OUT - PURSUE MISSION

5. Although we have died to sin, we still struggle with it. How does our knowledge of the truth of who we are in Christ enable us to live a life of freedom from the bondage of sin?
6. Now that sin is no longer our master, we are free from its power and condemnation. What steps can we take this week to share this knowledge with others so that they too may rejoice in this truth?

For Personal Reflection/Prayer:

Insert your name in the paragraph below. Print or write it out and put it somewhere visible. Read it through at least once per day.

Before I embraced Christ as my Lord and Savior by faith, I was [your name] in Adam without God’s Spirit. I was spiritually dead, a guilty sinner and the object of God’s wrath; but because of Christ’s death on the cross, the old me in Adam is dead and gone; I’ve been crucified with Christ. Now I am [your name] in Christ, a person who is totally forgiven and righteous in the eyes of God - not because I live perfectly in this life, but because in the eternal spiritual realm I am in Jesus Christ who is perfect and righteous.

THE WORD (NIV)

Romans 6:6-13

What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? 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, we too may live a new life.

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

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. 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. 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.

2 Corinthians 4:18

So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.