

“NOW YOU ARE FREE FROM SIN!”

Romans 5:12-6:23

Series: “A Study of Romans: This is Good News!”

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## **INTRODUCTION:**

In Romans 6, Paul mentions the second benefit of our salvation: Freedom from sin.

## **I. THE LOGICAL QUESTION**

***[Rom 6:1 NIV] 1 What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase?***

### **A. EXPLANATION OF THE QUESTION**

Paul admits: It’s true that the more sinful I am, the greater God’s grace is. And the more grace God gives, the more glorified he is. So why not just go on sinning so God gets more glory?

### **B. REVIEW OF THE CONTEXT**

In Romans 5:12-21, Paul addresses a common question: How can one man, Christ, pay for the sins of all of us? He explains: Because one man – Adam – also sinned for all.

***[Rom 5:18 NIV] 18 Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people.***

(NOTE: Recommended reading: Dr. Jack Cottrell's commentary on Romans 5. Notice what he says about "original sin" and "original grace.")

***[Rom 5:20b-21 NIV] 20 ...But where sin increased, grace increased all the more, 21 so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.***

In other words, the more we sinned, the more God gave us his grace. So then, Paul asks the question in Romans 6:1, Shall we go on sinning that grace may increase?

## **II. THE OBVIOUS ANSWER**

***[Rom 6:2-5 NIV] 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.***

NOTE: Paul assumes every Christian has been baptized by immersion, because that was the expectation in the early church.

***[Rom 6:6-8, 12 NIV] 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.*** (A dead person can't sin!)

***8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ...***

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

### **III. THE PRACTICAL APPLICATION**

Paul uses the imagery of slavery. In the Roman culture slavery was very common, and many people voluntarily became slaves to pay off debts.

***[Rom 6:19 NIV] 19 I am using an example from everyday life because of your human limitations. Just as you used to offer yourselves as slaves to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer***

***yourselves as slaves to righteousness leading to holiness.***

You're going to serve someone. Whose slave will you be? Paul gives two simple instructions for those who want to serve Christ:

### **A. SAY "NO" TO SIN**

***[Rom 6:13a NIV] 13 Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness....***

Three battlefield areas:

- 1) SEXUAL IMMORALITY
- 2) DRUGS AND ALCHOL
- 3) VIOLENCE

### **B. SAY "YES" TO GOD**

***[Rom 6:13b-14 NIV] ...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. 14 For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace.***

### **CONCLUSION:**

Consider the results of your choice and choose wisely.

**20 When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. 21 What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! 22 But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life.**

**INVITATION:**

**[Rom 6:23 NIV] 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Paul assumes every believer has been baptized. The Scripture commands us to be baptized into him. Baptism is a powerful symbol of the death, burial and resurrection of Christ, and it marks the moment of dying to ourselves and joining with the resurrected Christ. If you have not yet surrendered to baptism, why not today?