



# WELCOME TO BIBLE HOUSE OF GRACE

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## Romans 6

(2019)

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Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

## Romans 6.

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### Topics.

- Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound?
- All who have been baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death?
- Our old-self was crucified, that sin might be brought to nothing.
- Whoever has died has been set free from sin.
- If we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.
- Let not sin reign in your mortal bodies.
- Sin will not have dominion over those in Christ.
- Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace?
- The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ.

**The previous chapter:** in the previous chapter Paul taught that those in Christ have been justified by faith and obtained access into God's grace, he talks about sin being in the world prior to the Ten Commandments and how Adam's disobedience spread the seeds of death with all its miseries to all mankind like a cancerous virus and of Christ's obedience which brought God's free gift of righteous and grace to many.

**NOTE:** for information concerning people, places and the meaning of words see Map Locations and People of the Bible, and Bible Dictionary on Website Menu.

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### ROMANS 6:1-6

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#### Are we to continue in Sin that Grace may Abound?

- **Romans 6:1-6:** What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? <sup>2</sup>By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? <sup>3</sup>Do you not know that all of us who have been baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death? <sup>4</sup>We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. <sup>5</sup>For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. <sup>6</sup>We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.
- Remember this is a letter Paul is writing to the Christian brothers in Rome.

In the previous chapter Paul's entire focus was on those in Christ who had been justified by grace, now his focus shifts to how those who have been justified by grace should live.

**Baptised:** (baptizo) (bapto) means to make fully wet, to wash or cover wholly with a fluid it is used of ceremonial ablution, cleansing and purification and especially of the ordinance of Christian baptism, by implication it carries the idea of staining as with dye.

**All who have been baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death?** True baptism involves repentance from wrong doing and anything that has offended God this kind of repentance brings a change of desire in the heart and mind which births a desire in the heart to

honour God and an equally strong passion to avoid anything that offends Him. This is what Paul means when he says, those who are baptised into Christ have died to sin because the new nature hates sin and loves righteousness. Paul is basically saying, "How can a person who has had this change take place in their heart continue to live in a lifestyle of sin?" What's more those that are baptised in Christ are identifying with Christ's death and resurrection they are acknowledging that they also will die and be resurrected to a new and eternal life as Christ was. Paul is saying to those who have been baptised, don't wait until they are resurrected to live the new life rather live it now and don't live in the old sinful and godless lifestyle they have repented from especially since all who have been united with Christ in death will be resurrected to eternal glory as Christ was (v4)

**Our old-self was crucified in order that sin might be brought to nothing:** the old-self (the lower nature) was crucified, means that there is a new desire and passion in the heart of those baptised into Christ. The desire of this new higher nature (often called the spirit) is to honour God, nevertheless even though it is now the dominant desire of the heart, the lower nature (often called the flesh) is still pulled toward sin, in spite of the higher nature's desire to honour God. Because of this tension there is conflict between the lower nature (the flesh) and the higher nature (the Spirit) which desires to do those things that honour God whereas the old nature (self, ego and pride etc.) is indifferent or does not even consider God it's only thought is self-gratification and self-glory whereas the new nature is always considering and desiring God's best interest it may not always succeed, but there is sorrow toward God when the lower nature does get the victory. This is what Paul means by the term, "No longer slaves to sin" (v6). Though the very powerful voice of sin tempts us to wrong-doing to satisfy self, ego, pride or greed etc., this is not the new nature of the Spirit that has given birth to the desire to honour the Lord, nevertheless because of our human limitations (v19) (i.e., the sinful aberrations and dysfunctions that dwell within all mankind) the voice of temptation is often far more powerful than the sweet and quiet voice of the Spirit it is because of this weakness within that we are saved by faith and not by works of the law.

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## ROMANS 6:7-11

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### Whoever has Died has been Set free from Sin.

- **Romans 6:7-11:** For one who has died has been set free from sin. <sup>8</sup>Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup>We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. <sup>10</sup>For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. <sup>11</sup>So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Set free from sin means set free from the condemnation of the law of Sin and Death which states, "The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Rom. 6:23). This verse embraces two statements:

1. The fact that whoever sins is already judged to eternal death and since the Bible tells us all have sinned (Rom. 3:23) (Rom. 5:12) everyone is under this law and therefore are already condemned to eternal death.
2. It declares the Good News of the Gospel which states; those who have faith in the Lord Jesus Christ are set free from the law of Sin and Death, meaning their sins are covered they will inherit eternal life despite the fact they have the lower nature with all its sinful aberrations and dysfunctions dwelling within them, this is because God's abundant grace in Christ overrides the law of Sin and Death this is one of the reason the Gospel is called the Good News.

**The law of grace:** states that sin has no power over those in Christ to condemn them to eternal death. Those in Christ have been given a free gift and that gift is righteousness (Rom. 5:17) they are accepted not because of their own virtue but because righteousness has been imputed to them because of their faith in Christ. It is their faith that is counted as their righteousness not their own virtue no matter how good it might be.

**If we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him:** notice Paul says, "If we have died," (v8) he uses the word 'if' because no-one can judge someone else's salvation, motive or intent of the heart since not all who are born of Abraham are Israel and not all who confess Christ are in Christ, but those who are in Christ should have the confidence and assurance that they will be resurrected to eternal life and live with the Lord in everlasting glory. To determine if we are in Christ, we should honestly look inside ourselves and ask the following seven questions:

1. Is it the deep desire of my heart to honour God with my life?
2. Do I genuinely love the things that God loves?
3. Is there a desire to be with others in the faith?
4. Do I desire to read and understand the Bible?
5. Is there sorrow when I do something that brings a bad testimony to God and dishonour to the name of the Lord Jesus Christ?
6. Do I care about the well-being of other humans?
7. Is there a genuine excitement within me for the return of Christ?

It is certain that whoever has these desires and passions dwelling within are truly in Christ because no one outside of Christ's Kingdom has a heartfelt concern about Christ and the things of God. In these verses Paul is telling the Roman brothers and sisters since Christ died to sin for everyone and lives to God, this is how every Christian should think of themselves, dead to sin and alive to God and living for Him (v10-11).

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## ROMANS 6:12-14

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### **Let not Sin reign in your Mortal Bodies.**

- **Romans 6:12-14:** Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. <sup>13</sup>Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. <sup>14</sup>For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

Paul is saying take control of the lower nature, do not allow, pride, ego, anger, adultery, greed and jealousy etc., to take power over your body, but rather surrender your life to righteousness, (i.e., the fruits of the Spirit love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control etc.), (Gal. 5:22-23). Paul is saying to the Roman brothers and sisters don't wait until the resurrection to live right before God live that life now, live now as though they have already died and been resurrected.

**Sin will not have dominion over those in Christ:** (v14) carries the following two thoughts:

1. The dominate desire of those baptised into Christ is to honour God they have become slaves to righteousness therefore sin is no longer their master.

2. Sin cannot condemn those in Christ to eternal death because those in Christ are under grace and not the law and without the law sin has no power to sentence a person to condemnation.

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## ROMANS 6:15-19

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### Are we to Sin because we are not under Law but under Grace?

- **Romans 6:15-19:** What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! <sup>16</sup>Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? <sup>17</sup>But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, <sup>18</sup>and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. <sup>19</sup>I am speaking in human terms, because of *your natural limitations*. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.

Paul asks the question, "If sin cannot condemn those in Christ to eternal death is it OK to sin" (v15). The answer of course is obvious, definitely not; grace is not to be used as excuse to sin. Paul points out an obvious law; if we surrender our lives to another person we become their slave, then applies the same principle firstly to sin (i.e., to living in impurity and lawlessness) (v19) which leads to death and secondly to righteousness (i.e., living according to integrity and morality and upholding justice decency and honesty etc.), which leads to eternal life.

**NOTICE:** those who have been baptised into Christ do not need rules and laws since they become obedient from the heart (v17) meaning they desire inwardly to do the right thing and honour the Lord with their life. It is in this sense that they are set free from sin (v18) being the master over them and have become slaves to doing the right thing before God and the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul's words:

- I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations (v19).

Means that though he is calling all those in Christ to the highest standard of living he realises that we all have sinful aberrations and dysfunctions dwelling within us that limit us from attaining to God's perfect standard of righteousness, nevertheless the aim of our lives should be to live as slaves to doing the right thing before God and to honour the name of the Lord Jesus Christ which will lead to sanctification (meaning approval and blessing) as opposed to living in impurity and lawlessness.

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## ROMANS 6:20-23

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### The Wages of Sin is Death, but the Free Gift of God is Eternal Life in Christ.

- **Romans 6:20-23:** When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. <sup>21</sup>But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? The end of those things is death. <sup>22</sup>But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. <sup>23</sup>For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Prior to conversion the Roman brothers were indifferent to God and therefore living to honour God was not even a consideration so of course they lived to please themselves in impurity and lawlessness (v19). But since the wages of sin is death their life was not only going to end in eternal death, but are also now ashamed of the way they lived, because

now they know God they desire to honour him with their life and in this sense they are slaves to God, but the reward of this lifestyle is God's approval, the free gift of righteousness and eternal life in Christ Jesus the Lord.

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#### FOOTNOTE

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No one is saved by good works or living a good life, but good works and living a good life outwardly evidence the faith and the love of God dwelling in the heart. No faithful brother and sister in Christ endeavours to keep the law to earn righteousness that leads to eternal life. This is because those in Christ are fully aware of the sinful aberrations and dysfunctions that dwell within and because of this awareness they are also fully aware that it is only by their faith in Christ and God's grace that they are counted righteous. Their motivation and endeavour to keep the law is not driven by a vain attempt to earn righteousness, but because of the love of God that dwells in the heart and the heartfelt desire and passion to honour Him and be a good testimony to the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

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*As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.*

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