

The Book of Romans - Part 24

We continue our study today in the book of Romans in chapter 6 and Paul, in verses 15-18, says: ¹⁵*What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.* ¹⁶*Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?* ¹⁷*But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.* ¹⁸*Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.*

In these verses 15-18, we see that Paul is saying we become servants to whom we obey, and I think that's pretty common sense when we think about that. And Paul goes on to ask do we have a license to sin simply because we're under grace, and we're saved that way? And he says absolutely not in verse 15.

And then he says to realize that whether you choose to yield yourself to sin or yield yourself to righteous obedience you will be the servant to the one or the other, in Romans 6:16.

Then in verses 17-18, he says thank God you were the slaves of sin but because you listened to sound doctrine... in other words, good teaching, sound teaching brought to you... you became moral servants doing what is right.

And now we pick up our study today in Romans 6:19-23, and we see in those verses the motivation for serving God. Paul in verse 19 says: ¹⁹*I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity;*

even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.

What Paul seems to be saying here is that you've been weak in the flesh, which has been proven by letting your body be used for sin, which in turn produced more sin. And he goes on to say, just as sin led to more sin in your body, you need to do right, because serving what is right and holy leads to more holiness.

And then in verses 20-21, he says when you serve sin you are not ruled by what was right. In those verses starting with verse 20 and then reading through verse 21, Paul says: ²⁰*For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness.* ²¹*What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death.*

He said, "What were the consequences of what you did while serving sin?" The result of serving sin is that it produces death, according to the Word of God, and that's that Paul is trying to get across to the people here at Rome.

And then we see in verse 22, he says: ²²*But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye you're your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.*

The fruit of serving sin is death but the fruit of serving righteousness is life is what he's saying. Because, if you do right, then you're going to see everlasting life. It's going to produce life.

In I John 5:11, it says, *And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.*

In John 8:36, it says, *If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.*

Now Paul is not teaching in these verses, chapter 6, verses 20-21 and down through verse 22 here that a person is saved by doing righteous. He's saying that a person lives because they are righteous, and the way they become righteous is through Jesus Christ. Now notice once again in verse 22 it says, *But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye you're your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.*

We give our hearts and lives to the Lord and we live for Him. Not to be saved but because we are saved we live for Him. And He says the end thereof is going to be everlasting life. And what that means is that one day we're going to see the Lord personally. The real person is not going to die. My soul will never die, and I will be with the Lord forever, but keep this in mind, those who are not saved, their souls live on forever as well, and the Bible teaches that they have an everlasting death, constantly dying but never ceasing to be, constantly tormented, not because God wanted that for these people who never trusted Him as Savior, but these people suffer because they have chosen to do the things that bring forth death. In other words, they have not chosen life. They have not chosen Jesus.

And I John 5:11 once again says: *And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.*

Now notice something else here in verse 23. *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.* The wages or the payoff of sin is death, Paul's saying here, and he's speaking under the inspiration of God. He says the payoff of sin is death, but God gives the gift of eternal

life and this life comes through and because of Jesus our Lord.

John 2:28 says: *And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.*

Now in chapter 6 of Romans we see that it speaks of baptism and sin. By baptism, we identify ourselves. Now, I'm speaking of water baptism. By water baptism, we identify ourselves with Christ, His death, burial, and resurrection. As we are baptized, we acknowledge that we believe He was crucified, He died, He was buried, and that He was resurrected from the dead. And because we have believed and trusted in Him as Savior, believe that He did die, was buried, and rose from the dead, we have the privilege of being identified with Him in water baptism. Water baptism does not save you. Water baptism is the symbol of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, and it's a great privilege that we have as saved people to be identified with our Lord in water baptism.

And because of our union with Christ, sin no longer holds us to the extent it did before we were saved. This is seen in chapter 6 that we're finishing here. Sin is to no longer have dominion over us, and we can reckon ourselves to be dead indeed to sin. We do not now have to fear being in eternity separated from God because we have the God of eternity as our Savior, and I can just simply say hallelujah, what a Savior.

Well, let's leave chapter 6 of Romans and let's go on into chapter 7. Now the objectives in studying chapter 7 of the book of Romans, first of all, is to understand the Christian's relationship to the law of Moses. And secondly, it's to comprehend the deliverance from sin one can have. Now, I'm sure there

are other objectives but these are the two objectives. And we want to look at these objectives as we go through chapter 7.

In verse 1, Paul says in the first part of that verse: *¹Know ye not, brethren, for I speak to them that know the law....* Paul is speaking here primarily to the Jews. The law spoken of here is most likely the Mosaic law. The Ten Commandments Paul is referring to here in the first part of Romans 7:1. And then he goes on to say in that verse... *how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth?*

Let's read that verse together now. He says, *Know ye not, brethren, for I speak to them that know the law, how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth?* Now the law has dominion over those who live under the law. In other words, they have given themselves to trying to keep the Ten Commandments. The person who does this is under the power, its power, the law, and that person is exposed to its penalties. Separation has taken place between Christians and the law in which they have become dead to it and they are not now to attempt to draw their life and peace from the law, but from that New Source with which they are connected by the Gospel. And that New Source, of course, is our Savior. And we see that we have victory in our lives as saved people through the Holy Spirit, letting the Holy Spirit take care of us, for letting the Holy Spirit guide and direct our paths.

Now, in verse 2, it says, *For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband*

What Paul is saying here is a married woman is bound to her husband while he lives. That's pretty straightforward, but when her husband

is dead, she is discharged from the law by which she was bound to him. And once again, that's using spiritual common sense as we study the Scriptures. And by the way, let me say that the Scriptures actually interpret themselves. If you find yourself saying, "Well, I really don't understand the verse that I'm reading," you need to pray and ask God to lead you and guide you. And then you need to keep reading, because the Scripture that you're reading will be explained as you read other Scriptures with it.

Today, as we look into the book of Romans, we see that Paul has brought us to this point of realization that all are under sin. All have sinned and come short of the glory of God, but that God commended His love toward us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. And if we do not accept Christ as our Savior, it says the wages of sin is death.

The only way to escape the penalty of sin is to accept Jesus Christ who kept the Ten Commandments perfectly... is to accept Jesus Christ as our Savior. It wasn't because He kept the Ten Commandments that we are saved. It's because of His blood. The Bible says that without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin, and because of the shedding of blood, we have been set free. One day we will be set free completely once this body has been changed and we are with our Lord and Savior in person.

Do you know Him today as your Savior? Have you trusted Him? Why not ask Him to come into your heart right now. "Lord, come into my heart. I receive what You said in Your Word that You would save me if I would ask You to come into my heart to save me so I could go to Heaven." If you'll pray a prayer like this... my prayer won't save you, but if you'll pray a prayer and mean it in your heart, your innermost being, "Lord, I want to be saved. I want to go to Heaven. Save me so I

can go to Heaven," the Bible says whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord... you'll be saved, according to the Word of God.

Let me invite you to look at our Website this week, www.LRWM.org. On the Website, you'll be able to download this program and other programs of "It's a Good Life." You'll also be able to download transcripts of this program and other programs of "It's a Good Life." You'll also be able to find Bible study helps there.

I'd like to hear from you personally. Why not write me this week: Lewis Woodard 497 Judith Avenue, Fruitland Park, FL 34731.

It's been good being with you, and until the next time when you hear me say it's a good life, may the Lord bless you richly is my prayer.