

**The Footsteps of Faith Series**  
**Lesson # 9 “Righteousness includes dying to sin”**  
Romans 6:1-23

**Scripture:** Romans 1:16-17

*“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “BUT THE RIGHTEOUS man SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.”*

**Introduction:**

When I was a construction superintendent I was building a church building and met a HVAC contractor named LD Boyd. LD became a good friend of my because he was almost....almost as honoree as me. One day we got to talking about something and he reached in his pocket and handed me a coin and asked me if I knew what it was. I looked at it and guessed it to be some foreign currency as I had never seen it before. He told me it was his AA coin, as in Alcoholic’s Anonymous. Then I said “oh you used to be an Alcoholic?” Then he straightened me right out. He said no I am an Alcoholic, I have been sober for 16 years. He said I have to get up each morning and recommit to my decision to stop drinking. He said each day is a new struggle.

**Transitional Statement:**

Church the footsteps of faith comes with great responsibility and God expects our renewed efforts every day as we continue in righteousness.

**Lesson:**

**I. Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase?**

Romans 6:1-7

*What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase?*

- A. Maybe the heart of the question is “Does sin really matter?”
  - 1. What a relevant question for today
    - a. Where God is seemingly the last things on people’s mind
    - b. And fulfilling personal desires reigns supreme
  - 2. Even the so called religious world doesn’t take sin very seriously.

- a. Man's thinking came up with the idea of once you saved you always saved, promoting the idea that you can't fall out of favor with God and therefore sin really doesn't matter.
- b. Religions of the world fill their sermons with political venues and concerns about green house gases instead of reminders for purity in the eyes of God.

B. Remember that some were slanderously report that the Apostles were promoting sin that good might come. Romans 3:8

2 *May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?*

A. Here Paul puts the nail in that coffin, so to speak, with an adamant answer.

1. Not just no...but may it never be !

B. Then Paul goes on to explain that we died (basically we were separated) from sin so we can we live in it, or be attached to it.

1. So he explains: 3-5

*3 Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection,*

2. At baptism we enter the death, burial and resurrection of Christ

a. Let's think about Christ' death, burial and resurrection.

b. What exactly happened as Christ died and was buried and resurrected?

1) The sin of the world was placed upon Christ 1 Cor 5:21

-Separating Him from God

-“Why has thou forsaken me?”

2) In His death sins were done away with because His precious blood was spilled as a perfect atoning sacrifice Eph 1:7

3) And God raised Him from the dead (Acts 4:10) never again to be attached to sin.

3. You see, when we are immersed into Christ
  - a. We enter into this saving act with Jesus
  - b. We take our sins with us and give them to Him
  - c. And His blood covers them washes them whiter than snow
  - d. And we give up our old selves and leave them behind.

Galatians 2:20

*20 "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me..."*

- e. And we are raised to walk in newness of life.

2 Corinthians 5:17

*17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.*

- f. This whole process is called the gospel by Paul in 1 Cor 15:1-4
4. *6 knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; 7 for he who has died is freed from sin.*
    - a. Continued sin really does matter
      - 1) It is rebellion against God
      - 2) It is missing God's Mark
      - 3) And left unchecked will separate us from God

Hebrews 10:26 *"For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,"*

- b. As Christians we are freed from sin !

## **II. We are to be dead to sin, and alive to God in Christ**

Romans 6:8-11

*8 Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, 9 knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him. 10 For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.*

- A. Since we have died with Christ at baptism

1. We now are to live our lives with Him
  2. Our lives are bound up in and revolve around Christ
- B. As Christ was raised from the dead
1. That is as He was released from sin and Re-united with God
    - a. He would never take sin on again and never to be separated from God again.
    - b. Therefore the sin of separation no more has dominion over Christ
- C. The point is that Christ left sin behind once and for all and now lives to God.
1. And so should we !
  2. Simply stated in Verse 11

*“Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.”*

### **III. We are not to let sin rule us**

Romans 6:12-14

*12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, 13 and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness;...*

- A. Don't let sin reign (rule) in your mortal bodies
1. Don't obey its lust (longing for the forbidden)
  2. Don't let sin control you
  3. If you do you will be instruments of unrighteousness

*“...but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. 14 For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace.”*

- B. We are to present ourselves to God
1. As alive from the dead
  2. Instruments (tools) of righteousness.
    - a. Created for good works that God has prepared for us Eph 2:10

C. For sin shall not master you...

1. Sin shall not have control over us
2. As Christians we are slaves of righteousness
3. And to top it off we are under grace not law.
  - a. That gives us a greater responsibility that comes from desire not obligation.

#### **IV. Our obedience belongs to Christ**

Romans 6:15-16

*15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? May it never be! 16 Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?*

- A. Shall we minimize the importance of sin and abuse the grace of God
  1. Never
  2. Sin is serious and God takes it seriously
- B. At baptism, through Christ, we have presented ourselves to God for obedience
- C. And we are slaves to the one that we obey
  1. If we obey sin it results in death
  2. But if we obedient to God that will result in righteousness

#### **V. Thanks be to God**

Romans 6:17-19

*17 But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, 18 and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. 19 I am speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness, resulting in further lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification.*

- A. Thanks to God
  1. You became obedient
    - a. From the heart / not out of compulsion
    - b. To the for or pattern of teaching which you committed to

2. Became slaves of righteousness
  - a. Resulting in sanctification / holiness / purity

## **VI. Then and now**

Romans 6:20-23

*20 For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. 21 Therefore what benefit were you then deriving from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the outcome of those things is death. 22 But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life.*

- A. When you were slaves of sin you didn't have any responsibility to righteousness.
  1. You were outside of God's favor
  2. There were not benefits from sinfulness
  3. Now you are ashamed of them
- B. Now,
  1. Freed from sin
  2. God is your master
  3. The benefit package is great
    - a. purified
    - b. Eternal life

*23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

- A. Remember that wages are a result of work and this points to the Law where death is the result.
- B. But the gift of God through Christ is eternal life

## **Conclusion:**

**Church we can't be passive in relation to sin**

**We must be proactive every day**

**Satan is a roaring lion seeking to devour you 1 Peter 5:8**