

Sunday, Oct.25, 2009

**Living Hope EFC**

Art Smith

God's grace frees from the penalty, and the **power** of sin.  
*God's Answer to Sin's Mastery in Our Lives: Rom.6:1-14 – Part 2.*

---

**ILLUS:** Swindoll, *The hold of slavery.*

"Ultimately, with the adoption of the 13<sup>th</sup> amendment of the U.S. Constitution, slavery was legally abolished. It was then that black slavers all across America were officially set free....Headlines on newspapers in virtually every state trumpeted the same message: 'Slavery Legally Abolished.'

And yet, *something happened* that many would have never expected. **The vast majority of the slaves in the South who were legally freed continued to live on as slavers.** Most of them went right on living as though nothing had happened. Thought free, the Blacks lived virtually unchanged lives throughout the Reconstruction Period.

**Shelby Foote**, in his monumental, 3-volume work on *The Civil War*, verifies this surprising anomaly:

...the Negro was locked in a caste system of 'race etiquette' as rigid as any he had known in formal bondage...every slave could repeat with equal validity, what an Alabama slave had said in 1864 when asked what he thought of the Great Emancipator whose proclamation went into effect

that year. 'I don't know nothing about Abraham Lincoln,' he replied, 'cep they say he sot us free. And I don't know nothing bout that neither.'

A war had been fought. A president had been assassinated. An amendment to the Constitution had now been signed into law. **Once-enslaved men, women and children were now legally emancipated.** Yet amazingly, many continued living in fear and squalor. In a context of hard-earned freedom, slaves chose to remain as slaves. Cruel & brutal though many of their owners were, black men & women chose to keep serving the same old master until they died. There were a few exceptions, but in many parts of the country you'd never have known that slavery had been officially abolished and that they had been emancipated. That's the way the plantation owners wanted it. They maintained the age-old philosophy, 'Keep 'em ignorant & you keep 'em in the field.'

- *The Grace Awakening*, 106-107

Christ, our Great Emancipator, set us free from sin.

Yet most Christians go on living the same as always. The headline is broadcast in Scripture! We've all read the news. But is it our experience?

**Schaeffer:** "Paul, in chapters 6 & 7, speaks of the tragic reality that, even though we are alive in Christ, all too often we live as though we are still dead." – *The Finished Work of Christ*, 149

- It's preached about every week. But many Christians go on virtually unchanged! They've heard about it, but don't know much about it.
- We go on living under the same old master, "SIN." He is cruel & brutal & deadly. We live in fears & moral squalor, no direction, no hope, little love, little patience. There are ex captions.
- But most serve the same old passions and habits. And that's the way Satan wants to keep us, "ignorant and in sin."

Paul asks the Q: Should we go on sinning...as usual? That grace abound? The Q. comes up naturally in Paul's presentation of his theme:1:16

**In Chap.1-3** Paul shows that all men are by nature, under sin's control.

**In Chap.3-5** he reveals that we can now be made righteous by faith

- Adam sinned & all men died. Christ died so all men can live.
- And this "new life" should make a difference in how we live today.

Paul has been boasting about Christ & God's Great Grace!

**1: 5:15. Contrast between Adam's "1" sin VS God's grace gift.**

*POINT:* There is **NO comparison** between what one man did by mistake, and what almighty God did – on purpose, through His Divine Son.

Whereas Adam's sin brought death to all, by contrast, God's grace gift is MUCH MORE in it affect, abounding for many!

- **What God's perfect, omnipotent Son can do is incomparable!**

Rom.6:1-14: Paul now gives God's Answer to Sin's Mastery.

THESIS: **Chafer:** "Salvation from the **power of sin** for the Christian, like salvation from the penalty of sin for the unsaved, depends on two factors; the divine provisions and the human appropriation," Vol.2, 349.

- **Emphasis** in Rom.3-5 = Christ's death for us, saves us from judgment.
- **Emphasis** of Rom.6 = we died with Christ, freeing from sin's power

**CHET:** As we are **not automatically** saved - because Christ died for our sins, neither are we automatically delivered from sin's power – because our old man was crucified. **FAITH makes provision – our possession**

**6:2,4 The A:** Death has effectively ended our relationship with sin!

**1: God's salvation includes His provision for freedom from sin's power.**

**2: He is NOT saying that it is impossible for us to sin (1 John 1:8,10).**

- He IS saying it is logically & ethically inconsistent.
- *While the experience of many Christians, is not Christian experience.*

**3: Paul is now dealing with the principle of SIN, VS SINS.**

- Up until 5:12 Paul has been dealing with God's answer to our SINS.
- From 5:18-8:39 "SIN" is mentioned 35 times.

**4: "We died to sin" (v.2, 3,4,5, 6,7). Sin has not died or gone away.**

- **Spiritual reality is the issue, not feelings. This is a *svn* act of God.**
- We can never say: "I have no sin," NOR "I must sin" 1 Jn.1:8, 2:1-2

*POINT:* **God has made a provision for us to NOT sin. We are not to go on the way it used to be. He has broken sin's dominion over us.**

- **McConkey:** NOW we can say to sin: "I am conscious of your presence in me. I know too well the appeal you make to me. BUT I believe with all my heart your dominion over me was broken by what God did in Christ for me." -*The Way of Victory*, 21
- **Don't confuse sin's presence in you with sin's dominion over you.**

**6:5-7** Our old man was crucified with Christ. We are freed from sin

**6:5** –We "have been" (perfect tense) united to his death...resurrection"

- **Cut off from commerce & communion with sin. A new life – NOW.**

**ILLUS: Blood transfusion.**

A man who is going to receive a blood transfusion from his sister. His immune system must be destroyed, and he will have her immune system. His new health is actually her health!

- The quality of his new life is totally dependent upon the quality of his sister's blood/ life! - The same it true for the Christian!
- God has given us new life. We add nothing to it. We live by faith!

**6:6 – Our “old man” has been (aorist) crucified.”**

“Rendered inoperative, deprived of power, made of no effect. –**Heb.2:14.**

- NEW life (v.4) comes out only as OLD man is rendered inoperative.
- WHEN? 2,000 years ago. HOW? By our real union with Christ.

**Old Man?** = Our state of existence in Adam, as a result of the fall. All that it meant to be related to him, “under sin,” separated from the grace of God, **5:12,19.** – It includes our history, estate, lifestyle, corrupt nature – our identity in the first Adam.

- It is mentioned three times by Paul. (1) Here – it is said to be crucified. In Eph.4:22 & Col.3:9 we are told to “put it off.”
- Positionally – it has been crucified with Christ – forever.
- Conditionally & experientially- it remains active when not consigned to God's dealing with it on the cross.
- **Body of sin:** The instrument we use in service to sin, sin's weapon.
- **SIN:** the principle of evil, the source from which evil operates within man, embondaging him, causing him to be dead to God!
- **FLESH** – Rom.8:5-8; Gal.5A:16 = our sinful nature.

**6:7 – Death frees from all previous legal obligations & relationships.**

- It cancels old debts, breaks old ties, clears of all claims against us.

**Newell:** “Perhaps no more difficult task, no task requiring such constant vigilant attention, is assigned by God to the believer...this matter of taking note of & keeping in mind what goes so completely against consciousness, that our old man was crucified.

These words are addressed to faith, to faith only. Emotions, feelings, deny them. To reason, they are foolishness. But ah, what stormy seas has faith walked over!...Let us never forget, that this crucifixion was a thing definitely done by God at the cross, just as really as our sins were there laid upon Christ,” 212.

**6:8-10.** God has done for us, what Christ has achieved for us.

Our new relationship to sin and life is what Christ's is!

- What happened to HIM, happened to US, by our union with Him.

**6:9** – “Was **raised** (aor). “Is (pres) **no longer** dying, mastered by sin.”

**6:10** – “**Once for all**” died to sin! Alive to God – **forever!** = Our state!

**POINT 1 Cor.15:** “The sting of death is sin, & the power of sin is the law. Death is swallowed up in victory.” All relation to death & sin ended.

**APPLICATION:**

**6:11.** NOW you must individually apply what is your new life.

*We may continue to sin. The fact is, God ended our relationship to it.*

**So...What is left for us to do, to defeat sins' mastery over us?**

- **6:11 "Count it yours!"** –(λογιζομαι) Present imperative.
- **Used 11 times in Rom.4. "Credit, impute, count it so, reckon."**
- **An accounting, bookkeeping term – designating value.**
- We are to *count the full value of Christ's death & resur/ as ours.*

**ILLUS:** \$2000 check.

When someone gives you a check for \$2000, what do you do with it?

- You take it to the bank and cash it. Only thing you do is sign it.
- What if you only have \$5 in your account? How does that affect cashing the check? ***The Q isn't how much we have in our account, but how much the person writing the check has in his account.***
- If he's good for it – our account reads \$2005
- **What is required of us – is our signature.**

**APPLY:** By virtue of Christ's death & resurrection there has been issued to every believer, on God's bank, "death to sin, crucifixion, & resurrection."

- **What is left for us to do?** Endorse it.
- God isn't interested in how much we have in our account. He is interested in the fact that in Christ "we have every spiritual blessing."
- Our tendency – is to look at our resources, our past behavior, our track record – and conclude "we can't live the Christian life."
- **God says:** "I died & rose," and I give you the spiritual capital of my labors. Bank on it. Believe it, **count on it**, present yourselves to me.
- We check out our failures & our past – and conclude we haven't changed. We have no evidence that anything will be different.
- **Instead of "counting ourselves dead...alive," taking God's Word for it's face value, we doubt. We don't sign the check.**
- God says, "I ended your old life at the cross. Count on it."
- This is faith like Abraham's – Rom.4:17,21!

**POINT:** That which Christ did in relation to sin and new life, the believer is now to count upon with the same value for himself. Christ's achievements (the riches of grace) are in our spiritual account to draw upon.

- It goes back to the principle explained in **5:18-19. The actions of one representing many, involve the many in his merit or demerit.**
- *Counting it so does not crucify self, it applies what is already done.*
- *It does not make the fact, but is commanded in view of the facts.*

**6:12** – "Stop letting sin reign" (pres impv).

**6:13** – Don't place your members at sin's disposal (pres impv). BUT – Present yourselves (aor impv) to God – once for all, then daily!

**6:14** – Here is Paul's decisive answer & contrast to verse one.

- Grace – does not abound by the Christians ongoing sins...

- Grace abounds by setting the slaves free from sin's bondage!
- It effectively ends our relationship to sin, and gives us a new relationship with God that is free from sin's control.

#### SUMMARY

1 – **God has set us free from sin's power** by applying Christ's death to sin's power – to our account, as well as His resurrection life – Jn.7:38-39.

- Something so real & substantial has happened to believers in their intimate union with Christ, that Paul tells us NO LONGER to allow sin to rule in our earthly bodies!
- What a change from 1:18f, where sin in man was out of control!
- Sin still has an aggressive agenda to control us!
- To yield our members to sin = weapons of wickedness & death!
- Yielding to God = weapons of spiritual life. Chap1-2 VS Chap.12-16

2 – **To be set free by someone is one thing!**

**To realize our freedom is another.**

- **The fact of our emancipation is dependent upon our Emancipator.**
- *Experiencing freedom from sin's domination takes our intelligent obedience of faith, in the facts of Christ's accomplishments.*
- There is no cheap easy way; no flash experience to sanctification.
- It is a decision of faith in the facts, followed by a daily attitude of faith

#### Emancipation Proclamation

- Swindoll, Grace Awakening, 106-07

It was New Year's Day, 1863 when the Emancipation Proclamation was publicly stated, but it was not until Dec.18, 1865, two years later, that the Constitution made those convictions official. By the time it became law Lincoln was dead, yet never was his influence & voice of greater effect!

2,000 years ago Jesus died on the cross paying sins' penalty, & destroying sin's power over every Christian who would ever believe in Him.

- Never has His influence and voices been of greater affect.

*THOSE who walk in freedom, are those who BELIEVE it is true everyday.*