

## Romans Chapter 6

Before we begin Romans chapter 6, please review Romans chapter 5 by circling the correct answers.

1. What is the theme of Romans 5? **a.** Our human works are necessary for salvation, **b.** Salvation is a free gift, **c.** Justification is always and only by faith.
2. Which two men does Paul compare to illustrate sin and salvation? **a.** Adam and the apostle John, **b.** Abraham and Moses, **c.** Abraham and John the Baptist, **d.** Adam and Christ.

### **V. Sanctification: Demonstration of God's Righteousness**

#### **a. Righteousness is produced in us by the Holy Spirit (Rom 6:1–23)**

Let's recap what we've studied so far. In Romans 1 and 2, we discovered that Gentiles and Jews are unrighteous, meaning all of us are guilty sinners in need of a Savior. In Romans 3, 4 and 5, we discovered that God's answer to our sin problem is justification by faith alone. For us to be justified, the wrath of God against our sins had to be appeased first and that involved propitiation, Romans 3:25, the Lord Jesus Christ dying on Calvary as our substitute, taking our place so He could take our punishment upon Himself. By doing that, Jesus appeased the wrath of God against our sins. Think of it this way: God punished Jesus so He could pardon me. That's what Calvary is all about. Romans 3, 4, and 5 are about Justification, which is the result of salvation. Romans 6 is about Identification and Indwelling, which results in Sanctification.

1. To unsaved sinners, the message is, Substitution, Look and live, Romans 5.
2. To saved saints, the message is, Identification, Look and die, Romans 6.

Romans 6 is about God's amazing grace and your Identification with Christ in His crucifixion, death, burial and resurrection, which leads to victory over sin in your day to day life. You must identify with Christ in His death before you can identify with Him in His resurrection. This is a basic gospel truth.

**Sanctification** means: to make holy. God is developing biblical holiness in our thoughts, our actions, our lives. As we read, believe and obey the Bible, the Holy Spirit develops in us the Christ like qualities that make us usable as disciples of Jesus. Sanctification is something God does in us by the power of the Holy Spirit. It is not human effort, human works, human striving or human law keeping. Practical holiness is obedience to the Holy Spirit through the written word of God.

**Justification** deals with and delivers us from the guilt of sin. As born again Christians, we are as justified as we can ever be. It is impossible for us to get more justified than we are right now as born again Christians. Justification is an instantaneous, one time event. Once God justifies us, we can never lose that justification and we can never improve upon that justification. It's a done deal and we are justified freely by His grace forever.

**Sanctification** deals with and delivers us from the power of sin. As long as we live on earth, we will always need sanctification in our daily lives. As long as we are in the flesh, no Christian on earth is ever fully sanctified. Progressive Sanctification is not a one time event like justification. It is a continuous, ongoing process which God works in us until the day we die or are raptured home to heaven.

If we were delivered from the guilt of sin through justification but were still under the power of sin, we couldn't live a life pleasing to God. Yet the truth is, all of us struggle with sin and the guilt of sin after we get saved and sometimes, our lives are not pleasing to God. Our old man, our old fleshly nature, kicks up its heels and rebels against living for Jesus. Paul is practical in meeting this sanctification challenge head on, by revealing, in Romans chapter 6, God's secret for living a holy life. Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, wrote about this in his hymn, O For A Thousand Tongues To Sing, in 1739, one year after his conversion to Christ.

He breaks the power of canceled sin,  
He sets the prisoner free;  
His blood can make the foulest clean;  
His blood availed for me.

The secret in Romans 6 is God's grace in Substitution, Identification and Indwelling, which leads to Sanctification. It is about how God breaks the power of cancelled sin and sets the prisoner free, by His blood, by His grace, by His truth.

Truth without grace produces legalists.  
Grace without truth produces libertines.  
Grace and truth must always stick together.

As we study Romans 6, let's always keep grace and truth together. Both are necessary to live a victorious life in Christ. In Romans chapter 6, we've moved on from our doctrinal foundation of justification by faith. Justification gave us standing with God. Chapter 6 is about sanctification, what God has done for us in

Christ and, how that affects the way we live. 1. Positional sanctification also describes our standing with God. 2. Progressive sanctification is about our state in this life. Progressive sanctification is God working in us to make us holy in our day to day life. God works in our lives to make us like Jesus. There is a past, present, and future aspect to our sanctification.

Past = **Positional** sanctification = Our Standing in Christ  
Present = **Progressive** sanctification = Our actual State in this life  
Future = **Perfect** sanctification = Our actual state in heaven

Positional sanctification is our standing with God by an instantaneous act of God's amazing grace, which takes place the moment we get saved. God justifies and sanctifies us. When we get saved, we are sanctified positionally and are holy as to our standing. We are set apart unto God for His use and we are permanently indwelt, Ephesians 1:13-14, by the Spirit of holiness or the Spirit of Jesus Christ, Philippians 1:19, aka, the Holy Spirit.

In Christ, we have positional sanctification, 1 Corinthians 1:2, 30; that is our standing. Our positional sanctification positively affects the way we live our lives in this present world. How we live day to day in this world, meaning, our behavior as Christians, 1 Peter 1:5, is our progressive sanctification. Positionally we are holy or sanctified, in Christ, because we are in Christ and are identified with Him in His crucifixion, death, burial and resurrection.

As Christ gave us the gift of His righteousness via justification by faith, Romans 5:1, so also, we are given the gift of Christ's holiness via positional sanctification, Hebrews 10:10, Romans 6:19, 22. In God's eyes, our standing is, we are as holy as Christ is holy, because we are in Him and He is in us. That is our standing. Because of our Standing, in Christ, God views us as being so holy that, right now, spiritually speaking, we as Christians, are seated together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus, Ephesians 2:6.

Because we are in Christ, our positional sanctification is a fact, even if we are not as godly and spiritual as we would like to be, even if we are not living up to our standing in Christ. Our progressive sanctification is different and is an ongoing process throughout our Christian life, in which God works holiness or sanctification in us. Progressive sanctification is about our attitudes and behavior. God wants us to live for him, not for the world, the flesh and the devil. Our attitudes and behavior, meaning, how we live, are not always sanctified. Every Christian is a work in progress, as God works in us throughout our life, to

conform us to the image of Christ. Our perfect sanctification will not be realized until the rapture or until we die and go to heaven. We understand these truths based on what Paul wrote about the Corinthian believers, who were positionally sanctified because they were in Christ, 1 Corinthians 1:2, but who, even though positionally sanctified as to their standing in Christ, were still carnal, 1 Corinthians 3:1, 3, 4. *Carnal* means fleshly, governed by or giving in to our old fleshly nature, allowing the old man to run our lives. *Carnal* describes Christians who do not yet understand that they have been made free from sin, Romans 6:18, and therefore, are living below their standing in Christ. The last two verses of Romans chapter 5 introduce us to Romans chapter 6.

*“Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.” Romans 5:20-21*

**Romans 6:1 - What shall we say then?** - In light of our justification by grace in Romans 3:24, our justification by faith in Romans 5:1 and our justification by His blood in Romans 5:9, *what shall we say?* In light of the fact that we died in Adam and live in Christ, *what shall we say?* In light of the truth that God intends grace to reign (in our earthly lives), through righteousness unto eternal life, *what shall we say?*

Having presented radical, abounding grace from God as the new normal for Christians, a new and unfamiliar concept in first century Rome, which was full of the temples of angry, vengeful gods, Paul anticipates questions he may get from unsaved Jews and saved but legalistic Jews and from rowdy Gentiles.

God has a purpose for saving us that goes far beyond keeping us out of hell and eventually taking us home to heaven. Before salvation, Roman Christians were dead in sin. Now, after salvation, they are dead to sin. What is the difference between those two? \_\_\_\_\_

God intended grace to reign through righteousness in their lives and our lives, down here on earth, before we go to heaven, because, as Christians, we are dead to sin. People who are dead to sin don't need to live as if they are slaves to sin. Can you get your mind around that concept? \_\_\_\_\_ What shall we say then and how shall we live then, since we are justified by grace, by faith, by His blood? \_\_\_\_\_

In the book of Romans, Paul asks a total of 85 questions as a way of presenting his case for God's truth. Remember, Paul is a learned doctor of Jewish law, *an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee*, Philippians 3:5. He asks questions as a way of advancing his argument and teaching gospel truth to his readers. Asking questions that likely had been put to him throughout his missionary ministry, is Paul's way of encouraging his readers to think about the issues and doctrines he introduces. Asking questions prompts Paul's readers to discuss and wrestle with the implications of grace in every area of their lives. He also answers objections and false ways of understanding the grace filled truths he presents. This teaching method is logical and appeals to the longing of the human heart for truth.

Underlying Paul's presentation of truth about grace is his belief in the conscience. Paul mentions the conscience 11 times in his NT writings. Paul believed that the conscience, when heeded, would lead people into God's truth, Romans 2:15. Therefore, when he taught God's truth, Paul expected the Holy Spirit to bear witness with the conscience of his hearers and readers, to what he taught. Paul's responsibility was to teach the truth. Leading people to believe truth is the responsibility of the Holy Spirit and He achieves that through the conscience.

We should remember this important truth about the conscience when we witness. The Holy Spirit will bring conviction of sin to the conscience of the people you witness to, which causes them to wrestle with their conscience and God's truth. God wants them to get saved more than you want them to get saved, 2 Peter 3:9. Because grace always abounds more than sin, God's grace can overcome a sinner's objections to the gospel. So, in light of the abounding grace of God, Paul asks: *What shall we say then*, about the reign of sin and death and the reign of grace?

**Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?** - Grace liberates us from sin. Grace never brings us under bondage to sin. If what you're doing and the way you're living is bringing you under bondage to sin, that is not grace. If a Christian is still under bondage to sin, then s(he) needs to read and study Romans 6 to get understanding about God's grace. In the first century AD, Jews and Gentiles were discussing: **a.** the topic of sin and grace, **b.** the growing popularity of the Christian movement and **c.** the thousands of Jews who were joining the churches of the Gentile Christians. How do we know that? In Romans 3:8, Paul had already brought up sin and grace. And in Acts 6:7, Dr. Luke cites the multitudes of Jews who were getting saved.

1. Were saved Gentiles more free in God's grace than saved Jews? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Could a sincere Jew who believed in Jesus as His Messiah, abandon the legalism of Jewish law and still be right with God? \_\_\_\_\_
3. If a saved Jew abandoned Jewish legalism, would he still be saved? \_\_\_\_\_
4. In Romans 5, justification by faith was the theme. In Romans 6, Paul's theme is: **a.** Justification by faith, **b.** Sanctification by faith, **c.** Salvation by works alone.
5. Sanctification has three parts: Positional, Progressive and Perfect. Which of those three describes our Standing in Christ? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Which of those three describes our State? \_\_\_\_\_

**Shall we continue in sin** - Jews were debating Paul's teaching on free grace and free salvation vs. the teaching of Jewish law. They questioned this new teaching on grace. Wasn't what Paul taught just a tricky way to continue in sin? Wasn't this grace teaching a sneaky way to evade the law that God gave to Moses? If the law of Moses was good enough for Jews for 1450 years, who are you, Paul, to change things up and switch to grace now?

Instead of viewing grace as the terminus and fulfillment of OT law, Romans 10:4, saved Jews struggled with their fear that, if they accepted grace, they were abandoning their 1450 year heritage in the law of Moses. So, in Romans 3:8, Paul had said, No, believing in God's grace isn't an excuse to sin and grace isn't a loophole to get away with sin. This was a major stumbling block to saved Jews. They had serious problems with grace which needed to be addressed. Notice the amazing contrast between law and grace.

**When you were unsaved, under law, you were:**

- A Slave to sin - Sin was your master.
- A Servant of sin - Trapped in sin's prison.
- Under sin's dominion - Can't escape sin's power.
- Living under the law.
- An Errand boy for a corpse.
- Free from righteousness.

**Now that you are saved, under grace, you are:**

- Dead to sin - Sin's reign over you is broken.
- Made free from sin doesn't mean sin-free.
- A servant of righteousness.
- Walking in newness of life.
- Not under sin's dominion.
- Living in freedom under grace.

**6:2 - God forbid.** - This phrase is used 9 times in the OT and 10 times in Romans. Paul is a Hebrew of the Hebrews and a Pharisee, Philippians 3:5, so when he speaks and writes, he employs Jewish biblical phrases which were familiar to Jews and to God fearing Gentiles who spent time listening to the rabbis in Jewish synagogues, Matthew 12:20-21, Acts 10:22, 35, 13:16, 26, 42-43, 14:1. You may have noticed that, in the book of Romans, Paul seems to be talking to Jews. That is because he is a Jew for Jesus who uses the OT to make his points. Paul's target audience is Jews and God fearing Gentiles who were Jewish proselytes.

Context is important when we wrestle with understanding scripture - always mind the context. Remember that Paul wrote Romans about twenty five years after the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ. At that early point in the church, grace was still a fresh new idea for people who were used to living with the yoke of OT law upon their neck, Acts 15:10. Grace was present all through the OT. The word grace is used 39 times in the OT but not as a competitor or a replacement for the law of Moses. Grace was/is such an extreme blessing from God that it's difficult, even for us, after two millenniums of radical grace, to get our minds around it.

Grace isn't a sneaky way to get away with sin. Grace isn't a legal loophole so we can do our own thing instead of following God. Free grace is God's radical, game changing gift to everyone in the human race who gets in Christ. Grace has been God's plan from the start. The grace of God flows from Mount Calvary, not from Mt. Sinai. Quoting Ephesians 2:8-9, about the grace of God, doesn't normally send cold shivers down our back but God's amazing grace is so radical and so game changing, that it ought to.

Can you give examples of God's amazing grace in your own life? \_\_\_\_\_

**How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?** - If Paul's readers don't understand what it means to be dead to sin, they do not understand the symbology of water baptism. This is a basic Christian truth that every baby Christian should know. Christian baptism pictures death, burial and resurrection. So when a new believer in Christ is baptized, it is a public association, a public identification, a public testimony, a public illustration that the one being baptized is now identified with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection.

Baptism is more than a religious ceremony or a liturgical event. In Romans 6, Paul is talking about death from start to finish. His point is, no one who understands the meaning of baptism and has been baptized, can cheerfully live

in sin. Since you died with Christ and were buried with Christ, you have died to sin and died to living in sin. Instead of living in sin, you should be living a new life in Christ. Paul is writing to saved people who, just like him, are dead to sin. *We that are dead to sin* doesn't refer to Jews who had not received Jesus as their Messiah or to Gentiles who were still lost or to anyone thinking about getting saved but not saved yet. How can people who are dead to sin keep living in sin?

---

The only people on earth who are dead to sin without being physically dead are people who are saved. Everyone who is not in Christ is still spiritually dead in trespasses and sins, Ephesians 2:1. Think about that. The sweetest, kindest, most gentle followers of every other religion are unsaved and need Jesus. None of them are dead to sin. If they've never believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, they are still dead in trespasses and sins. They are not saved by their kindness or good intentions or good works or their spirituality or their religious beliefs. They are not alive unto God. Their religion has no power to make them alive unto God. They are dead in trespasses and sins, Ephesians 2:1.

That is why born again Christians pass out gospel tracts and live for Jesus and witness for Jesus. The grace of God works for anyone who receives it and gets in Christ. Grace never encourages us to live in sin. *How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?* Grace encourages us to live up to the righteousness of Christ which God imputed to us at salvation. Grace also encourages us to live up to the sanctification or holiness God gave us when He saved us. This is not about earning salvation. This is about, *Walking in the Spirit* and living for Jesus.

1. What is the basis of our justification and sanctification in Christ? **a.** Our faith mixed with our works, **b.** Mostly, just our works after we get saved, **c.** Always and only, faith in Christ's sacrifice of Himself and His righteousness.
2. Grace encourages us to: **a.** Keep living in sin, **b.** Stop living in sin, **c.** Rely on the power of God for victory over sin.
3. After He saves us, God intends: **a.** That we choose our own path, **b.** That we do our best but not get too upset about living in sin, **c.** That we live victorious over sin because of the grace and power of God in our lives.
4. Does the grace of God ever encourage us to live in sin? \_\_\_\_\_

In Romans chapter 6, Paul explains the practical impact of the doctrines he wrote about in chapters 3, 4 and 5. It's all well and good to be saved and justified by faith but what does that mean in my day to day life? How do I go from theory to practice as my daily reality? How can I apply the truths in Romans 3, 4 and 5 to

my life now, in the twenty first century so that I have victory over sin? Paul explains in Romans chapter 6, how to apply gospel truths to our daily life. From the practical foundation of justification by faith, we now explore the practical Christian reality of: 1. Our identification with Christ, 2. Our progressive sanctification and, 3. Victory over sin in our daily lives, by the grace of God.

Before you got saved, death reigned over you, Romans 5:17, and sin reigned over you, Romans 5:21. Now that you are saved, God's radical truth is, grace reigns over you. Are you aware, daily, that grace reigns over you. \_\_\_\_\_ Do you take that into account each day? \_\_\_\_\_ That is your daily spiritual reality even if you've never before thought of it that way.

The only way sin can reign over you now is if you allow it. It's as game changing as going from being a pauper to a prince. Imagine how radical that grace message must have been to people who spent their entire lives trying to keep the 613 commands of OT Jewish law or the impossible requirements of the demon gods who ruled the hundreds of pagan temples in first century Rome, 1 Corinthians 10:20..

No matter how hard they worked, no matter how sincere their heart, they failed. Their law keeping couldn't save them. They had to offer the proper sacrifices the proper way, continually, Romans 10:4-5, Hebrews 10:1, and believe and obey God from a good heart. And now, along comes Paul and says in Romans 2, 3, 4 and 5, Don't try to keep the law. Trust in Christ alone and His grace. Imagine how incandescent a moment it must have been to people who finally got it, who finally understood what Paul was teaching about grace.

**we, that are dead to sin** - What an amazing, life changing concept. Living people who are dead to sin. Did you know that OT law never made anyone dead to sin and never gave anyone victory over sin? OT law pointed out sin and made it exceeding sinful, Romans 7:13 but it didn't provide any power for victory over sin. It didn't give the people trying to keep it the ability to say no to sin.

*We*, is everyone who is saved by believing on the Lord Jesus Christ. *We*, does not include any unsaved people, religious or irreligious. No one who considers himself spiritual apart from faith in Christ, is included in this, *we*. The only people who are dead to sin are saved folks who are in Christ. To get in Christ, *ye must be born again*, John 3:3-7. What does it mean to be *dead to sin*? It means that because you've believed on Jesus, sin and death no longer reign over you. Hebrews 2:15 says that Jesus delivered *them who through fear of death were all*

*their lifetime subject to bondage.* Once you're saved, you're delivered and therefore, no longer in bondage to sin and death and OT law or to pagan religious practices.

1. Circle the group(s) that are dead to sin. **a.** Buddhists, **b.** Baptists, **c.** Catholics, **d.** unsaved people, **e.** saved people, **f.** church members, **g.** preachers
2. Over whom do sin and death reign? **a.** Saved people, **b.** Unsaved people
3. A Christian should: **a.** Sincerely try to keep the law to make sure he is saved, **b.** Stop trying to keep the law, to be saved, and live in God's amazing grace.
4. Could OT law give anyone victory over sin? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Could OT law make anyone dead to sin? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Unsaved people are: **a.** dead to sin, **b.** dead in trespasses and sins
7. Do really religious people also need to get saved? \_\_\_\_\_

**6:3 - Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ -** If you don't learn anything else from Romans chapter 6, please learn this. If you are saved, you are no longer a slave to sin and you are no longer an errand boy for a corpse. Jesus Christ has set you free and God expects you to live in that freedom, in that victory, in that reality. Your Christian life should not be full of sin, defeat and despair. God does not identify saved people with their sins. Instead, God identifies us with Jesus and views us as if we are as righteous as Jesus. That's justification by faith, and, being as holy as Jesus is sanctification by faith.

### **Three Imputations**

1. Adam's sin nature is imputed to us through biological descent.
2. Our sins were imputed to Christ as our substitute on Calvary.
3. Christ's righteousness is imputed to us when we get in Christ.

Christ's righteousness, imputed to you when you get saved, is why, once you are saved, God no longer views you as a sinner because your sins were imputed to Christ on the cross. In that way, when He saved you, He took away all your sins and imputed the righteousness of Christ to you as a free gift, so, He views you as being as perfect as Christ. Why are saved people no longer called by the names of their sins, even if they still commit those sins? There are three answers.

First, Calvary and the resurrection of Christ changed everything. OT law ended in Matthew 27:50, when Jesus died on the cross, Hebrews 9:16-17, and the NT began, Ephesians 2:15ff. Beginning at Matthew 27:50, the OT is: over, abolished, done away with, 2 Corinthians 3:7-13. See page 45ff., of Romans chapter 4. When you get in Christ, you're no longer under OT law and you're no longer the

servant of sin. You are seated in heavenly places in Christ Jesus, Ephesians 2:6 and you have the righteousness of Christ as a present possession.

Second, in 1 Corinthians 6:11, the Bible says: You are washed, sanctified, justified, and, in 2 Corinthians 5:17-18, you are reconciled to God. For that reason your sins no longer define who you are and God no longer sees you as a sinner committing those sins.

Third, in Colossians 2:11ff., the Bible says: You are spiritually circumcised and your saved soul has been cut loose from your unsaved body so that you are no longer an errand boy for a corpse. You are no longer a slave to sin, Romans 6:2-6, because Christ has set you free. Those Bible truths ought to put you on shouting ground!

### 1. Identification and 2. Indwelling

#### Victory over sin is based on

1. your Identification with the Lord Jesus Christ and
2. your Indwelling by the Lord Jesus Christ

**KNOW** - Rom 6:3

**RECKON** - Rom 6:11

**YIELD** - Rom 6:13

I KNOW that:

I'm crucified with Christ

I'm dead with Christ

I'm buried with Christ

I'm risen with Christ

I RECKON that:

My old man is crucified

I'm dead to sin

I'm alive unto God

I'm obeying God!

I YIELD myself:

Body of sin destroyed

I'm yielded to God

I'm not yielding to sin

I'm obeying God!

I am identified with Christ in His crucifixion, Romans 6:6. I am identified with Christ in His death, Romans 6:3. I am identified with Christ in His burial, Romans 6:4. I am identified with Christ in His resurrection, Romans 6:4. This is part of my Standing in Christ. [Page 28 of Romans chapter 4](#) contains more information about your Standing in Christ.

Every Christian should memorize this chart from Romans 6 as part of your daily, determined, grace-affirming, freewill choice to live a victorious Christian life. What you don't know can damage you immensely so make sure you know this. There are no spiritual secrets to victory, which, if you could discover them, would make you a super Christian. Everything you need to live a victorious life is already in the Bible. Victory in Jesus is already available to everyone who is saved and it's

as simple as: **Know, Reckon, Yield**. Because you are in Christ and Christ is in you, you are no longer a slave to sin. You do not have to live in sin.

These truths have been available to Christians since AD 58 when Paul wrote Romans. You have freewill which is amplified and strengthened because you are saved and because you are in Christ and because you are indwell by the Holy Spirit. God expects you to use the power of the indwelling Christ and your freewill when confronted with an opportunity to sin. You do that by using: **Know, Reckon, Yield**. These three will be on a test later in this Bible study. What are four things that you **know**? What are two things you are to **reckon**? What are two facts about **yield**?

There's a lot about Romans 6:3 that most Christians don't know. We could call Romans chapter 6, the Christian's Charter of Liberty or our Christian Declaration of Independence from serving the world, the flesh and the devil. What Jesus accomplished on Calvary made possible our radical freedom in the grace of God. This Christian freedom does not come from water baptism or catechism or church membership or religious good works or new age spirituality. Christian freedom comes only from a personal saving relationship with a person, the Lord Jesus Christ. It is God's gift of grace to us in Christ.

Romans 6:3 is sometimes misunderstood as a reference to God saving us through water baptism yet there is no water in Romans 6. Please don't make the mistake of always thinking, water, when you read the words: baptize, baptized and baptism. The only proper way to understand the Bible is by recognizing and factoring in context. There is no water in Romans chapter 6 so the context is not salvation by water baptism.

Paul is not saying that we get these spiritual blessings through water baptism. He is saying that water baptism by immersion pictures or is a figure of what has already happened spiritually in the life of a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, because the Holy Spirit has baptized us into the body of Christ. Comparing scripture with scripture, we discover that the real baptism Paul alludes to here is by the Holy Spirit, 1 Corinthians 12:13. Spirit baptism does not picture water baptism. Water baptism pictures Spirit baptism, which is the *one baptism* Paul cites in Ephesians 4:5.

*"For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit." 1 Corinthians 12:13*

Water baptism pictures or is a figure of, the spiritual truths that happened when the Holy Spirit baptized you into the body of Christ. Baptism in the Bible doesn't always mean water baptism. There is the baptism of the Holy Spirit, 1 Corinthians 12:13 - no water. There is the baptism of suffering, Matthew 20:22 - no water. What does it mean to be baptized into Jesus Christ? It means that, at the moment you believe on Jesus Christ as your Savior from sin, the Holy Spirit spiritually baptizes you into Jesus Christ - no water.

That is how you become part of the body of Christ, meaning, the church, 1 Corinthians 10:16, 17, 11:29, 12:12, 14, 27, Ephesians 1:22-23, 2:16, 4:4, 5:30. In the Bible, the body of Christ is not a round, flat, wheat wafer. It is the saved and born again folks who have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior. Water baptism after you get saved, pictures what already happened to you spiritually, when you got saved. If you're not saved when you get baptized in water, then water baptism doesn't save you and doesn't picture anything.

Spiritual baptism into Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit, (no water involved), is the real baptism. Water baptism by a pastor or a fellow Christian, is the picture or the symbol or the figure, 1 Peter 3:21, of baptism by the Holy Spirit. Noah's ark was a figure of baptism. Noah and his family didn't go into the water to be immersed.

They were immersed in or by the ark. The people outside the ark were immersed or water baptized and they still drowned. Noah's ark was a type of Christ. To get saved, you get in Christ, meaning, you get in the ark. Noah didn't trust baptism by immersion to save him or his family. He obeyed God and built an ark and got in the ark. So Peter says, "*the like figure whereunto baptism doth even now save us, (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ,*" 1 Peter 3:21.

Think about that. Water baptism and Spirit baptism picture the resurrection of Christ. When you get baptized by immersion after you get saved, when you come up out of the water, that pictures the resurrection of Christ. When Christ arose, He was no longer immersed in the grave. For many people today, baptism by sprinkling is a religious or liturgical ceremony. For them, baptism is not a figure and does not picture the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. It's nothing more than a religious ceremony, which is a completely different view than the baptisms we see in the Bible.

For Christians, water baptism is not salvific (a factor that contributes to salvation) and is not a religious ceremony. Being baptized by the Holy Spirit puts you into

the body of Christ so that is the baptism that saves you - no water involved. Water baptism never saved anyone anytime anywhere. Water baptism never puts you into the body of Christ, never puts you into the local church, never washes away your sins or *the filth of the flesh*. Water baptism puts you into water and gets you wet. Water baptism pictures spiritual baptism. Being baptized by the Holy Spirit is what puts you into the body of Christ, 1 Corinthians 12:13, therefore Spirit baptism is the life saving and soul saving activity.

*“For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.” 1 Corinthians 12:13*

**6:3 - were baptized into his death?** - When you read the word baptized in Romans 6, think 1 Corinthians 12:13. Saved people are so identified with the Lord Jesus Christ that it's as if we were on the cross, crucified with Him. We are identified with Christ in His death. What is the importance of that strong personal identification with Christ in His death? Paul drives home the point that, if you are saved, you died with Christ on Calvary. His death was your death: to sin, to selfishness, to lust, to legalism, to anything that opposes the will of God in your life. You are dead to all that and alive unto the glorious grace of God in Christ.

The Holy Spirit, when He baptized you into Jesus Christ, baptized you into His death. Does a dead man sin? \_\_\_\_\_ Does a dead man rebel against God? \_\_\_\_\_ Paul makes the point that a dead man is dead. He's not running around sinning and getting into trouble anymore. What do we do with a corpse? \_\_\_\_\_

**6:4 - Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death:** - The proper thing to do with a corpse is to bury it. So Paul says, we are buried with him. If you're identified with Christ in His death, then you're also identified with Him in His burial. Because you are dead with Christ and buried with Christ, you are set free from the power of sin. What should you do in light of those facts?

**1.** You put off the old man, Ephesians 4:22. **2.** You put on the new man, Colossians 3:9-10. In essence, that means to live in grace. You are what God says you are. Live in the reality that you are dead to sin and alive unto God. Live in the reality that, when you got saved, Christ gave you a brand new life. Believe what the Bible says about you and treat those truths as if they are realities in your life, because they are. Reckon on those things to be true. “Put off the old man and put on the new man” is a spiritual metaphor. It's like taking off dirty

clothes and putting on clean clothes. You can do that because you are dead with Christ, buried with Christ, risen with Christ, indwelt by Christ.

**buried with him by baptism** - The proper mode of water baptism pictures the mode of burial, immersion, so as to remove the body from sight. If we are buried with him by baptism into death, then baptism must be by immersion. Immersion or burial may be in a natural cave, like Sarah and Abraham, Isaac and Rebekah, and Jacob and Leah, Genesis 23:8-9, 25:9, 35:27-29, 49:31, 50:13 or in a tomb hewn out of the rock, like Joseph's borrowed tomb where Jesus was buried, Matthew 27:60, Mark 15:46, Luke 23:53.

Jewish and Christian burials are different than the sky burials of Buddhists in Tibet and Mongolia and the sky burials of Zoroastrians in ancient Persia. In a sky burial, the body is not really buried. It is left on a mountaintop, exposed to the elements and to birds and animals. Paul writes Romans from the perspective of a conservative Jew with a tradition of burying the dead, who has received his Messiah and is now a Christian follower of Jesus.

In the Bible then, the mode of water baptism is never by sprinkling and never by pouring; it is always by immersion. Sprinkling or pouring dirt on the head of a corpse is not considered burial. A legitimate burial is by immersion. Because water baptism pictures burial and sprinkling or pouring do not picture burial, the only legitimate water baptism is by immersion. Can you think of another kind of water baptism that pictures burial? \_\_\_\_\_

Modern views which see sprinkling as baptism are not based on what the Bible says. Instead, they are based on religious beliefs that are not based on the Bible.

**On that sad and solemn day, you were buried with Christ  
in Joseph's garden tomb. His burial is your burial.  
You are identified with Christ in His burial.**

You were not there physically. The Bible uses the words, *like* and *likeness*, Romans 6:4-5, so that we know we are spiritually identified with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection. Those events are pictured by water baptism after you get saved. Water baptism before you get saved doesn't picture anything (because you haven't been spiritually baptized into the body of Christ by the Holy Spirit at that point) and doesn't do anything except get you soaking wet. Believing on Jesus comes before salvation. Faith in Christ comes before salvation. Water baptism always comes after salvation. Please don't get those out of order.

In a similar way, real biblical baptism always comes after salvation, not before salvation and is always by immersion. Many religious people get baptism out of order by placing water baptism before salvation. They believe that water baptism saves them when, the biblical truth is, water baptism never saved anyone anytime anywhere.

That is why Christians do not accept affusion (pouring) or sprinkling as biblical baptism. No one leans a body against a tree and pours dirt on it or throws dirt in its face and calls that burial. A real burial is by immersion. The body is entirely surrounded by the earth or the tomb.

*“Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.” Romans 6:4*

**that like as Christ was raised up from the dead** - For Christians, every day is Easter because the literal, physical, bodily resurrection of Christ from the dead is central to the biblical gospel and to our lives as born again believers in Christ. If Christ didn't resurrect from the dead in a physical, bodily way, there is no gospel, no salvation and no victory over sin. Don't allow anyone to shift the focus of your faith away from the biblical gospel and the importance of the physical, bodily resurrection of Christ. Many professing Christians believe Jesus only resurrected spiritually. They deny the bodily resurrection of Christ. There is nothing biblical or Christian or spiritual about denying the bodily resurrection of Christ. 1 Corinthians 15:13-14. The resurrection of Christ in scripture, is a physical, bodily resurrection, Luke 24:34-40.

*“But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen:  
And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain,  
and your faith is also vain.” 1 Corinthians 15:13-14*

A God who died for our sins but could not resurrect Himself in a physical body could not give victory to His followers in their struggle with their fleshly, physical bodies. Jesus rose, victorious over sin, death, hell and the grave. Because you as a Christian, are identified with Christ in his crucifixion, death, burial and bodily resurrection, you can live a victorious Christian life. No born again Christian has to be a slave to the flesh. The power of the risen, indwelling Christ makes victory over sin possible for you and me. *“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.” Gal 2:20.*

**by the glory of the Father**, - *The glory of the father* means, by the decision of the Father or by the will of the Father. *By the glory of the Father* refers to the glorious vindication of the Father and His plan of salvation. The glory of the Father refers to His justice and righteousness, that the King of glory, Psalm 24:10, God the Son, propitiated the wrath of God the Father against sin, that He (God) *might be just and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus*, Romans 3:26. It was *the glory of the Father* to proclaim His satisfaction, Matthew 3:16-17, Isaiah 53:11, with the sacrifice of Christ on Calvary. It was *the glory of the Father* to reconcile poor lost sinners unto Himself by pouring out His wrath against sin upon Christ. With His wrath appeased and His justice satisfied, it was *the glory of the Father* to raise Jesus physically, bodily, from the dead: mission accomplished.

When Jesus came to earth the first time, He came in humility and the human race did not treat Him as the King of glory. They treated Him like a servant and cried out for Him to be crucified. When Jesus comes the second time, He comes in glory as the King of glory, Psalm 24:7-10, Revelation 19:11-16 and no one will treat Him like a servant.

**even so we also should walk in newness of life**. - A slave who dies is no longer a slave. No one expects a dead slave to serve his old master. He cannot serve because he is dead. That's what Paul is talking about here. Newness of life refers to our new life in Christ, 2 Corinthians 5:17, which enables our victory over sin. *Newness of life* refers to Ephesians 4:23. "*And be renewed in the spirit of your mind.*" *Newness of life* refers to Colossians 3:10. "*And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him.*"

Before we got saved, death and sin reigned in our lives and we were slaves to a fearful master called sin. What happened when we got saved, that gave us victory over sin? Grace happened! We became new creatures in Christ. Are you beginning to understand why it is important to get in Christ?

1. Our dead spirit, Ephesians 2:1, got born again, John 3:3-7. meaning, our dead spirit got quickened or made alive in Christ.
2. We were spiritually circumcised, Colossians 2:11, meaning, our soul was cut loose from our physical body so we are no longer errand boys for a corpse.
3. We were spiritually baptized into the body of Christ by the Holy Spirit, 1 Corinthians 12:13.
4. We were sealed by the Holy Spirit unto the day of redemption, Ephesians 1:13-14.

5. Our bodies became the members of Christ and are no longer our own, to do with as we please, Romans 6:13, 1 Corinthians 6:15.
6. We were permanently indwelt by the Holy Spirit so that our body is not our own but is the temple of the Holy Ghost, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20.
7. We are sanctified for ever in Christ, Hebrews 10:10, 14.
8. Me in Christ and Christ in me is key to victory, Colossians 1:17, Romans 8:10. Paul expresses the idea, *even so we also should walk in newness of life*, in different words in his letter to the Corinthian Christians.

*“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” 2 Corinthians 5:17*

When you got saved, all things became new, spiritually speaking. You didn't get a new, gym-toned body or a new college degree. You didn't get a new car or a new house. You didn't get a new bank account or a new personality or a new job. If you were in prison when you got saved, you didn't immediately get released. If you struggled with overeating before you got saved, you'll probably struggle with overeating after you are saved. *All things are become new* refers to spiritual things. Your dead spirit got quickened, made alive and born again and you were given a perfect standing in Christ and seated in heavenly places in Christ. The eight items on the list we just gave are what became new.

**On that bright and glorious morning, you resurrected when Christ resurrected. His resurrection is your resurrection. You are identified with Christ in His resurrection.**

*“For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection.” Romans 6:5*

*“Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.” Colossians 2:12*

*“If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.” Colossians 3:1*

**6:5 - For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, -** When you read this, think: “I am identified with Christ in His death.” It's a spiritual thing, not a literal thing. There isn't a time machine which takes you back to the

first century AD, where you are physically buried with Christ. Are you beginning to understand what it means to be identified with Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

**we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:** - This too, is a spiritual thing, not a literal, physical thing. Paul wants us to understand that, because we have been baptized by the Holy Spirit, into the body of Christ, we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection. The resurrection of Christ was a literal, physical, bodily resurrection. The life of Christ after His resurrection was different than His life during His earthly ministry. Our identification with Christ in His resurrection is a spiritual thing now, Ephesians 2:6, and will be a literal thing later on, at the rapture or the resurrection. Christ is resurrected and when we get in Christ by getting saved, we have the Holy Spirit in our inner man, Ephesians 3:16, and Christ comes to dwell in our hearts by faith, Ephesians 3:17.

Our life after salvation is viewed as a new life, a resurrection to better things like spiritual gifts from God, Ephesians 1:3, a resurrection to victory over sin, Romans 6:11, a resurrection to spiritual fruitfulness, Galatians 5:22-23, a resurrection to a new position in Christ, Ephesians 2:6.

**6:6 - Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him,** - Do you know this in your personal life, that you are crucified with Christ and dead to sin? *Our old man* doesn't refer to our human father. It refers to our flesh nature, our sin nature. Our body did not get saved. Our flesh did not get saved. Our *body of this flesh*, our physical body, our fleshly nature or our old man, our sin nature, did not get saved. It is a biblical truth that our flesh is still unsaved.

When Paul says, *our old man*, the cross reference is Ephesians 4:22. "*That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts.*" Paul also says in Colossians 3:9, "*Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds.*" There was nothing like this in the OT, for believers in Jehovah. This truth of being crucified with Christ, of being spiritually circumcised, Colossians 2:11, of putting off the old man and putting on the new man, is an entirely new teaching. These are a few of the blessings God gave us at salvation, when we got in Christ, Ephesians 1:3.

God deals with our old man, our flesh, our sin nature through: **1. Identification** and **2. Indwelling**. Identification reminds us of who we are in Christ: we are crucified with Christ, we are dead with Christ, we are buried with Christ, we are risen with Christ. Those are truths to reckon on every day of your life. After you

have reckoned those facts to be true in your own life, (Identification with Christ), who gives you power to say, No, to sin? \_\_\_\_\_

Indwelling is God's answer. The truth that Christ lives in you, provides the power of Christ, moment by moment, day by day, to live victorious over the flesh and victorious over sin. Paul calls it, *Christ in you, the hope of glory*, Colossians 1:25-29. The fact that Christ would dwell in our hearts by faith was completely unknown in the OT. It was a mystery (a truth not yet revealed), even in the NT era, until God revealed it to Paul and he wrote it down in Colossians. Have you given thanks today that Christ dwells in your heart by faith? \_\_\_\_\_

**Our old man is crucified with him** - It's not past tense, was, it's present tense, is, because our identification with Christ is a present and ongoing reality. This is a gnomic aorist (the g- is silent in English). [The Greek gnomic aorist](#) is a perfective past tense. Gnostic forms represent a generic fact, a general truth, or a habitual action, and may be found with a variety of different tenses and aspects.

Most new versions translate it, was crucified, instead of, is crucified. The KJV is the best translation because our identification with Christ is not simply a past event: it is a present, ongoing reality and a habitual action. When Christ died, our old man died and dead men do not commit sins. This presents a problem. How can I be crucified with Christ and be dead and buried with Him when my body and my flesh nature, seems so very much alive and active and constantly sinning and trying to run my life, Romans 7:17, 23? Crucifixion is supposed to be final.

Since I am crucified with Christ, what does that mean in a practical sense and how does that affect my day to day life and my struggle with sin? Here is the practical Bible truth about every Christian. We are still, in the flesh while we are also, in Christ down here on earth. We must not deny our freedom in Christ by allowing sin to rule over us. To tell a slave not to behave as a slave is to mock him but saying that to someone who has been set free is meaningful. Many Christians do not yet know they have been set free from sin so they still live like slaves to sin.

1. Are you living like a slave to sin? \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Does sin still exert powerful control over your life? \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Are you learning the way to victory now? \_\_\_\_\_

**On that dark and awful day, you were crucified  
with Christ on Calvary. His death is your death.  
You are identified with Christ in His death.**

*“Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.” Romans 6:6*

*“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.” Galatians 2:20*

*“It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him.”  
2 Timothy 2:11*

**that the body of sin might be destroyed**, - The reason for believers to identify with the crucifixion and death of Christ is that the body of sin might be destroyed. That doesn't mean God destroys your physical body when He saves you. Obviously, your physical body that you walk around in wasn't destroyed. And it doesn't mean that God eradicates your sin nature or your Adamic nature when He saves you. When God saves you, He destroys the body of sin, meaning, the power of the flesh or the power of sin or the power of the old Adamic nature to run your life.

How is that accomplished? The Holy Spirit accomplishes that by 1. baptizing you into the body of Christ and, 2. by your Identification with Christ and, 3. by [spiritually circumcising you](#), cutting your saved soul loose from your unsaved body, Colossians 2:11. Why be an errand boy for a corpse when you have been cut free from the corpse and are no longer a slave to sin? Why serve the flesh, sin and Satan when you have been set free from all of that by the resurrection of Christ?

When an unsaved man sins, that is the natural consequence of the truth that, he is a slave to sin. Believers in the Lord Jesus Christ are dead to sin and therefore, we have been set free from sin and are not slaves to sin. Being set free from sin and given the righteousness of Christ is what it means to be in Christ. For every Christian, for all of time and eternity, the body of sin has been destroyed. If you are saved, it is God's eternal truth that the body of sin is destroyed. You ARE FREE from sin. Whether or not you have victory over sin in your life depends on you believing these facts, reckoning on these truths from God and living for Jesus. Victory over sin doesn't happen automatically. You must consciously decide to believe God by faith to experience victory over sin in your life. When you believe on the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior, many wonderful things happen. Here is a partial list.

### **What happens when you get saved?**

1. God forgives all of your sins, past, present and future.
2. God gives you the righteousness of Christ as a free gift.
3. That gift of righteousness is called, being justified by faith.
4. Spiritually, you are baptized into the body of Christ, no water involved.
5. Spiritually speaking, you are identified with Christ in His crucifixion.
6. Spiritually speaking, you are identified with Christ in His death.
7. Spiritually speaking, you are identified with Christ in His burial.
8. Spiritually speaking, you are identified with Christ in His resurrection.
9. Spiritually speaking, you are a new creature in Christ, 1 Cor 5:17.
10. Spiritually speaking, the body of sin is destroyed, Romans 6:6.
11. Spiritually speaking, you are set free from sin, Romans 6:7.
12. Spiritually speaking, you have put on the new man, Colossians 3:10

### **Because of your identification with Christ:**

1. You are free from the power of sin and no longer an errand boy for a corpse.
2. You can live a victorious Christian life instead of a life full of sin and sadness.
3. You can, by the power of God, live a life that glorifies God, 1 Cor 10:13.
4. You can joyfully love, obey and serve God with a clean heart in this life.
5. You experience Jesus, as His disciple, in a three-fold way, Phil 3:10, KJV.
6. The *power of His resurrection* is key to your victory over sin in this life.
7. The power comes from the indwelling Christ, not from your willpower.

**that henceforth we should not serve sin.** - If God saved us and then took us home to heaven immediately, that would be great. We wouldn't have to spend a lifetime wrestling with the world, the flesh and the devil. Yet for most of us, that doesn't happen. God has a wise and holy purpose for saving us and then leaving us here to live out our lives for His glory. God's purpose is to progressively sanctify us by using the difficulties of life to make us holy in our day to day lives, and thoughts and actions, to teach us how to love and obey God and to love God and people when God and people don't always seem lovely. That process is what Paul describes when he writes to the Philippians.

*“Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.”* Philippians 2:12-13.

God intends to make us holy in our daily lives so that we are Christ-like. So we work out our salvation by our obedience to God and He works in us as we obey him. **Note:** No one works to earn or keep salvation. Paul is describing the normal Christian life, where we walk in obedience to the written word of God. If you're not walking in obedience to the written word of God, you are not working out your own salvation with fear and trembling. Paul is not teaching faith and works in any way. No one is working to get saved or to stay saved. What Paul describes is the process of progressive sanctification in your life and mine. It has to do with obedience to God as He works in us. What does it mean that God progressively sanctifies us throughout our Christian life? \_\_\_\_\_

1. Where do we get the power to live a victorious life, Phil 3:10? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Is this way of victory over sin a new and different thing from the OT way of victory over sin, Colossians 1:24-27? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Are you going to use this way of victory over sin in your own life? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Would you like more victory over sin in your life? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Have you memorized the KNOW, RECKON, YIELD chart? \_\_\_\_\_

**6:7 - For he that is dead is freed from sin.** - 1. Can anyone really be freed from sin? \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Can Paul really be saying that Christians are freed from sin? \_\_\_\_\_ 3. What does *freed from sin* mean to you? \_\_\_\_\_

You are *freed from sin* because you are in Christ. That is the power of God in Identification and Indwelling. Your Identification with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection and the truth that your physical body is right now, Indwelt by the risen Christ, are how and why you are dead to sin and alive unto God, so that, you can have victory over sin.

Okay, that's all well and good but what does that Bible truth mean on a practical level for me? \_\_\_\_\_ How does being set free from sin change my life? \_\_\_\_\_ It means you don't have to commit sin. You now have a choice. Sin no longer rules and runs your life. Sin can no longer force you into sinful choices because you are not a slave to sin. You are freed from sin. Ever told yourself that? \_\_\_\_\_ I AM FREED FROM SIN!

1. What is God's purpose for telling me that, when I get saved, I am identified with Christ? \_\_\_\_\_
2. If, when I get saved, I am freed from sin, whose fault is it when I sin? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Do I need to use my freewill to say No to sin? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Whose power enables me to consistently say No to sin? **a.** The power of my church. **b.** The power of my pastor. **c.** The power of Christ in me. **d.** The power of my human will.

**6:8 - Now if we be dead with Christ**, - *If*, here, doesn't mean you might not be dead with Christ. *If* isn't conditional here. Every Christian is dead with Christ or Identified with Christ in His death. *If*, as Paul uses it here, means, since or because, we are dead with Christ.

**we believe that we shall also live with him:** - *Live with him* isn't referring to living with Him eventually in heaven. It means we shall also live with Him down here on earth. It's talking about, *Christ in you, the hope of glory*, Colossians 1:27-29. We don't die physically when we get saved. We go on living but now, we *live with him*. It's talking about the truth of Galatians 2:20, *I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live*. It's talking about us right now being *seated in heavenly places in Christ Jesus*, Ephesians 2:6, while we are still living on earth. Christ is the power of your life now that you are saved. His energy compels and propels your life, your faith, your ministry, your witnessing, your victory over sin and your joy in Jesus. In Colossians 3:10, Paul calls this, *putting on the new man*.

1. Is God working mightily in you, Colossians 1:29? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Are you getting the idea Paul wants to convey, that the power for a joyful and fruitful Christian life comes from God, not from you? \_\_\_\_\_

**6:9 - Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more;** - The incarnation of Christ, John 1:14, was a one off event. Gentle Jesus, meek and mild, will never return to this earth again. Oh yes, Jesus is definitely coming again but at His second coming, no one will smite Him, no one will pluck out His beard, no one will scourge Him, no one will nail Him to a cross. The first time He came as God's holy and spotless Lamb. He died once, when He *offered one sacrifice for sins forever*. That sacrifice will never be repeated in time and space and it is not now being repeated in the Catholic mass.

In many churches, their view of Christ is skewed. They depict Jesus as an infant or a child in the arms of His mother Mary or as hanging on the cross. They also make jewelry depicting the crucifixion. The biblical view of Christ is much different. For Christians:

1. Christ is no longer the baby in swaddling clothes in a manger.
2. Christ is no longer a child in the arms of Mary.

3. Christ is no longer hanging in shame upon the cross.
4. Christ is no longer dead and buried in Joseph's borrowed tomb.

The Bible depicts Christ as our triumphant, risen Savior, who will never die again. Catholicism, at the Council of Trent, described the Catholic mass as "a bloody sacrifice in an unbloody manner." Catholic teaching is that, through the magic of transubstantiation, Christ is literally present in the eucharist and is offered as a bloody sacrifice in an unbloody manner, every time a priest says mass. There are rules for how long one must stay in the church based on how long it takes to digest the wheat wafer which is said to become the body of Christ.

There are rules about how to handle the host if it is dropped on the floor. The wheat wafer is treated as if it is Christ although no one in the Bible ever does that. Roman Catholic teaching about the mass is not the teaching of the Bible. Hebrews, chapters 9 and 10, are crystal clear about that. Jesus was offered once for all, a never to be repeated sacrifice for sin, which perfectly atoned and perfectly propitiated/appeased the wrath of God. The second coming of Christ will be in power and great glory. He will come as KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS, Revelation 19:16 and set right every wrong that the fall of Adam caused in God's creation.

As a Christian, your victory over sin is based on a one time historical event, the death of Christ and His glorious resurrection. In the plan of God, there are no upcoming great events to give you victory over sin. Your Identification with Christ and your Indwelling by Christ are God's only method for victory over sin. Sometimes, when people write a letter, they close it with, "More to come." They mean they'll write to you again sometime in the future, with more information. On the topic of death to sin and victory over sin for Christians, God never says, "More to come." There isn't more to come because God has already done everything necessary to give you victory over sin.

**death hath no more dominion over him.** - Is there anything unclear about that statement? *Death hath no more dominion over him.* Dominion speaks of a king. Once we are saved, death is no longer king over us. God has given us victory in Christ. God has your back and God has everything covered. How is our victory in Christ accomplished? \_\_\_\_\_

*"By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." Hebrews 10:10*

*“For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.” Hebrews 10:14*

If that is true, why do Christians still struggle with sin? The answer is simple. Sanctification is progressive. Unlike justification, which is a one time event, our progressive sanctification occurs over the course of our life. Sanctification often involves struggle and is a day by day process of God working in us.

*“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.” Galatians 2:20*

*“This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.” Galatians 5:16-17*

**Sin has no more dominion over saved people because:**

1. We are crucified with Christ, Galatians 2:20
2. We are risen with Christ, Romans 6:4-5
3. Christ now lives in us and we access His power
  4. We live by the faith of the Son of God
  5. We walk in the Spirit, Galatians 5:16
6. The struggle inside us testifies we are saved
7. Power to live right comes from God, not from us
8. It is God that worketh in you, Philippians 2:13

**6:10 - For in that he died, he died unto sin once:** - Calvary was a one off event. It is not being repeated in the Catholic mass or in Baptist or Episcopal or Lutheran communion and it will not be repeated at any time in the future. Why? Because God did it one time forever, Hebrews 10:12-14. Why mention Roman Catholicism? Because one billion Catholics are taught the opposite of what Hebrews 10:12-14 says. What someone’s church teaches can never change the truth of the Bible. Let’s win our Roman Catholic friends to saving faith in Christ.

**but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.** - Jesus was not a sinner and He always lived unto God. We are sinners and we were lost and headed for hell before we got saved. Getting saved and being spiritually baptized into the body of Christ changed everything for us. In Christ we are resurrected to a new life and

now we live unto God. We are in Christ - Christ is in us. Instead of being self-centered and self-focused, we are Christ centered and God focused. That's what it means to live unto God. And yet brethren, living unto God doesn't happen overnight. Living unto God means we must put off the old man. It means we don't always get our own way. Living unto God is part of our progressive sanctification.

1. How many times did Jesus die unto sin? **a.** once, **b.** twice, **c.** many times.
2. Who runs your life now that you are saved, you or God? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Do you live for yourself or do you live unto God? \_\_\_\_\_
4. If you live unto God, will that be obvious to people who know you? \_\_\_\_\_
5. If you live unto self, will that be obvious to people who know you? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Does sin sometimes have dominion over saved people? \_\_\_\_\_

**6:11 - Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin,** - To reckon means, to impute. If you are saved, God has already imputed your sins to Jesus and reckoned or imputed the righteousness of Christ to you. That means you are justified by faith. Now, your job as a Christian is to impute or reckon that truth to your life right now, moment by moment, day by day, as often as you need to. As you do that, you will experience moment by moment and day by day victory over sin. If you don't do that, you will stumble through life, giving in to sin, feeling sorry for yourself and being ineffectual and unfruitful for Christ.

In Galatians 5:24, reckoning *yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin*, is called, crucifying the flesh. "*And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.*" Galatians 5:24. This is another way of describing your Identification with Christ in His crucifixion and death, Galatians 2:20. The truth is, we cannot crucify ourselves. Paul is talking about reckoning ourselves dead to sin and Christ's method of death was crucifixion. This reckoning is the key to victory over sin in your life. This way of life, reckoning yourself dead to sin and alive unto God is also called, Walking in the Spirit, in Galatians 5:16, 25. It's as simple as understanding who, what and where you are in Christ.

The Greek word translated, reckon, in Romans 6:11, is λογίζομαι *logizomai*, lo-gē'-zo-mī which is the same word translated, impute, in Romans 4:8. Reckon and impute carry the same meaning. To reckon means to believe it is so or to act as if it is so or to impute or to calculate it as true or to take into account or to consider it so or to purpose because of or to live as if what you've reckoned is true. We reckon based on God's truth revealed in the Bible. Have you reckoned yourself dead to sin? \_\_\_\_\_ Have you reckoned yourself alive unto God? \_\_\_\_\_ Obeying Romans 6:11 is the pathway God gave us for victory over sin.

Our old master, sin, has been deposed, fired, kicked off the throne of our life. Sin no longer reigns over us. Since God says we are dead to sin, we believe that and take it into account. We reckon on it and base our thoughts, decisions and actions on this victorious truth about us as Christians. We reckon ourselves dead to sin because we are dead to sin. We don't have to give in to sin. We don't have to live in sin. We don't have to be an errand boy for a corpse.

Sin shall not have dominion over us. We are freed from sin. We impute or reckon that Bible truth to our life moment by moment, day by day. We remember that Bible truth and stand on that Bible truth when we are tempted to sin. Yet what if we do sin after we get saved and are dead to sin? *"My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world."* 1 John 2:1-2

Some people have a strong will and excellent self-discipline. If that describes you, should you ignore Romans 6:11 and just depend on your strong will and excellent self-discipline, for victory over sin? \_\_\_\_\_

In Romans 6:11, does God give us multiple choices about how to get victory over sin in our lives? \_\_\_\_\_

**dead indeed unto sin** - The way God intends to give us victory over sin is by reckoning ourselves *dead indeed unto sin* and alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Our reckoning is always based on facts and the truth of scripture. Reckoning is never based on supposition or hunch or opinion or extreme will power. Reckoning is never an "I hope it's true" proposition. Reckoning is always based on the truth of God in the Bible. God said to reckon ourselves dead indeed unto sin because, in Christ, we ARE dead to sin and so, we reckon on that truth, because God said to do it and because it works. Is Paul stating basically the same truth in Galatians 2:20? \_\_\_\_\_

*"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."* Galatians 2:20

No unsaved man can reckon himself dead to sin. Why? An unsaved man is not dead to sin because he has not believed on Christ and is not in Christ yet. Every saved person can reckon himself dead to sin based on the fact that he is crucified with Christ, is dead with Christ, is buried with Christ and is risen with Christ, Romans 6:3-5, because, he is in Christ. Those facts underpin the gospel

truth that a saved man is dead to sin and therefore, sin no longer rules him. He is as free as resurrected Lazarus in John 11:44, hopping out of the grave, still wrapped up head to toe like a mummy, yet obedient to Jesus.

When Jesus saved you, He imputed or reckoned to you all the righteousness of Christ. Now that you are saved, you are supposed to reckon yourself dead to the sins Jesus saved you from. God has already imputed His righteousness to you. Now you're supposed to impute or reckon that to be true. He imputes or reckons to give you salvation and justification and sanctification. You impute or reckon to claim the victory God freely provides for you in Jesus and then, live for Him.

1. How many sins has Jesus saved me from? **a.** all, **b.** some, **c.** most, **d.** a few
2. As a Christian, am I crucified with Christ? \_\_\_\_\_
3. As a Christian, am I dead with Christ? \_\_\_\_\_
4. As a Christian, am I buried with Christ? \_\_\_\_\_
5. As a Christian, am I risen with Christ? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Are those items known as Identification with Christ? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What is the Bible formula for victory over sin? **a.** Trust the universe to treat me right. **b.** Keep praying for serenity now. **c.** Remind myself to: KNOW, RECKON and YIELD based on my Identification with Christ.
8. How often should I remind myself of these truths? **a.** Only once, at the time I get saved. **b.** At least twice a year. **c.** Anytime and every time I am tempted to sin. **d.** Whenever I take communion.
9. Will practicing these truths produce victory over sin in my life? \_\_\_\_\_

**but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.** - First, you reckon yourself dead to sin. Second, you reckon yourself alive unto God. That is God's pathway to victory over sin in your life. If you do the first but don't do the second, it's meaningless. If you do the second but don't do the first, it's still meaningless. For victory you have to reckon on both truths, that they are true for you because you are in Christ. Victory over sin doesn't come through your church or your pastor or your strong will. Victory over sin doesn't come through transcendental meditation or allegedly spiritual practices borrowed from other religions.

Victory over sin is a personal thing. It's perfectly fine to believe that your brothers and sisters in Christ are dead to sin but if you don't reckon that truth for yourself, you'll never have victory. God made it personal for you and you need to reckon it as a personal truth and then practice: Know, Reckon, Yield, until it becomes a habit in your life, until it becomes the default way you react when tempted to sin.

The means of victory for a Christian is never, trusting our own strength. Victory comes by the power of Christ in us because we are in Christ and Christ is in us. Although Abraham in the OT was not permanently indwelt by the Holy Spirit and was not part of the body of Christ, he was as utterly dependent upon God as we are. Living for Jesus is impossible in our own power.

*“After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.”* Genesis 15:1

*“But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”* 1 Corinthians 15:57

*“Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.”*  
2 Corinthians 2:14

**6:12 - Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body,** - God knows that our soul is saved, our spirit is born again and He did not save our flesh. How then, does God deal with sin in our mortal, fleshly, unsaved body? He deals with sin through the twin truths of Identification and Indwelling, as we learned in our commentary on Romans 6:3. And He also deals with sin by quickening our mortal body, Romans 8:11. Notice that we are cross referencing scripture with scripture, about our mortal bodies, so that the Bible explains itself.

God accomplishes the quickening of our mortal, unsaved body by: 1. spiritual circumcision, Colossians 2:11, which means cutting our saved soul loose from our unsaved body and, 2. the indwelling Holy Spirit, whose permanent presence in us, is the power that quickens our mortal body. That quickening by the Holy Spirit, makes victory over sin possible for us, even though we are in the body of this death, Romans 8:24. OT law made many demands but provided no power to meet those demands. The grace of God in the gospel provides all the power we need for victory. This is illustrated for us by a John Bunyon poem.

Run, John, run, the law commands.  
But gives me neither feet nor hands;  
Far better news the gospel brings:  
It bids me fly and gives me wings.

In the case of believers on the grace side of Calvary, the quickening of the Holy Spirit in our mortal body is the wings Bunyon mentions. Because we died to sin,

we have physical victory over sin. *Let not sin therefore reign*, is a commandment just as surely as, *Thou shalt not commit adultery*, is a commandment. God commands us not to let sin reign in our mortal body because, by the power of the indwelling Christ and the indwelling Holy Spirit, we are capable of obeying God and resisting sin. We can have victory over sin because we are dead to sin and alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Because we died to sin, we also have spiritual victory over sin. “*Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.*” Romans 6:13b. The apostle James said something similar. “*Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*” James 4:7.

James says: *Submit yourselves therefore to God.*

Paul says: *Yield yourselves unto God.*

Paul says: *Present your bodies a living sacrifice to God.*

Have you done that? \_\_\_\_\_ Will you do that? \_\_\_\_\_

It does no good to resist the devil unless we first submit ourselves unto God. In the same sense, victory over sin comes when we stop yielding our members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin and yield ourselves or submit ourselves to God. Brethren, we must do both to be victorious over sin. There is no logical way to live in sin and submit yourself to God at the same time.

**that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.** - There are many kinds of lust besides sexual lust. There is the original sin, which was a lust for knowledge, Genesis 3:5. There is lust for money and lust for power and lust for fame. To give in to sin is to give in to lust. We tend to think of lust as a sexual sin but lust covers far more than sexual sin. Whatever we want that is not God’s will for us can become sin in our lives. How do we discern what is lust and what is God’s will for us? We do that by reading the Bible, Psalm 119:11, James 1:22, and walking in the Spirit, Galatians 5:16, and living *by the faith of the Son of God*, Galatians 2:20.

**6:13 - Neither yield ye your members** - Paul says this in a different way in Romans 12:1-2. “*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*” God saved you for a purpose. God did not set you free from

sin so that you can live in sin. Christ has made us free from sin so we can serve God as fellow laborers in the gospel of Christ.

*Neither yield ye your members* - This is a commandment just as surely as, *Thou shalt not bear false witness*, is a commandment. These commandments in Romans 6 are part of: **1.** the law of God, Romans 7:25, and, **2.** the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus, Romans 8:2, and, **3.** the law of Christ, Galatians 6:2 and, **4.** the law of liberty, James 1:25, and, **5.** the royal law, James 2:8. Those are not the same as the law of Moses in the OT and those are not laws you must keep to get saved or stay saved. Instead, these NT laws help you have victory over sin by the power of Christ in you, after you get saved.

*Neither yield ye your members* means: don't give in to sin. Since you're not a slave to sin, stop living like a slave to sin. When sin is presented to you, don't give in to it because, as a Christian, you now have a choice. Don't surrender your body to sin. Don't live like a lost man on his way to hell. You're a child of the KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS, Revelation 19:16. By the power of Christ in you, live up to your Standing in Christ and resist temptation. Resist giving in to sin. "*Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*" James 4:7.

**as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin:** - Sin in your life never equals righteousness. Bob Jones Sr. used to say: "It's never right to do wrong in order to get a chance to do right." Anything anyone does, instead of believing on the Lord Jesus Christ and instead of obeying God, is sin. *All unrighteousness is sin*, 1 John 5:17.

"*An high look, and a proud heart, and the plowing of the wicked, is sin.*" Proverbs 21:4. Think about that for a moment. Inspired scripture links *an high look, and a proud heart* with the plowing of the wicked. The wicked in the OT, are unsaved.

When a proud, wicked (unsaved, God-defying) farmer plows his field to raise a crop to feed his family, that is sin. Plowing in scripture can also mean, having sex with or conspiring with someone's wife, Judges 14:18. Gersonides, 1288-1344, a Jewish Talmudic expert, and Isaac ben Judah Abarbanel, 1437-1508, a Jewish Bible commentator, interpret ploughing as committing adultery with Sampson's wife. Plowing is also used metaphorically, to describe living in sin and open rebellion against the God of Israel, Hosea 10:13. Plowing also describes the totality of destruction Zion and Jerusalem will suffer, for their rebellion against God, Jeremiah 26:19, Micah 3:12. *The plowing of the wicked is sin.*

The Holy Spirit convicts or reproves the world “*Of sin, because they believe not on me,*” John 16:9. It is a sin not to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior. Christ died for all, meaning, for the sins of the whole world, 1 Timothy 2:3-7. *God is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance,* 2 Peter 3:9. Sin keeps people from believing on the Lord Jesus Christ yet the glorious gospel of Christ is God’s only remedy for sin. That biblical truth is difficult for some Christians to accept. Discuss.

**but yield yourselves unto God,** - If you do most of KNOW, RECKON and YIELD but skip this one, you’re spinning your wheels and wasting your time. After you do all the rest, you must yield yourself to God, meaning, present your body as a living sacrifice. God didn’t compel you to get saved against your will and He will not force you to yield. He will entreat you to yield but He doesn’t force you. God gave you freewill because He expects you to use that freewill to choose to love, obey and serve Him. How does God encourage someone to do His will when (s)he is unwilling to do God’s will? \_\_\_\_\_

Sometimes God sends hornets, Exodus 23:28, Deuteronomy 7:17-22, Joshua 24:11-13. This was a situation in which God made His enemies willing to leave the place where they wanted to be and He didn’t want them to be. God has ways of accomplishing His will, ways of making us willing to do His will. God didn’t compel them to go, against their will. He used hornets and just made them willing to go. Are you willing to yield yourself unto God? \_\_\_\_\_

**as those that are alive from the dead,** - Live in the reality of what Jesus has done for you. Live in the reality of your standing in Christ. You are alive from the dead so live like it. You are freed from sin. You’re a child of the King. Do you know any children of rich people? Isn’t it true that they live in the reality of their parent’s wealth? Paul says, You are crucified with Christ, you died to sin, you were buried and you rose again from the dead with Christ, in Christ. You are *alive from the dead* so live like it. Why be an errand boy for a corpse? You’re alive from the dead and you don’t have to live like a lost man anymore so live in the victory Jesus won for you on Calvary.

**and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.** - God has plans for your feet and hands and mouth and tongue and voice and brain and body. That’s why He wants you to *yield yourselves unto God*, Ephesians 2:10.

## I Was Created To Serve The Lord

I am made in His likeness, created in His image;  
My hands were made to serve the Lord.  
My feet were made to walk as a disciple of Jesus;  
My eyes were made to read God's word.  
My brain was made to learn God's truth;  
My heart was made to love my neighbors.  
My tongue was made to witness for Jesus;  
My mouth was made to praise my Lord.  
My life was given to do God's will;  
My body is the temple of the Holy Spirit.

I yield my members as instruments of righteousness unto God.

**6:14 - For sin shall not have dominion over you:** - God's plan and God's will is that sin shall not have dominion over you. What is your plan? Do you want what God wants? God wants you living in victory but what do you want? You are the only one who can mess up God's plan and God's will for your life. When Christians live a defeated life, is that God's plan for their life? \_\_\_\_\_  
If God's plan is that *sin shall not have dominion over you*, whose fault is it if sin ends up having dominion over you? \_\_\_\_\_

**for ye are not under the law, but under grace.** - Far too many Christians don't know this. They think they have to keep the law to stay saved yet they do not have to keep the OT law. This is a doctrinal theme Paul repeats throughout his ministry. For some Christians, grace is a huge hurdle to get over, a doctrine they find difficult to understand. Galatians 3:24-25 explains what Paul has in mind here. Paul says: *Ye are not under the law and we are no longer under a schoolmaster.*

*"Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster." Galatians 3:24-25*

1. What event happened so that we are no longer under the law? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Who kept the law perfectly in our place? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What was the purpose of the law, Galatians 3:24? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Why does sin no longer have dominion over us? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Which is better, living under law or living under grace? \_\_\_\_\_
6. How do we access the saving grace of God? \_\_\_\_\_

7. Does being under grace give us a license to sin? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Does living by faith include trusting the power of the indwelling Christ to give us victory over sin, Galatians 2:20? \_\_\_\_\_

**6:15 - What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace?** - Paul has made statements like this at least three times in Romans. Many Christians who think they can lose their salvation make the same argument against grace and against justification by faith, that Paul answers here. Never make the mistake of joining them in their argument against grace. Grace and justification by faith are never a license to sin. Eternal security or OSAS (once saved always saved, or, Once Sealed, Always Saved, Ephesians 1:13-14) is never a license to sin. God created us for holiness. That's why God sanctifies us day by day. For everyone who is saved, God has already made us holy through our standing in Christ.

Romans chapter 6 is intensely practical and explains how God gives us the power to live for Him day by day. This is the one and only way God has provided for us to live a joyful, powerful, victorious Christian life. The NT doesn't give us a multiple choice of nine different ways to live victoriously for Jesus so we can pick whichever way we think best. There is only one way and it's found in Romans chapter 6 - **Know, Reckon, Yield.**

**God forbid.** - God forbid that we sin because we are not under the law. What are some other ways of saying, God forbid? By no means! Of course not! Certainly not! May it never be! By no means! Absolutely not! That's unthinkable! Definitely not! No way! There really are some Christians who live in sin because they are not under law. That is not God's plan for anyone He saves. Since we are saved and since we have eternal security, why can't we just live life our way? Paul answers that question in Romans 6:16.

**6:16 - Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey,** - The issue with Paul is, Who are you serving? If you're serving sin, then sin is your master and you are sin's servant. That is living below your station. That is living on a lower level than grace. God intends more for you than living like you're still a slave of sin. Remember what we said about not being an errand boy for a corpse? That's what Paul is talking about here. You are known by the company you keep and the deeds you do and the words you say. If you yield yourself to sin, you are the servant or slave of sin.

Do you remember our Introduction to Romans, where we said that approximately one third of the inhabitants of first century Rome were slaves? Paul puts his teaching about victory over sin in easy to understand language. You can be a slave or you can live in freedom. No one wants to spend his life as a slave. There is freedom in Christ because there is grace in Christ. Since Christ has set you free from sin, why ignore God's truth that you are free and voluntarily return to being a slave, a servant? All that is required for victory is an act of your will and you relying, by faith, upon the power of Christ in you. You can decide to say No, to sin, by the power of God.

Paul is painting a word picture here. He's saying, you're the servant of whoever or whatever you obey. Whoever you yield to, you're his servant. Wouldn't you rather serve God instead of serving sin? How many times have we yielded ourselves to sin instead of living in the victory over sin that Jesus won for us on Calvary? Back in the 1970s, a Presbyterian Calvinist philosopher and theologian named Francis Schaeffer, wrote a book, *The Church Before The Watching World*. In that book, he argued that Christians face the danger of committing spiritual adultery by forsaking Christ, by not living for Him, by not standing for His truth in scripture, by making friends with the world. We live our lives before the watching world. Our joyful freedom and victory in Christ, by His grace, should be part of our testimony for Jesus, part of what the world sees in us.

**his servants ye are to whom ye obey;** - If Christ has set you free from sin, then it is foolish to forsake fellowship with Christ and live in sin. Sin degrades you. Sin breaks your fellowship with Christ so that you don't feel the sweetness of His holy presence. Sin never leaves you better off than it found you. Who or what are you a servant to? \_\_\_\_\_ If you had to answer that question by making a list, what would be on your list? Does your life reflect that you are a servant of Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

**whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?** - Paul presents a stark and simple choice. There is no neutral ground here. Why would any Christian choose sin and death when Christ has made us free from sin? Keep in mind that death here can mean more than physical death. When a Christian decides to live in unrepentant sin, his spiritual life and ministry may wither and die. Opportunities to be fruitful for God may die. You may cause the spiritual life and ministry of others to wither and die. Sin always leads to death.

Rejecting Christ's command that you live in victory over sin and instead, living in sin, is never God's will for your life. Living in sin isn't one of the good choices you

should use your freewill to make. Living in sin always has negative consequences. In a kind and gentle way, Paul encourages his readers to choose *obedience unto righteousness*. If your life feels like a long slog through a sinful swamp, pay attention to and use the glorious gospel truth of Romans chapter 6. You have victory in Jesus right now.

1. Do you know any Christians who are servants of sin unto death, even though they are saved? \_\_\_\_\_

2. How can you avoid going down the road of sin and death in your Christian life?  
\_\_\_\_\_

**sin unto death** - This reminds us of the deceitfulness of sin. Sin doesn't always begin by looking deceitful. Sin often appears alluring and beautiful in the beginning. Yet the stark reality is, sin is linked to death in the Bible. *The soul that sinneth, it shall die*, Ezekiel 18:20. 1. Do you have enough spiritual strength to say No, to sin in your life? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Who has spiritual strength to give you victory over sin? \_\_\_\_\_

There are biblical reasons why God may shorten the life of a saved person who is a born again believer in the Lord Jesus Christ. Remember Exodus 32:1ff. God smote thousands of His people at the foot of Mt. Sinai because of idolatry. None of them were born again but they were children of God's covenant with Abraham in Genesis 15:1-6 and God expected them to live right. God also expects us to live right. Remember Ananias and Sapphira? God killed them because they lied to the Holy Ghost about how much they gave and put on an act of being holier than they really were, Acts 5:1-11. It is good practice for Christians to always be honest with God. Christians shouldn't live like unsaved people.

The apostle Paul delivered a Christian who lived wickedly, unto Satan, *for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus*, 1 Corinthians 5:5. In another situation, Paul delivered Hymenaeus and Alexander, who had left the faith, unto Satan, *that they may learn not to blaspheme*, 1 Timothy 1:18-20. The apostle John warned believers that there *is a sin unto death* in 1 John 5:16. God is serious about victory over sin, Christ made it possible for us to have victory over sin and if we're going to be serious Christians, we need to be serious about victory over sin.

**obedience unto righteousness** - Our obedience to God does not keep us saved by our works. The righteousness that saves is the free gift of Jesus' perfect righteousness. Always trust the righteousness of Christ and never trust

your own righteousness. The more obedient to the Holy Spirit we are, the more our lives will reflect the righteousness of Christ. Over the course of our Christian life, there should be growth in obedience and holiness and sanctification. One way that growth shows up in the fruit of the Spirit, Galatians 5:22-23.

1. I received the righteousness of Christ by: **a.** Getting baptized, **b.** Joining the church, **c.** Successfully completing catechism class, **d.** Being obedient to God in my works, or, **e.** Believing on the Lord Jesus Christ as my Savior from sin and hell and the wrath of God.
2. Sin isn't a big deal since I'm saved and I shouldn't care about it. T or F?
3. Victory over sin mostly depends on how strong my will is. T or F?
4. Victory over sin depends on me trusting the power of Christ in me. T or F?
5. Paul teaches it's okay to sin since we're saved forever. T or F?
6. What is God's way for me to have victory over sin? **a.** Focus on doing lots of good works, **b.** Join a church and hang out with Christians, **c.** Know, Reckon, Yield, **d.** Work harder and harder until I'm strong enough to prevail.

**6:17 - But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin,** - If a Christian lives in sin, he is living in the past. God doesn't want any Christian to live in sin. Your past need not control your future. If you are saved, God has given you the righteousness of Christ as a free gift. You possess it right now. Therefore, when God looks at you, He doesn't see you as a sinner and He doesn't want you living in the past or living in sin.

**ye were the servants of sin** - Notice the past tense. *Ye were the servants of sin* but you're not supposed to continue being the servants of sin. Jesus set you free from your past. Your standing in Christ isn't just in the past, when you got saved.

1. Your standing in Christ is in the present and the future. Are you living like Christ has given you victory over sin? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Are you living today, as the servant of sin? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Is there any future in living in your past? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What does God expect of you on this issue? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Since you already died and rose with Christ, shouldn't you be on victory ground now? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Shouldn't victory in Jesus be a normal part of your Christian life? \_\_\_\_\_
7. If it's not, why isn't it? \_\_\_\_\_

**but ye have obeyed from the heart** - This is a radical change, so momentous that life will never be the same again. This obedience changes eternity. From serving sin to serving God, from a heart full of lust to a heart full of love, from a

rebellious heart to an obedient heart. *“But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?”* Romans 10:16.

Paul says: *Ye have obeyed from the heart*, because he wants us to know he is not talking about intellectual assent. The obedience that saves is *from the heart*. As many as two billion people, Catholics and Orthodox and many Christians, recite and believe the Apostles Creed and the Nicene Creed but that doesn't mean they are saved. They may give intellectual assent or mental assent and they may have head knowledge about Jesus but that is not the same as obeying *from the heart*. Salvation comes when we obey *from the heart*. Believing from the heart, Acts 8:35-37, and obeying from the heart are required. A decision in the head doesn't equate to commitment in the heart. Knowledge in the head is different than belief in the heart. Heart belief brings obedience from the heart so that we believe in, trust and follow Jesus. Can you give an example of the difference between believing in your head and believing in your heart?

---

---

*“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”* Romans 10:9-10

**that form of doctrine which was delivered you.** - To get saved, you have to obey, from your heart, doctrine about the gospel and salvation. It isn't enough to sincerely follow the teachings of Buddha. The doctrine Paul refers to here is Bible doctrine about salvation. This isn't about religion or catechism or church membership. This isn't about: all roads lead to heaven. This isn't about: If you do your best from a sincere heart. The form of doctrine that was delivered to the Romans was the biblical gospel, Romans 1:16.

What is doctrine? The Greek word, διδασχία didachē, which we translate, doctrine, means, teaching. When used in the Bible, the word doctrine means the teaching of the Bible or the teaching of Christ or the teaching of the apostles, including Paul. The particular form of doctrine delivered by Paul, was about Christ and salvation and the church. The word doctrine, in its various forms, occurs 51 times in 50 verses of the Bible, six times in the OT and forty-five times in the NT. Doctrine can be good, Deuteronomy 32:2, Job 11:4, Proverbs 4:2, 1 Timothy 1:2, 2 Timothy 3:18, Titus 2:10, Hebrews 6:1, or bad, Jeremiah 10:8, Matthew 16:12.

In 2 Timothy 3:16-17, the first use of scripture is, *for doctrine*. People sometimes shy away from doctrine because it does require a little bit of thought and study. Some people shy away from doctrine because they view it as divisive. Paul encouraged Timothy: “*Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.*” 1 Timothy 4:13. Doctrine these days is neglected and rejected by many Christians because they think doctrine divides us and damages our unity. The biblical way is to speak the truth in love and allow doctrine to enhance our unity instead of forsaking doctrine in an attempt to have unity apart from doctrine.

**doctrine which was delivered to you** - The doctrine which was delivered to the Roman Christians came from Jesus, from the OT and a few NT books which had been written and were circulating by AD 58, when Paul wrote Romans and from gospel preaching witnesses and from Paul’s preaching. The point here is, there are false teachers and false doctrines out there too, so beware.

1. How can Christians know what doctrine is false and what doctrine is true?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Can Christians who don’t read and study their Bible get deceived by false doctrines and false teachers? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Christians should base what they believe on: **a.** Their emotions, **b.** Whatever sounds good, **c.** What their church teaches, **d.** What their priest says, **e.** What their pastor says, **f.** What the Bible says in context, **g.** God’s truth in scripture.

**6:18 - Being then made free from sin,** - Is this on your short list of greatest truths in Romans chapter six, that getting in Christ has made us free from sin? \_\_\_\_\_ This incredible gift, being *made free from sin*, is ignored by or unknown to far too many Christians. If you are a Christian, you most definitely have been, made free from sin. Many Christians view getting saved as being forgiven for your sins and that is true but that’s only the beginning of salvation. Getting saved is about a lot more than getting your sins forgiven and escaping hell.

In Christ, God has made you free from sin. Free from sin doesn’t mean, sinlessly perfect or sin-free. What it means is, when we sin after we get saved, we sin in spite of the fact that we are free from sin. When you were unsaved, you were a slave to sin. You sinned because you had nothing in you with which to resist sin.

Once we are saved, we are no longer compelled to sin. Sin is not our master after we get saved. Our freedom in Christ doesn’t give us a license to sin. Liberty is not license. Some Christians misunderstand this and live like sin doesn’t matter. Notice how Paul gently corrects that false view in the next phrase: *ye*

*became the servants of righteousness.* God intends for all of us to be servants of righteousness instead of, servants of sin. You cannot be the servants of righteousness until you have first been, *made free from sin.* For Paul, our freedom in Christ never means we are free to sin. Sin was our old master and righteousness is our new master. Should our life look different after we get saved, since we're serving a new master? \_\_\_\_\_  
Can you name some things that changed in your life when you got saved? \_\_\_\_\_

Unsaved people are not free from sin, whether they are religious in a civilized city or pagans in the jungle. No matter how nice they are, no matter how well intentioned, unsaved people are servants or slaves to sin. The Bible knows nothing of the noble savage, the native in the jungle, blissfully happy in his pagan religion. All Christians are *made free from sin*, yet, that being true, why do we still sin? \_\_\_\_\_ Discuss.

**ye became the servants of righteousness.** - Servants of righteousness doesn't mean servants of legalism. This isn't about keeping laws and regulations and rules to earn our righteousness or to work our way to heaven. God didn't save you by grace so you can live under law. The natural state for every Christian is to be a servant of righteousness. Living under the rules and regulations of the law is natural for an unsaved man. Paul contrasts sin with righteousness. It isn't the natural state of any Christian to be living in sin. Our natural state is to live and walk in righteousness.

Whose righteousness is Paul speaking of here? **a.** My human righteousness, **b.** Christ's righteousness, **c.** The religious righteousness of my church. When we believed on Christ, we were saved and born again. When we got saved, we were delivered from being slaves to sin, we were freed from sin. We got a new master and no longer had to serve our old master. That is the freedom and life-changing liberty of God's amazing grace.

**6:19 - I speak after the manner of men** - Paul makes it as plain spoken and down to earth as he can because he wants us to understand what he is saying. This is rubber meets the road wisdom, from the greatest Christian who ever lived, about how to live the Christian life. This is what Paul wanted Christians in Rome to **Know**, so they could **Reckon** it true in their own lives, so they could **Yield** their members as instruments of righteousness unto God, so they could serve God effectively. Ever and always, Paul is focused on lifting up the Lord Jesus and making disciples for Him. That is what everyone of us should be doing in our Christian life.

**because of the infirmity of your flesh:** - If you struggle with sin in your life, you are not alone. All flesh is grass, Isaiah 40:2 and 1 Peter 1:24. Every Christian who ever lived struggled with sin in the flesh and had to learn to: **KNOW, RECKON and YIELD.** If they didn't learn that, they lived lives without much victory. You don't have to live a sad, sinful life because Jesus rose from the dead to give you victory. You don't have to abandon victory in Jesus and live your life in the lusts of the flesh.

O victory in Jesus,  
My Savior, forever.  
He sought me and bought me  
With His redeeming blood;  
He loved me 'ere I knew Him  
And all my love is due Him,  
He plunged me to victory,  
Beneath the cleansing flood.  
-Eugene M. Bartlett, 1939

**for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness** - The Greek word, here translated as [uncleanness, is akatharsia](#). It was used in the Greek Septuagint (the OT in the Greek language), to describe the uncleanness of idolatry and that is the way Paul uses it here. He used the Greek word, akatharsian, in Romans 1:24 to describe temple prostitutes. That Paul uses it again here indicates that some of the temple prostitutes in Rome got saved and became Jesus loving, Jesus following Christians. Sometimes we forget or gloss over the sordidness of our sin. We put a positive spin on our own sins instead of seeing them as they are in the sight of God. Sometimes we think of the sins of others as unclean but our own sins as not so bad, even when our sins are the same sins we despise in others. And sometimes, we forget that God can save anyone, anywhere. Never underestimate the awesome power of God. Do you witness like God really can save anyone anywhere? \_\_\_\_\_

**and to iniquity unto iniquity;** - Paul doubles down on his assessment of sin and calls it iniquity unto iniquity. Repetition of words or thoughts or sounds is a Jewish way of emphasizing truth. When Paul says, iniquity unto iniquity, he means that one sin leads to another sin which leads to another sin. As grace exerts a multiplier effect in blessing us, so sin exerts a multiplier effect in cursing us. No one gets victory over sin by his own power. If ever you get victory over sin, your victory will come through the blood of Christ and the power of Christ in you. Take a moment to remind yourself of your Identification with Christ in his death, burial

and resurrection and the Indwelling Christ, what Paul describes as, “*Christ in you the hope of glory*,” Colossians 1:27, as your pathway to victory over sin. Read Colossians 2:9 and consider the implications of Christ indwelling your body.

**even so now yield your members servants** - When should you yield your members servants to God, to righteousness, to holiness? Now, Paul says. Do it now. That is the natural next move once you are saved. Many professing Christians get saved and never do anything else. They never read the Bible much. They never focus on living for the Lord. They never witness much. They never give much to the Lord’s work or to get out the gospel. They never discover what God has given them in Christ. They never change much in their life. They never grow much spiritually. Why is that? Because they never do what Paul says in Romans 6. Have you yielded your members servants to righteousness unto holiness? \_\_\_\_\_ If you haven’t yet done that, will you yield your members to God starting today? \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**to righteousness unto holiness.** - This part of the verse isn’t a great mystery. It’s very simple. Serve God with the same enthusiasm you used to serve sin. Work as hard serving God as you worked serving sin. Invest as much of your time and talent and energy and resources and money serving God as you did serving sin. This is a personal decision only you can make for yourself. What kind of a Christian would you be and what kind of fruit would you produce for God if you obeyed and yielded your members servants to righteousness unto holiness?

Can you yield to God the way Paul describes without your yielding radically changing your life? \_\_\_\_\_

**6:20 - For when ye were the servants of sin,** - You were the servants of sin when you were unsaved. No saved man is supposed to be the servant of sin but sometimes we are. Sometimes it’s good to remind ourselves where we’ve been and where God brought us from. If God saved you from the degradation of sin, saved you from being *the servants of sin*, that’s something to get excited about, as King David does in Psalm 40.

*“He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings. And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD.”* Psalm 40:2-3

1. When Jesus saved you, did He put a new song in your mouth? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Is there a difference in the way you live since you got saved? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Are you praying for the Holy Spirit to leverage that difference in you to win other people to saving faith in Christ? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Did King David say that people would see the change in him and fear and trust in the LORD? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Has anyone trusted in the LORD because of your testimony of a changed life in Christ? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Are you willing to memorize: Know, Reckon, Yield, and experience victory over sin in your life? \_\_\_\_\_ The date you decided to do that. \_\_\_\_\_

**ye were free from righteousness.** - No unsaved man or woman and no saved man or woman has any personal righteousness which God will accept for salvation. Paul says, When you were unsaved, you were *free from righteousness*. That means you had zero righteousness and that isn't what we want to hear. We viewed ourselves back then as pretty good people, compared to everyone else, even when we weren't saved. Three thousand years ago, people thought the same way.

*“Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness:  
but a faithful man who can find?” Proverbs 20:6*

- When you were unsaved, you were *free from righteousness*. Now that you are saved, you have the perfect righteousness of Christ. That's why you don't need to work to earn righteousness. Jesus paid it all; all to Him I owe. Sin had left a crimson stain; He washed it white as snow.
1. What does a man who is free from righteousness, need in his life? \_\_\_\_\_
  2. Who will tell him of the righteousness of Christ so he can get saved? \_\_\_\_\_
  3. Are you willing for God to use you to be a witness for Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

**6:21 - What fruit had ye then** - Remember what Paul wrote in Romans 1:13 - *that I might have some fruit among you* - As Christians, our purpose in life is to bear fruit for God. That means: **1.** the fruit of the Spirit, Galatians 5:22-23 and, **2.** being evangelistic, soul-winning witnesses for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Daniel 12:3, Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8.

Until you understand bearing fruit for God  
as the primary purpose of your Christian life,  
you will be constantly frustrated by circumstances.

*What fruit had ye then* - Before you got saved, you didn't have enough fruit to earn your way to heaven. You didn't have enough fruit to make it safely past the great white throne judgment. What fruit did you have before you got saved? The only fruit you had when you were unsaved, was death. Everything you did as an unsaved man tended toward death. And yet, that is not what God intended for you. God created you to bring forth fruit unto God.

Do you see how down to earth and practical Paul is? All of us know about fruit. In any grocery store, any smart shopper knows how to pick out the best fruit. Most people are fruit inspectors and not just at the grocery store. Take a minute to list your fruits, your good points, your righteousness, before you got saved.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_

- a. Did any fruit you listed help get you saved? \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Did any fruit you listed earn you favor with God? \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Is God's salvation earned by your good works? \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Is God's salvation earned by your earnest good intentions? \_\_\_\_\_
- e. Does God count any of your fruit toward your salvation? \_\_\_\_\_

**in those things whereof ye are now ashamed?** - Have you ever heard anyone give testimony about how they got saved and they describe their sins in glowing terms, as if being a heart-beat from hell was a good way to live? Sometimes it doesn't sound like they're ashamed of their sins before they got saved. Some testimonies of salvation sound like they're glorifying their sins before they got saved. Our sins separated us from God. Our sins had us on the road to hell and eternal separation from God. Christians should have a biblical view of our sins. What does it mean to be ashamed of our sins? \_\_\_\_\_  
Why should we be ashamed of our sins? \_\_\_\_\_

**for the end of those things is death.** - When lost people are living their lives and doing everyday things, oftentimes, they are unaware of their need of a Savior. They have no inkling that God's view of everything they're doing is: *the end of those things is death*. When we get saved from the awful situation of being

lost, it may take a while to reorient our thinking. That's why, after we get saved, we walk in the Spirit, Galatians 5:16, 25, and live clean, holy lives for the Lord and witness to the lost. That's why we: **Know, Reckon, Yield**, so we don't live sinful, sordid, wasted lives.

*The end of those things* describes the sins of the lost before they get saved. Those things whose end is death are *those things whereof ye are now ashamed*. He is being as practical as he can be here. Paul loved the book of Isaiah and quotes it 18 times in Romans. Here is another verse from Isaiah which may have informed Paul's thinking about sin.

*"But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear."* Isaiah 59:2

For anyone whose iniquities have separated them from God, for anyone whose sins have caused God to hid His face and ignore their prayers, that is a serious situation because, *the end of those things is death*. How can sinners escape the truth that, *the end of those things is death?* \_\_\_\_\_

**6:22 - But now being made free from sin**, - *But now* - When you get saved, it's a whole new ballgame. *But now*, means, when you get saved and justified and sanctified. *But now*, means, when you've been born again. *But now*, means, when you receive the grace of God in Christ. Paul says, *But now*, because salvation happens at the point in time when you believe on Christ as your Savior.

At the point in time that you got saved, that is your now, and that is when you were, *made free from sin*. You may not have known that truth back then. Most people don't know the truth that, when they got saved, they were made free from sin. Perhaps no one told you that back then, yet, at that moment and from that time, God made you free from sin. That is just one of the many spiritual blessings God has given you in Christ, Ephesians 1:3.

1. What does it mean to be free from sin? **a.** I never commit another sin, **b.** I am still a sinner but I'm no longer a slave to sin. 2. *But now, being made free from sin*: When Paul says that, he is describing: **a.** The moment you joined the church, **b.** The moment you got baptized, **c.** The moment you finished catechism class, **d.** The moment you got saved.

Free from sin doesn't mean you'll stop sinning or that you'll live a sinless life or, that you are free to sin. It means that God has defeated sin and Satan and you

are free from the captivating power of sin. You are no longer a slave to a corpse. As a born again Christian, you now can live a victorious life for Christ, by the power of Christ. That option doesn't come from religion or spirituality or human will power or church membership or having Christian parents.

You're free from sin because Christ took your sins upon Himself.

You're free from sin because God accepted Jesus' payment for your sins.

You're free from sin because you died with Christ on Calvary.

You're free from sin because you resurrected with Christ to a new life.

You're free from sin because Christ dwells in your heart by faith.

**and become servants to God**, - Have you noticed the factual progression Paul gives us? When you were the servants of sin, you had no righteousness. When you were the servants of sin, you had no fruit. When you were the servants of sin, you had a lot to be ashamed of. When you were the servants of sin, you were headed to hell. Being servants of sin leads to death. Christ dealt with all of that in just six hours on the cross of Calvary, Mark 15:25, Matthew 27:45-50, Luke 23:44. What looked like a terrible defeat for God turned out to be a glorious victory, for God and for us.

**and become servants to God** - When you got saved, you got a new master. You stopped serving the world, the flesh and the devil and you started serving God. The past is the past. What happened in the past, stays in the past. This reminds us that it isn't all about us. We are not the stars of the show and we are not the focus of attention. We are servants to God. Our activities, beliefs, labors and thoughts should glorify God. Let's think about that. Does your life reflect that you are a servant to God? \_\_\_\_\_ What things can you change in your life to live as a servant to God? \_\_\_\_\_

Pray about that and ask the Lord to show you what He wants to change in your life. When the Lord shows you something He wants you to change, respond in humble obedience. Living for Christ is an adventure if you're willing to obey Him.

**ye have your fruit unto holiness**, - Holiness and sanctification describe the purpose of God for every Christian, not just in heaven eventually but right now, down here on earth. God wants to reap a harvest of fruit in your life before He takes you home to heaven. "*I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.*" John 15:1-8, where Jesus teaches about: fruit, more fruit, much fruit. The fruit you bear comes from Christ in you.

You cannot bear fruit by yourself because, *the branch cannot bear fruit of itself*, John 15:4. It is Christ's sanctifying inner work in you that causes you to bear fruit for God. Whatever kind of fruit you bear will manifest in your life as holiness. Selfish, self-aggrandizing and self-centered Christians are not holy Christians. Focusing on yourself and making everything in life about you is not holiness. The truth is, it's all about God and others. Holiness and having fruit for God comes from yielding to God, moment by moment, day by day. Yielding to God is a very conscious thing. Yielding to God is intentional obedience to God. It is possible because you have been made free from sin and become servants to God.

**ye have your fruit** - Some of the fruit you bear for God will be the souls you lead to saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Those saved souls represent shipwrecked lives, broken by sin and rescued by the grace of God in Christ. God will use you as a soul-winner if you are yielded to Him and present your body to Him, Romans 12:1-2. Do you have the courage to present yourself to God? \_\_\_\_\_

### **What does it mean to have fruit and bear fruit for God?**

Having fruit speaks of the naturalness of the new life in Christ. Having fruit is the natural result of being made free from sin. In the life of a Christian, besides winning souls, there are nine kinds of fruit God wants us to bear. When your life exhibits this fruit, you are walking in holiness. As a Christian, what kind of fruit are you bearing for God? \_\_\_\_\_

How can you measure your fruit bearing? \_\_\_\_\_

As you form the habit of daily victory over sin by reminding yourself of Paul's **KNOW, RECKON and YIELD** truth and as you read and obey the Bible daily, three things will happen. 1. You will grow spiritually, 2. you will begin to develop Christian maturity and 3. your life will bear fruit for God. Have you ever given yourself the fruit of the Spirit test? Assess yourself about the nine fruits of the Spirit from the list below. What areas need work and God's empowering in your life so that you can bear fruit for God? Are you willing to listen to the Holy Spirit as He speaks to you about your life and bearing fruit for God? \_\_\_\_\_

*"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."* Galatians 5:22-23

1. Do I exhibit Christian love? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Do I exhibit Christian joy? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Do I exhibit Christian peace? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Do I exhibit Christian longsuffering? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Do I exhibit Christian gentleness? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Do I exhibit Christian goodness? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Do I exhibit Christian faith? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Do I exhibit Christian meekness? \_\_\_\_\_
9. Do I exhibit Christian temperance? \_\_\_\_\_

**and the end everlasting life.** - God is preparing us for heaven where we will enjoy His glory forever. The end result of salvation is everlasting life but there is work to do before we go to heaven. That work has nothing to do with getting saved or staying saved. It has to do with us being partners with God in winning the lost to Christ. It also has to do with our sanctification and growing to spiritual maturity in Christ. Living holy down here impacts the effectiveness of our witness for Jesus. Remember, it's not all about us. It's all about Jesus. God gives us the privilege of being part of His glorious plan of salvation. We get to lead others to saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ if we are willing.

**6:23 - For the wages of sin is death;** - Paul uses the metaphorical meaning of the Greek word, ὀψώνιον opsōnion, op-sō'-nē-on, when he says, the wages of sin. Opsōnion specifically referred to the food ration given a Roman soldier, along with his pay. It was also used metaphorically to refer to a soldier's pay in general. As used here, opsōnion means: your compensation, your income, your reward, your hire, your payment, what you've earned, your wages.

In Romans 6:23, *wages* is treated as a collective noun so it is perfectly correct to say, the wages of sin IS death instead of saying, the wages of sin ARE death. Paul makes the same point Ezekiel made in the OT. "*The soul that sinneth, it shall die.*" Ezekiel 18:20. It's the same point Paul made in Romans 5:12, when he wrote: "*and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.*" The appropriate payment for sin is death and *everlasting destruction*, 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9. Sin brings death and Christ is the only answer to the human sin problem. Since everyone is facing death and judgment, it makes sense to get prepared.

1. When Paul tells us, *the wages of sin is death*, how would you explain that to a baby Christian? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What is sin? \_\_\_\_\_
3. We sometimes think of sin as the really bad things like rape or murder but are there sins besides those obviously bad ones? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Is not believing the Bible a sin? \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Is not regularly reading the Bible a

sin? \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Is lack of faith a sin? \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Is it a sin for unsaved people to not believe in Jesus, John 16:8-9? \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Which sins lead people to death? **a.** Only the really bad sins, **b.** Only the sins that hurt our fellow man, **c.** All sin leads to death. 9. Death comes because of our relationship to: **a.** Adam, **b.** Abraham, **c.** Moses. 10. Eternal life comes because of our relationship to: **a.** Adam, **b.** Jesus, **c.** John the Baptist, **d.** The Dalai Lama, **e.** Pope Francis. 11. Is the wages of sin also death for Christians who go up in the rapture and never die? Yes or No. Discuss your reasoning for the answer you chose. \_\_\_\_\_

---

12. Is Genesis 2:17 referring to physical death or spiritual death? \_\_\_\_\_

13. Is Ephesians 2:1 referring to physical death or spiritual death? \_\_\_\_\_

**but the gift of God is eternal life** - Eternal life is God's unearned gift to everyone who believes on Jesus for salvation, Romans 5:17. A gift is freely given, without compensation and is freely received but never earned. Eternal life is never presented in the Bible as payment for services you have rendered to God. Many churches teach that salvation is an earned reward, given by God IF you work hard, jump through all the spiritual hoops and obey the teachings of the church. Of course, that view is never taught in the Bible.

1. What is the difference between a gift and a payment? \_\_\_\_\_

2. How long does eternal life last? \_\_\_\_\_ That seems like a silly question but many saved folks live their life in fear that they will lose their salvation. 3. Is that a valid fear based on what Paul teaches about justification by faith? \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Is eternal life temporary or everlasting? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Are you in the habit of giving lavish gifts to people who hate you? \_\_\_\_\_

6. Why does God offer eternal life to His enemies, Romans 5:10? \_\_\_\_\_

**6:23 - through Jesus Christ our Lord.** - Some people read Romans 6:23 and decide that what Paul says is mysterious and hard to understand. They wrestle with what Paul means when he writes: *the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

1. Is Paul saying that eternal life is through the teaching of Buddha? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Is Paul saying that eternal life is through the teaching of Mohamed? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Is Paul saying that eternal life is through the sayings of Confucius? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Is Paul saying that there are many ways to get saved and Jesus is just one of those ways? \_\_\_\_\_

5. What is Paul saying in Romans 6:23? \_\_\_\_\_

6. Is Romans 6:23 a clear verse or an unclear verse? \_\_\_\_\_

7. What do you understand, *through Jesus Christ our Lord*, to mean? \_\_\_\_\_
8. How many ways to heaven are there in Romans? \_\_\_\_\_
9. Is Paul telling us, in as kind a way as possible, that we need to work to earn our salvation? \_\_\_\_\_
10. Is Paul telling us that the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord, plus water baptism? \_\_\_\_\_
11. Is Paul telling us that the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord, plus obeying holy mother church? \_\_\_\_\_
12. In Romans 6:23, is Paul telling us that the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord, plus the good works we do for Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_
13. Is it possible that Paul was thinking about Jesus' words in John 14:6 when he wrote Romans 6:23? \_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_
14. How many ways are there to get to heaven in the twenty first century? **a.** At least 40 ways, **b.** Depends on how many religions there are, **c.** Depends on what my church says, **d.** There is only one way to heaven.
15. Does Acts 4:12 support or deny your answer to question 7? \_\_\_\_\_

## Review Questions For Romans Chapter 6

1. Is Romans 6 about Justification or Sanctification? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Sanctification means: **a.** God made me perfect, **b.** God made and is making me holy, **c.** God made me spiritual, **d.** God made me legalistic.
3. Justification by faith delivered us from the guilt of sin. Sanctification by faith delivers us from: **a.** The power of sin, **b.** The temptation of sin, **c.** The joy of sin.
4. Positional sanctification is: **a.** Our Standing in Christ, **b.** Our State in this life.
5. Progressive sanctification is: **a.** Our State in this life, **b.** Our standing in Christ.
6. Is it okay to sin so that God's grace can abound in us? \_\_\_\_\_
7. In Romans 6:2, are Christians dead to sin? \_\_\_\_\_
8. What is the basis of our justification and sanctification in Christ? **a.** Our faith mixed with our works, **b.** Mostly, just our works, after we get saved, **c.** Always and only, faith in Christ's sacrifice of Himself and His imputed righteousness.
9. Grace encourages us to: **a.** Keep living in sin, **b.** Stop living in sin, **c.** Rely on the power of Christ in us, for victory over sin.
10. After He saves us, God intends that: **a.** We choose our own path, **b.** We do our best but never worry about living in sin, **c.** We live victorious over sin through the grace and power of God in our lives.
11. Justification by faith is about look and live. T or F
12. Sanctification by faith is about look and die or identification with Christ. T or F
13. As a Christian, are you identified with Christ in His crucifixion? \_\_\_\_\_
14. As a Christian, are you identified with Christ in His death? \_\_\_\_\_
15. As a Christian, are you identified with Christ in His burial? \_\_\_\_\_
16. As a Christian, are you identified with Christ in His resurrection? \_\_\_\_\_
17. As a Christian, did you die with Christ on Calvary? \_\_\_\_\_
18. As a Christian, did you resurrect with Christ from the garden tomb? \_\_\_\_\_
19. Victory over sin is based on: Your Identification with Christ and your Indwelling by Christ. T or F
20. Christians need to Know four things, Romans 6:3-5. What are they?
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
  - d.
21. Christians need to Reckon two things, Romans 6:11-12. What are they?
  - a.
  - b.
22. Christians need to do two things concerning Yield, Romans 6:13?
  - a.
  - b.

23. For what purpose was our old man crucified with Christ and the body of sin destroyed, Romans 6:6. \_\_\_\_\_
24. In Romans 6:7, Christians are freed from sin so that: **a.** We can live in sin, **b.** Sin will not be imputed to us, **c.** We can live sinlessly perfect lives, **d.** We can live a holy life for the Lord.
25. The Bible way to victory over sin is: **a.** Know, Reckon, Yield, **b.** Try harder and pray more, **c.** Take the sacrament every week, **d.** Take a vow of poverty.
26. In Romans 6:22, we were made free from sin so we can: **a.** Bear fruit for God, **b.** Serve as humble servants of the church, **c.** Get into full-time ministry, **d.** Earn the esteem of our friends and neighbors.
27. Which of these is not fruit for God? **a.** Winning the Nobel Peace Prize, **b.** Winning souls to Christ, **c.** Having the fruit of the Spirit, **d.** Becoming a powerbroker in the church.
28. What is the wages of sin in Romans 6:23? **a.** Time in purgatory, **b.** Death, **c.** A delayed entrance into heaven.
29. What is the gift of God in Romans 6:23? **a.** A bigger heavenly mansion if I worked really hard, **b.** More rewards if I lived a flashy Christian life, **c.** Acreage around my mansion so I don't have to live near lesser Christians, **d.** Eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.
30. If we summarize the teaching of Romans 6, it is that: **a.** Sin isn't a big issue with God, **b.** Christians are free to live as we please, **c.** The death and resurrection of Christ have no impact on our lives today, **d.** Our Identification with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection helps us live a victorious Christian life, **e.** The Indwelling Christ (Christ in you the hope of glory), gives us power to live a life victorious over sin and pleasing to God.