

**LESSON 11: ROMANS 6:1-11**  
**FEBRUARY 19, 2020**

**OVERVIEW**

- . Where does the doctrine of the triumph of God's grace lead us – Romans 6:1-2
- . Baptized into Christ and living with Jesus now – Romans 6:3-10
- . Nowhere to go but forward – Romans 6:11

**WHERE DOES THE DOCTRINE OF THE TRIUMPH OF GOD'S GRACE LEAD US**  
**ROMANS 6:1-2**

- . What does it mean to be saved by grace apart from works
  - . It means that one doesn't earn their justification by doing good works or being obedient to the law
  - . Paul tells us that the righteousness of God is revealed apart from the law
    - . A gentile can come to know God and His righteousness before he even begins to understand what is written in the law
- . Does this mean the law is no longer of value to a believer
  - . As Paul says, "absolutely not"
  - . The law helps both a Jew and gentile better understand how God wants us to live rightly
  - . One who chooses to have faith and a heartfelt desire to be obedient to that faith needs to understand what that means by turning to God's word
  - . A critical part of God's word and direction to man is defined through the law
- . Does this grace of God, which is given to us freely, through our choosing to believe, mean that we can go on sinning
  - . In these verses Paul addresses this whole illusion that the more one sins the greater God's grace
    - . In other words, the only way one can feel the depth of God's grace is to be forgiven for the waywardness of our actions
    - . The argument here is that a saint won't feel the same depth of God's grace as a forgiven felon
  - . Paul empathically states here that this is absolutely the wrong way to think
  - . We are not to go on sinning
  - . God's salvation does not nullify God's wrath for all times
  - . Later in His letter, Paul tells us that there will be a time, yet to come, when we will come face to face with God, and have to account for our actions
  - . God calls us to be Holy and the good news being preached here is now we have an Advocate, the Holy Spirit, that can help us achieve this lofty goal

- . This doesn't mean we are now immune from sin, or may stumble going forward
- . When we do, we are to recognize our transgressions, learn from our mistakes and move forward with the heartfelt desire to sin no more
- . Sin takes on a whole new meaning to believers
  - . One who is now yoked to Christ will recognize sin in a way they didn't before
  - . In some instances people will see sinful actions in areas where they were oblivious to it before
  - . In other instances believers will become repulsed by sin where they may have justified it before
  - . In other areas, where believers still feel a strong temptation to do the wrong thing, they will feel a stronger sense of guilt or shame and not derive the same type of enjoyment from it than they did before
  - . A person who chooses to live by faith and be obedient to God will derive a greater sense of joy out of doing the right thing
    - . This joy will give one a greater sense of being in communion with God that will replace the desire to do the wrong thing

### **BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST AND LIVING WITH JESUS NOW**

#### **ROMANS 6:3-10**

- . United to Christ in baptism
  - . What this means is that we have been taken out of one state and put in to another
  - . We have died to previous self and entered in to another state of being
- . Buried through baptism into death
  - . When a person dies, they need to be buried in order to bring closure to the death
  - . The thought of just leaving a dead person be is almost unthinkable and very bothersome
  - . To bury the dead is to bring closure to the situation, which helps people move on
  - . In the same way, when we are baptized in Christ and born anew, it's important to cleave ourselves to Christ and His dying on the cross
  - . Before the resurrected Christ, there was the cross and burial
  - . Without the cross and burial, the resurrected Christ would not have the same meaning to us
  - . To die to self is to think of ourselves with Christ on the cross and buried in the tomb
    - . Whenever we are tempted to sin, think of it as trying to dig up your buried body

- . Living with Jesus now – Romans 6:5-10
  - . For many, dying to Christ implies no more living, no more enjoyment of life
  - . Too many people have this false sense of equating sin with life's enjoyment
    - . Isn't seeking the joy in life somehow choosing something other than God's will for our life
    - . Didn't Jesus say He was in the world, but not of the world
  - . The truth is that to be freed of this bondage to sin allows us to be freed to a brand new life
    - . To be united with the resurrected Christ is to be free from the trappings of life knowing that our real joy is in this life eternal, that transcends the everyday trappings of life
    - . We can still enjoy all aspects of God's Creation without feeling so yoked to them that we begin to covet them and even fret over losing them
    - . One who draws their joy from their relationship with Christ can continue to enjoy life without fretting over their eventual death
  - . Learning to refocus our energies on this new relationship will make yesterdays priorities a little less important
    - . When we met and fell in love with our spouses, previous priorities were rearranged
    - . Suddenly, we were drawing energy and joy from a new source that made everything else around us less important
    - . This same dynamic holds true with Christ
    - . It's why He refers to Himself as the groom and us, the bride

### **NOWHERE TO GO BUT FORWARD – ROMANS 6:11**

- . This becomes a turning point in the letter
  - . Through these previous chapters Paul has been painting this picture of what it means to be dead to sin and alive in Christ
  - . How do we begin this new journey
    - . The first step in growing in holiness is counting, as true, what is in fact true
      - . Through God's justification, we have been taken out of our old self and joined to Christ in our new self
      - . The secret to holy life is believing this, even if we don't totally understand all aspects of it
      - . Learn to trust it, then approach each day grasping this new reality, with the goal of growing in your understanding of it
- . But what if I do go back and sin
  - . You can not return to sin in the same way you did before
  - . You may sin, but it won't be the same
  - . You will not enjoy it as you did before
  - . You will not even be able to do it convincingly

- . As you grow in your faith your real joy will come from doing the right thing, as defined by God
- . If your life today isn't a reflection of what Paul is saying here it is probably a function of a couple of things
  - . It's possible you haven't embraced the truths being revealed through the gospel
    - . As Paul says, this journey begins with a leap of faith and then choosing to be obedient to that faith
- . Maybe you've taken that leap of faith, but do not feel any difference in the way you lead your life or in the joy you get out of life
  - . If this is the case, what kind of investment are you making in growing your faith
  - . Are you seeking God, choosing to reprioritize your day, making God your primary focus
  - . As one grows in their faith, they will become more of a reflection of God, more aligned with God's will
- . Maybe your journey has been derailed by the real ugliness of life
  - . When we encounter setbacks or feel as if prayers go unanswered, it's easy to get angry with God and feel abandoned
  - . The truth is God has not abandoned us
  - . God is still there and still loves us, even though the reality seems much different
  - . The good news of the gospel doesn't promise us immunity from hardship and pain
- . Our faith journey is a marathon, that needs to have a starting point
  - . We need to choose to run the race with perseverance, keeping our eyes on the perfecter of our faith
- . Paul is calling us here to choose to run the race, determined to keep moving forward, never going back
  - . Joyfully, without reservation, commit to do so

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**NEXT LESSON - WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2020 - ROMANS 6:12-23**