

ROMANS

*A Daily Devotional
Study Guide*



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WEEK 10

Day 1

Study: Romans 6:1-7

Reading: I John 3:1-24

Memory: Matthew 5:15

I believe that one of the reasons that God gave mankind the butterfly is to help us understand salvation. Caterpillars are very limited creatures. They are forced to scoot along the ground and are very easy prey for other animals. This all changes as the time comes for them to form a chrysalis. In this temporary home of theirs, their appearance is transformed from a dull caterpillar to a beautiful butterfly.

Today, we are going to read that our lives are like that caterpillar without Christ. We are dead in our sins, subject to experience the miseries of sin in this life and the life to come. Once we experience the transforming power of God, we can then experience the beauty and freedom that God desires us to have.

What Does the Bible Say?

Most of the Jews had grown up with a works based idea of salvation. They thought that they needed to keep the law in order to find favor in God's eyes. This is why Paul took several chapters to carefully explain salvation by grace apart from the Law. He knew that one of their common questions to the Gospel would deal with living in grace. Some thought that if there was no Law to guide a person's actions, then a person could do whatever he wanted to do and still be a believer in Christ. Paul answered their question before they were able to ask it (vs 1) by declaring that God would never want people to live in sin. He then declared that those who have been saved won't live in sin because salvation changed their lives (vs 1-2).

One of the acts that had set Christians apart from Jews was the act of baptism. Baptism did nothing to save a person, but was to symbolize that a person was uniting with Christ and choosing to be His follower. Christ died for sins, and when a believer is baptized, they are showing the world how they want to die to their sins as well. Even when John the Baptist introduced baptism to the world, it was an outward symbol of inward

repentance (vs 3). Baptism symbolizes how our bodies, which couldn't help sinning before we believed in Christ, were transformed by the death and resurrection of Christ. Because of salvation we have been changed and no longer have to live in sin (vs 4).

We don't just celebrate the death of Christ on the cross, but we also celebrate His resurrection. This resurrection showed that Christ conquered death and reveals that we can have victory over sin which causes death (vs 5). Though our actual bodies remain the same when we trust in Christ, our inward life is transformed. We no longer have to live in sin because our old sinful self was crucified with Jesus upon the cross. Because of this, we have freedom from sin (vs 6-7).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Has the understanding and concept of grace become more clear to you as you have read Romans? Have you realized that salvation is not a quick decision or temporal change, but salvation is a supernatural act of God? When a person is truly transformed by Jesus Christ his life will be changed. Salvation is more than just having a desire to get to heaven, and it is far more than praying a prayer to help earn a spot in heaven. True salvation will completely change a person's life through the transforming power of Jesus Christ. When a person has been truly saved, he or she won't want to live in sin. The believer understands how much sin affects a relationship with God. A person that has been converted has the power over sin because of the new life that God has given them. This thought should thrill you. As a believer, you don't have to serve sin because you have been freed from sin to serve God.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Thank God for delivering you from your sin.*
- * *Ask God to help you understand His grace.*
- * *Praise God because He is victorious over sin.*

Thought for the day

Day 2

Study: Romans 6:8-11

Reading: Hebrews 10:1-18, I John 1:1-10

Memory: Matthew 5:15

I have made running part of my regular exercise routine since I was around 13 years old. I have run hundreds of miles over my lifetime and have experienced many ups and down in my "running career." One thing that I have learned is that no matter how long I have been running, it is always a battle for me. Some days, running is much easier than others. There are some day, where I just don't feel like running and don't, while other days I force myself to do it. Though I know I should run consistently because it is good for me, there are some days or even months I choose not to. It is a continual battle in my life.

Today, we are going to see that we are in a battle between the sinful nature and the new nature which both exist inside of us. You have been given the ability to have victory over sin because Christ conquered sin. You have the power of Christ inside of you to overcome any temptation you may face.

What Does the Bible Say?

We read yesterday how grace does not give us the right to continue in our sin, but instead, we have been set free from our sin. Those who by faith have accepted God's gift of grace will also have the life of Christ inside of them. This is not just an eternal life, but is the power to live a life for Christ each day. The choice to follow Christ that each individual makes is also a choice to die to yourself and your sinful desires. Just as Christ conquered death through the resurrection, you also can conquer death because death no longer has control over your life. It is not just death that doesn't have control, but this also means that sin no longer has control of your life since it is sin that brings death. Paul took a great deal of time on this point to help the Romans see and understand the great victory they can have over sin. Throughout the first part of the book of Romans he revealed that there was no power in our flesh that could deliver from sin. It was only the death and gracious work of Christ that brought us salvation. We can

not work to earn our salvation, but it is given by Christ when we were stuck in our sin. A choice to follow Christ is a choice to put aside our sin and live in His righteousness (vs 8-9).

In verse 10, Paul makes a very interesting statement as he wrote that Christ “died to sin.” The emphasis on this verse seems to be the idea that he died “once for all.” In other portions of Scripture, especially in Hebrews, it is emphasized that Christ did not need to make continual sacrifices as the priests did in the Old Testament, but He made one sacrifice to pay for the sins of all men. He rose victorious over death and sin after that sacrifice and is alive, living with the Father. He has conquered death and has conquered the power of sin (vs 10).

Verse 10 was given as a proof to the conclusion that was given in verse 11. Since Christ was victorious over sin and death, we also can be victorious over sin and death. You must make a choice to consider yourself dead to sin and alive to Christ. We will see a little later in Romans how, though we have been given a new nature and new life through salvation, we still battle with the flesh and have to choose life. The key that he is pointing out is not that we won’t sin or can’t be ruled by the flesh, but we have all the power and ability that we need to live a new life that is controlled and directed by God. At one time we were trapped in our sin, but we no longer have to be trapped in sin and death. We can live victoriously over it (vs 11).

How Does this Apply to Me?

What are you choosing today? Are you choosing to live in sin or are you choosing to live in victory? If you are younger and are reading this, your choice to live in sin will probably look different than if you are older and are reading this. Most younger people struggle with living in sins of the flesh like sexual temptation and lustful desires. This doesn’t mean that older people don’t face those, but some of the physical desires become less as a person gets older. Those who are older often live in sin by the sins of their minds. By this I mean the sins of worry, fear, mistrust, etc. The portion of Scripture you read today reveals that you do not have to be trapped in the sins that easily entangle you. There is hope, but it is not found in you, it is found in Christ. You can and you should have victory in your life. It is not always easy, but as Christ conquered sin, you can, through His power, conquer it as well. This does not mean that you will be void of temptation, but means you can be victorious.

Day 3

Study: Romans 6:12-19

Reading: Galatians 5:16-26, Ephesians 4:0-32

Memory: Matthew 5:15

I have co-coached a soccer team more than once and have enjoyed the years I did so. Being able to co-coach takes all of the demand off of one person, but we as coaches found that when game time came, one of us would have to take control and make the decisions. We found that if we were both at a game, it would work best if one of us made all the substitutions and did the majority of the vocal coaching. This helped avoid confusion and helped the players know who was in charge.

Today, we are going to see how believers have served two different masters. Before we were saved, we served Satan, but after our salvation, we should now serve Christ. We will see how important it is to serve Christ alone and not to split our loyalties between Him and Satan.

What Does the Bible Say?

All those who place their faith and trust in Jesus Christ have the ability to overcome sin, but the choice to overcome sin has to be made by every individual. We have to choose not to let sin reign in our bodies. We need to choose to present our bodies to God to be used by Him rather than letting our earthly desires control what we do (vs 12-13). Though we still have the sin nature, we as believers have the ability to master that sin nature and live victorious Christian lives. This victory comes because of the grace that God has shown to us. In and of ourselves we would have no ability to conquer sin, but through Jesus Christ we can (vs 14).

A misunderstanding of grace led some to think that they could do whatever they wanted since they were no longer obligated to keep the list of rules and regulations that were found in the Law. There are people and religions that advocate this idea today. They use their Christian liberty and the grace of God to excuse their worldly living. To this, Paul responded (and would still respond today) “God forbid!” (vs 15) He explained how believers shouldn’t live in sin by telling his readers that a person who would choose to become a slave to someone else also chooses to be obedient to his master. People either choose to be obedient to Satan by

rejecting God, or they choose to be obedient to God by rejecting sin (vs 16).

Though all men were slaves to sin at one point in their lives, the grace of God has given them the opportunity to be freed from sin and become servants of righteousness (vs 17-18). Believers should not say “I have to serve God,” but should say “I want to serve God.” The term “a slave to God” was not necessarily the proper term used to explain a believer’s relationship with God, and that is why Paul declared that he was speaking in human terms. He was using the slavery illustration to prove his point and help his readers understand what they had in grace. Before they experienced the grace of God, they had offered their bodies to do evil and that is what they lived for, now that they were saved, their bodies were to be offered as instruments of righteousness (vs 19).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Is your body being offered to God as an instrument of righteousness? Are you daily submitting yourself to God and allowing His power to work through you? No matter how long you have been a believer, you are still in a sinful body. You can’t win if you try to conquer sin on your own, but you will be victorious when you use the power of God. God wants you to be a servant and the first thing that a servant needs to do is ask the master what the master wants done. Many believers think they are serving God by their actions, but they often are just serving themselves because they have never taken time to ask God what He wants them to do. They serve and don’t feel the joy that God has promised them. This service often leads to discouragement and that discouragement will lead to many more problems. Choose today to begin every day by asking God what He wants you to do. Seek Him first for direction and don’t just ask for help later.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Thank God for giving you the victory over sin.*
- * *Ask God to help you daily look to him for help.*
- * *Praise God because He has power to do all things.*

Thought for the day

Day 4

Study: Romans 6:20-23

Reading: Revelation 21:1-8, Ephesians 1:3-14

Memory: Matthew 5:15

I have always enjoyed singing Christmas songs. In fact, when I was in Junior High, I took my Disney Christmas songbook to school with me and got my friends to sing Christmas songs with me between classes. Many of the songs that we sang talked about Santa Claus and the need for boys and girls to be good so that Santa would bring them gifts on Christmas.

Perhaps this type of thinking has helped some children behave better in December, but I wonder if it hasn’t contributed to a false thinking about the gift of salvation that God offers to all. In order for a child to receive a gift from Santa, he must meet the qualification of being good. Many people have this same thought about God. They think that the gift of eternal life is given to those who are good and only given to those who deserve it. Today, we are going to see how the gift of God was offered to us even though we did nothing to deserve it.

What Does the Bible Say?

In the verses we studied yesterday, Paul used the human illustration of slavery to help his readers understand how God’s power had freed them from sin. He described how believers are free from sin and slaves unto God. Before salvation, we were slaves to sin and were free from righteousness. Simply stated, Paul was describing how the life of a true believer will be different after conversion. Prior to accepting the Lord, we couldn’t help sinning because righteousness was foreign to us. After salvation, we are now servants to Christ and free from the bondage of sin (vs 20).

Sin didn’t benefit us or help us before we were converted. In fact, the opposite is true. Sin hurt us and condemned us before a holy God. There is no benefit in sinning because sin brings about death (vs 21). On the other hand, those who have been freed from sin and have been made alive unto Christ have a great benefit. Our lives have been transformed by God

as Christ's death upon the cross paid the penalty for our sin. Not only do we receive eternal life, but we also have been sanctified by the blood of Christ. This means that we are now declared righteous because of the grace that He has given us. There was nothing we could do for this, but it was given to us by God. (vs 22).

This thought was summed up by Paul in one of the most familiar verses in the Bible. Paul declared that the payment for our sin is death. This death comes from sin and means that a person will be eternally separated from God. This is why Christ stepped in and chose to die on the cross. He wanted to pay the price for your sin so you wouldn't have to. He wanted to make you alive in Him. He chose to offer you the free gift of salvation (vs 23).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you realize what you have in salvation? God took you from being and unprofitable sinner, to a profitable saint. It was all His work as you chose to place your faith and trust in Him. Those who get the idea that Christianity is a miserable, boring life don't understand true salvation. The fact that God chooses to deliver you from sin and the problems it causes should thrill you. God has delivered you from this and wants to give you abundant joy and blessings. Take some time to meditate on the great gift that God has given you through salvation.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Thank God for the gift of salvation.*
- * *Ask God to help you live a life free from sin.*
- * *Praise God because He has the power over sin.*

Thought for the day

Day 5

Study: Romans 6:1-11, I John 2:1-6, Galatians 2:15-21

Reading: Ephesians 4:17-32

Memory: Matthew 5:15

Romans 6:1-11

Why would the grace of God cause a person to think that they could continue in their sin (vs 1-2)?

How did Paul answer those who thought God's grace would give an excuse to live a sinful life (vs 2)?

What should God's grace cause you to do (vs 4)?

What is one of the results of the death of Christ on the Cross (vs 6)?

What should not have dominion over your life (vs 9)?

How should you view your Christian walk (vs 11)?

I John 2:1-6

What is a believer expected not to do (vs 1)?

What happens if you do sin (vs 1)?

What does it mean that Christ is the "propitiation" for your sin (vs 2)?

****The word "propitiation" was used among the Greeks to describe how their sacrifices and offerings would appease their gods. Here we are told that the sacrifice of Jesus is the only thing that can appease the wrath of God.*

What will mark the life of a true believer (vs 3)?

What does John say about those who say they are believers but do not keep the commands of God (vs 4)?

How is this similar to what Paul was saying in Romans 6:1-2?

What happens to those who keep the Word of God (vs 5)?

****The term “perfected” (ESV) means to finish, to accomplish. It has the idea of carrying something out to a completion. This verse gives the idea that the confirmation of your salvation is that you desire to keep the words of God. For instance, in order to be a Marine, you don’t just sign up for the Marine Corps, but you go through basic training, graduate and serve as a Marine. You can’t say you are a Marine until you show you are a Marine. A Christian can’t say or be a Christian by mere words, it also displays itself through actions.*

How should those who understand the grace of God choose to live (vs 6)?

Galatians 2:15-21

How is a person not justified (vs 16)?

How is a person justified (vs 16)?

What do you think verses 17-19 mean?

****It is hard to understand this jumping right into the middle of a passage. The context reveals that Paul and others were being accused of abandoning the Law by living with the Gentiles and therefore were accused of sin. Paul argued that Christ set them free from the Law and that Christ was not directing them to sin by telling them they no longer had to keep the law.*

What did Paul express about his life as a believer (vs 20)?

If righteousness came by keeping the rules, what would have been the purpose of the death of Jesus on the cross (vs 21)?

Personal Application

What can I learn about God from this passage?

How can I apply what I have learned to my everyday life?

Day 6

Study: Romans 6:12-23, John 3:16-21, Colossians 3:1-17

Reading: James 3:13-18, Psalm 119:9-16

Memory: Matthew 5:15

Romans 6:12-23

What choice do you have about sin (vs 12)?

What doesn’t sin have the ability to do (vs 14)?

****You have a choice when it comes to sin. You can choose to let it rule over your life or you can choose to rule over it.*

Why should you not use God’s grace as an excuse for you to sin (vs 15-16)?

What does it mean that you have been set free from your sin (vs 17-18)?

How should you live your life (vs 19)?

What is the result of allowing sin to rule in your life (vs 20-21)?

What does it mean that you are “set free” from your sin (vs 22)?

What do you deserve for your sin (vs 23)?

What have you been given by God’s gift of Jesus Christ (vs 23)?

John 3:16-21

What did God do (vs 16)?

Why did God send Jesus into the world (vs 17)?

What are the only two states that men can be in when it comes to their eternal destiny (vs 18)?

Why don't more people believe in Jesus (vs 19-20)?

How will true believers live differently than the world around them (vs 21)?

Colossians 3:1-17

What should believers be seeking after (vs 1-2)?

What is the status of your life as a believer (vs 3)?

What do you have to look forward to (vs 4)?

What are you to choose to remove from your life (vs 5)?

What is important to remember about these sins (vs 6)?

What are some things in verses 8-9 that you have struggled with as your old flesh does battle with your new life?

Why is it important not just to take off the evil, but to replace it with what is right (vs 10-11)?

Read through the list given in verses 12-14 and ask God to reveal to you areas in your life where you need choose to make some changes.

How can you allow God to make these changes in your life (vs 16)?

How should your life be lived (vs 17)?

Personal Application

What can I learn about God from this passage?

How can I apply what I have learned to my everyday life?

Day 7

Reading: Romans 6:1-23

(Take time to read this passage again, letting the truths you have studied this week sink into your mind. You are encouraged to go online and read it through a few times in different versions.)

www.biblegateway.com

Bible Memory

Matthew 5:1 Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. 2 And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: 3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. 5 "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. 6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. 7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. 8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. 9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. 10 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. 13 "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. 14 "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house.