

Series through Romans: TRUTH: UNASHAMED, PART II

Sermon Title: Week 3, Slaves no more!

Principal Scripture: Romans 6:1-7

Date: August 19, 2018

- **Back into Romans- chapter six!**
 - **This section- 5-8- crucially important DOCTRINE- TRUTH about our faith, relationship to Christ, WHAT IS TRUE OF US because of What Christ did FOR US, most importantly, what he is doing IN US as this doctrine becomes how we actually LIVE- this will be unfolding in coming weeks. TRACK WITH US!**
 - **BACK to chapter 5... contrasting family of adam with family of Christ...**
- Romans 5:19-20** For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous. The law was brought in so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more
- **Where sin increased... grace increased even more. What do we do with this? HMMM... I'm completely forgiven, and if I keep on sinning, God's grace will just keep on increasing....**
 - **As we step into chapter six, Paul anticipates what I'm calling the GREAT BIAS of humans, a bias we still deal with as disciples of Jesus.**

† The Great Bias

Romans 6:1 What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase?

- **This BIAS is the urge, the overwhelming tendency, of SELF-JUSTIFICATION. To try and figure out a way to make our self-centered desire OK. To avoid having to change how we THINK/FEED/BEHAVE, so we can do what we want. Make excuses where we are now**
 - **Blame. Rationalization. Ends justifies means.**
- **This Bias of self-justification is what terrifies people who want to make Christianity all about LAW. Fear/Assumption that if people really see the radical NC truth about Grace and freedom in Christ, they will inevitably twist this freedom into an excuse for passivity, self-justification, and sin.**
- **THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT PAUL CONFRONTS--- if you think (or fear) that the surpassing grace of God- grace that is greater than all our sin- is an excuse for a life centered on SELF, WE ARE MISSING POINT.**

Romans 6:2-3 By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? ³ Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

- **YES, there is the great bias, but IN CHRIST...**

† The Great Exchange

Romans 6:2-3 ...We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?

- **Story of Romans up to this point, case Paul has been building. We aren't just forgiven, we have become fundamentally NEW PEOPLE.**
- **SIN- define- the core tendency to make ourselves our own God, to live by our own wisdom, strength, rather than looking to God.... Drawing life from ourself, our circumstances, others, (temporary) RATHER than receiving life from God (eternal)....**
- **TRUTH paul shows... Your life now as a believer isn't just a battle between the good part of you and the bad part of you. YOU DIED TO SIN! How happen?**

³Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

- **When we believe... joined/immersed/made one with Christ in his death.**
- **Illustration... witness protection program**
 - **You were criminal. Part of a gang**

- **Caught. Surrendered. Court/trial... GUILTY**
 - **Miracle!- You were pardoned. Forgiven. Slate wiped clean.**
 - **Ready to be SET FREE!... Just one problem! All your criminal buddies... still there, ready to pull you back in to a life of crime**
 - **Judge says... not enough that I've forgiven you... I'm also going to make it possible for you to live free of the bondage you were in... GIVE YOU A NEW IDENTITY. GIVE YOU A WHOLE NEW LIFE. BUT TO DO THIS, the old life, the old identity, has to DIE. We are going to arrange for your death, so that having died to that old life of sin, you will be free to LIVE.**
- **NOT JUST FORGIVEN- exchanged the old for the new, the temporary for the eternal. NOW, the new life we have been given, the new identity that is ours, is from Christ. HIS SPIRIT IN US**

Colossians 3:3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.

- **THIS IS THE GREAT TRUTH OF NEW COVENANT!**

† **New religion, new behavior, New LIFE!**

Romans 6:4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

- **TWO THINGS:**
- **This is why we practice the symbol of baptism by immersion. Not picture of being washed, cleaned, but picture of the death, burial, resurrection of Jesus, and that when we believed, we were JOINED with Christ... the OLD HAS GONE, the NEW has come.**
 - **THE NEW isn't new religion, new behavior, new effort to live better... it is a NEW LIFE. NEW PERSON**
 - **And the HEART of the new person you are is the presence of CHRIST IN YOU.**
 - **GALATIANS 2:20....**
Second thing... THIS IS WHY seeing Christianity as a just a means to reform our behavior, JUST system of moral law... or as JUST the foundation as system of ethics... is destined to failure.
 - **For all the effort and good intentions in the world, if all we do is extract from the bible a system (parameters, boundaries) of living that we think will please God, define these according to whatever tradition we are part of, and then cloak them in the shroud of religious practice... WE WILL FAIL.**
 - **We will fail because apart from an abiding, surrendered, faith dependent relationship with Christ, we will still be operating out of our own strength and wisdom (FLESH), and our flesh is always prone to the GREAT BIAS of justifying, making excuses, for our self and our sin.**
 - **If we try to LOOK LIKE CHRIST without strength of the SPIRIT OF CHRIST.... We will BURN out, GIVE OUT, or figure a way out.**
 - **THIS is why Paul is pounding the table, exhorting us to understand, IN CHRIST, we have a NEW LIFE because of...**

† **The Miracle of our UNION with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection**

Rom 6:5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his.

- **WE WILL fully experience resurrection as he did, when this physical life ends... (Easter series)... but the hope Paul gives here is for NOW. Just AS we have been united with Christ in his death, SO ALSO WE ARE united with him in his Resurrection.**
- **NOT just heaven when we die... our new life, our new identity, has begun NOW.**
- **Can be hard to grasp, because it is purely by FAITH. What is example??? MARRIAGE**
 - **“for this reason... two will become ONE FLESH”**
 - **Lets say you have marriage... “here’s what you need to do for me to keep me happy.” PERFORMANCE... destined to fail**
 - **BUT... if marriage, for all of the difficulty, pushing and shoving that does occur, is a SHARED LIFE, foundation not rooted in performance but in LOVE- sacrificial love... then that marriage will not only transform the couple, but those around them.**
- **We will only experience this relationship with Jesus when we daily let the old identity, that old man, old person we used to be... LET IT GO. SO, lets talk about that, because this is the big objection/problem**

† **If I died with Christ, what exactly happened?**

- **You are telling me that my old, sinful nature has died, sure seems like it is still alive!**

Romans 6:6a For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with...

- **Look closely at this language... OLD SELF was crucified with Christ” ... DONE DEAL. OBJECTIVE REALITY.**
- **SO THAT body ruled by sin... SO THAT the part of me that still falls for my old bias.. MIGHT BE done away with... THIS IS ONGOING CHOICE.**
- **“done away with” also translated “put out of power”.**
- **Each day, we have the CHOICE, of faith, of what identity we grant lordship – POWER-Influence- in our lives.**
- **This is where Paul is taking us in coming weeks... but to start, we must understand, and CHOOSE TO BELIEVE, the most important truth when it comes to our old bias, and our struggle with sin. WE ARE NO LONGER SLAVES**

† **Slaves no more**

Romans 6:6b-7 that we should no longer be slaves to sin—⁷ because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.

- **STORY- Genesis 14... “back to Egypt”**
- **back to witness protection program... it’s been some time, you’ve let your life in you new identity get a bit stale... or maybe something has happened, a challenge, a struggle... and you start having fond longing for the old you... your old buddies...**
- **Sneak out at night, and go to their camp... They will welcome you, not require faith, at first it’s warm...**
- **WELCOME! We thought you were dead!**

- *We were just talking about how unfair life is- how you've been cheated*
- *Hey—lets talk about your spouse...*
- *Jealousy pulls out guitar "home again"*
- *You point out anger "WE AGREE! You are right!"*
- *Shame sidles up... sincerely "you are a failure"*
- *Helplessness and victimhood "it's not your fault"*
- *Pride and arrogance start singing "It's all about you... Ethan, it's all about you..."*
- *All the while, slipping chains around your feet*
- *You hear a voice... "You're not a slave!"... maybe I should leave... "no! if you go back, you will have to live by faith again!"*
- *Shame "you can't go back"...*
- *But you hear voice again... "They are lying to you! This is not who you are! You did die to this! You are free!... and there, next you to is Jesus. WILL YOU CHOOSE ME?"*