

# Romans 6:13-23

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July 20, 2008

# Review

## *Romans 6:1-5*

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- We died to sin (v.2)
- We were baptized into (identified with) Christ's death (v.3)
- We were buried with Christ through baptism into death so that we may live a new life (v.4)
- We'll be united with Christ in his resurrection as surely as we've been united with him in his death (v.5)
  - Your resurrection is as certain as your union with Christ's death

# Review

## *Romans 6:6-12*

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- Our old self was crucified with him (v.6)
  - That the body of sin might be done away with (v.6)
  - That we should no longer be slaves to sin (v.6)
- He who has died is freed from sin (v.7)
- We believe that we shall live with Christ because we died with him (v.8)
- Count yourself dead to sin but alive to God (v.11)
- Therefore, do not let sin reign in your mortal body (v.12)

# Introduction

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- We enter here a section on holy living
- Now that we've been justified, Paul tells us
  - **How** to live a holy life
  - **Why** we should live that way
- A Christian is so much more than a forgiven sinner!
  - Christianity is life (union with God) (Col 3:3-4)!
  - John's gospel mentions "life" about forty times
  - John's gospel mentions "forgiveness" once!
  - God's grace is not without effect (1Co 15:10)

# A Sanctified Offering

## *Romans 6:13*

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- “Don’t offer the parts of your body to sin”
  - This is where many Christians get into trouble (see Rom 7:17,20)
- “Rather offer yourself to God”
  - See Rom 12:2, 1Co 6:20, 1Pe 2:5
  - We should offer ourselves by faith to receive grace for living (Titus 2:11-12)
- “Offer the parts of your body to Him as instruments of righteousness”
  - Not just the whole, but each individual part
  - What part of your body causes you to sin?

# No Longer Mastered By Sin

## *Romans 6:14*

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- Sin shall not be your master, for all the reasons given in the first half of the chapter
- We are not under law!
  - Gal 4:4-11
  - Gal 4:21-29
  - Gal 5:16-18
- Relate this back to the Garden of Eden
  - The tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Gen 2:9,17)
  - The tree of life (Gen 3:22,24)

# Why Not Sin Under Grace?

## *Romans 6:15-18*

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- Verse 16 holds the answer:
  - “when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey”
  - Offering yourself to sin leads directly back to slavery
  - This voluntary enslavement is inconsistent with the truth
    - That we should no longer be slaves to sin (v.6)
    - That he who has died is freed from sin (v.7)
- Thankfully, the Romans wholeheartedly obeyed the teaching they received (vv.17-18) <sup>7</sup>

# Weak In Your Flesh

## *Romans 6:19*

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- “I put this in human terms because you are weak in your natural selves [flesh].” (v.19)
  - It is important to understand what the Bible means by the word *flesh*
  - The term will occur frequently in Romans 7-8, and elsewhere in the epistles, particularly Galatians



# Flesh In The Bible

## Greek *sarx* or “σαρξ”

- The substance of the body, whether of beasts or of men, 1 Co 15:39
- The human body, 2 Co 10:3a; Gal 2:20; Phil 1:22
- The totality of all that is essential to manhood (spirit, soul, body), Mt 24:22; Jn 1:13; Ro 3:20
- The holy humanity of Jesus, Jn 1:14; 1 Ti 3:16; 1 Jn 4:2
- The complete person, Jn 6:51-57; 2 Co 7:5; Ja 5:3
- The weaker element in human nature, Mt 26:41; Ro 6:19; 8:3a
- The unregenerate state of men [in the flesh], Ro 7:5; 8:8,9
- The seat of sin in man (not meaning the body), 2 Pe 2:18; 1 Jn 2:16
- The lower and temporary element in the Christian, Gal 3:3; 6:8
- The natural attainments of men, 1 Co 1:26; 2 Co 10:2,3b
- Circumstances, 1 Co 7:28; the externals of life, 2 Co 7:1; Eph 6:5; Heb 9:13
- The outward and seeming, as contrasted with the spirit, Jn 6:63; 2 Co 5:16
- Natural relationship, 1 Co 10:18; Gal 4:23, or marital Mt 19:5

# The Bible on Paul's Flesh

## *Philippians 3:3-7*

<sup>3</sup>for we are the *true* circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh, <sup>4</sup>although I myself might have confidence even in the flesh. If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I far more: <sup>5</sup>circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup>as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless. <sup>7</sup>But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. **Philip.**

**3:3-7 NASB**

- Paul put no confidence in his flesh (v.3)
- He had the world's best flesh (v.4)
- He had good religious flesh (v.5)
- He was zealous and energetic (v.6)
- He followed the Law blamelessly (v.6)
- These things which he valued previously, he now counted as loss (v.7).

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# Just As You Used To

## *Romans 6:19*

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- ⦿ *Just as you used to offer the parts of your body in slavery to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer them in slavery to righteousness leading to holiness. (v.19)*
- ⦿ An effective instructor will teach what is unknown in terms of something that is known
- ⦿ Paul is saying that we can take what we knew about offering our bodies to sin and apply it to offering our bodies to righteousness leading to holiness

# Ashamed of Sin

## *Romans 6:20-21*

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- As sinners we were “free from the control of righteousness” (v.20)
  - It is safe to say that there is no righteousness in the life of a sinner, or that his entire life is sin (Ro 14:23).
  - They have neither the desire nor the ability to meet its requirements [MacArthur]
  - There is no benefit to the things done apart from Christ (v.20)
- As saints, we are now ashamed of our former way of life (v.21)

# Holiness and Eternal Life

## *Romans 6:22-23*

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- Paul reiterates our release from the bondage to sin and the expectation of holiness and eternal life (v.22)
  - Eternal life is in Christ (v.23)
  - Eternal life **is** Christ (1Jn 5:20)
- Paul contrasts the way of the sinner with the way of the saint (v.23)
  - Sinner: Wages resulting in death (Law)
  - Saint: A gift resulting in life (Grace)

# Bibliography

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