

SCRIPTURE: Romans 3:8, 6:1-4, 10-14, 19-23

Romans 3:8 And why not say (as some people slander us by saying that we say), “Let us do evil so that good may come”? Their condemnation is deserved!

Romans 6:1 -- What then are we to say? Should we continue “in sin” in order that grace may abound? ²By no means! How can we who **died** to sin go on living in it? ³Do you not know that

- all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus
 - were baptized into his **death**?
 - ⁴Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into **death**,
 - so that, just as Christ was **raised from the dead** by the glory of the Father,
- so we too might walk in **newness of life**...
 - ¹⁰The **death** Jesus **died**, he **died** to sin, once, for all
- ¹¹So you also must consider (reckon) yourselves “**dead** to sin
- and **alive** to God in Christ Jesus.”

¹²Therefore,

- do not let sin **EXERCISE DOMINION** in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions.
- ¹³No longer **PRESENT** your members to sin as instruments of wickedness,
- but **PRESENT** yourselves to God
 - as those who have been brought from **death** to **life**,
- and **PRESENT** your members to God as instruments that reflect a right-relationship with God.

¹⁴For sin will have **NO DOMINION** over you, since you are not under law but under grace...

¹⁹I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations.

- **For just as you once PRESENTED** your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity,
- **so now PRESENT** your members *as if you were* slaves to having a relationship with God that is right, and that will lead to your holiness.

²⁰**When** you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to (righteousness) being rightly-related to God.

²¹So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed?

-- The end of those things is **death**.

²²**But now** that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God,

The advantage you get is to become holy.

-- The end is eternal **life**.

²³For the wages of sin is **death**, but the free gift of God is eternal **life** in Christ Jesus our Lord.

VISION FOR A CHANGE

The National Presbyterian Church

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Romans 6:1-4, 10-14, 19-23

Romans 6:13

¹³No longer **PRESENT** your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but **PRESENT** yourselves to God

as those who have been brought from **death** to **life**, and **PRESENT** your members to God as instruments of righteousness – = instruments that reflect the right-relationship with God that Jesus has won for us.

Romans Ch. 5

The law of Adam in Gen.2:17 is over --

“The day you eat the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil -- you die.”

Instead Grace-Gift of Christ now applies:

“Trust Me and eat the fruit of my life and death and you will live”

Believe that because of all I have done for you – right here and now

-- Peace has been fully made between you and God (5:1)

-- Your broken relationship with God – healed, as a gift . . .

It’s like winning the lottery . . .

IF someone were to tell you that you’d won the lottery

The instinctive response would be to say “I can’t believe it!”

But *for someone somewhere* it IS true

And if they don’t believe it, they will never receive the gift

This salvation “by trusting in what Jesus has done for us” is GOOD NEWS! Such good news that some people embraced it with a smile or a snicker . . . and said to Paul

- *Why bother to be good? Or godly? Or to change my way of life?*
- *Doesn’t the assurance of perpetual mercy rob us of any moral motivation?*

In Romans 6, Paul therefore addresses the question of Christian moral motivation

- **In one word** – Christian moral motivation has to do with a correct understanding of “**Righteousness**”
- In 1st century the Greek and Roman world “righteousness”
 - *Did not mean perfection or being morally superior*
 - *but “right-relatedness”*

RIGHTEOUSNESS OR “RIGHT-RELATEDNESS”

(or the “right-thing to do”)

1. IS LOST in the breaking of a relationship

Something “right” is missing” whether we know exactly what it is or not

2. IS RESTORED in the healing of a relationship

Something “right” has led to restoration

3. IS NECESSARY for the maintaining of all long-term relationships that are healthy

Seeking to do “the right thing” in circumstances that change and with people whose personalities vary.

4 Varies – tit is a relational term that changes with each relationship

- *What one person expects in a relationship is going to be quite different from another*
- No rules can ever fully define what’s involved. Over time spent with another person you “what’s right for them”
= what brings joy and peace and energy to the other
- If you are running late for an appointment or event your are righteous when you call ahead and to say you’re late
- If you are a shoe-maker, the righteous thing is to make good shoes
- If you are an attorney the righteous thing is to draw up contracts with no surprises – no unexpected fine print

5. Does not require perfection

- Selling a cheap product for \$100 is probably unrighteous
- Selling a cheap product for \$3 might well be righteous if you feel that “you get what you pay for”

MORAL MOTIVATION IN ROMANS

Paul’s critics have missed the fact that through Jesus,

God offers us not one but Two Free Inseparable Gifts

i. **not just forgiveness**

ii. **but a right-relationship with God**

(You cannot separate the gift and the giver: the Giver IS the Gift!)

-- The Gracious Gift of God is not just mercy or perpetual forgiveness,

-- But God himself in the person of Jesus

The restoration of the relationship for which we were made.

TO BE *RIGHTLY-RELATED TO GOD*

We Have To Know Who God Is, And What God Is Passionate About
In Romans 6

Paul describes the God to whom we are now rightly-related

1. God is a God who is willing even to die in order to destroy the power of sin over human lives

Being righteous/rightly-related to God – must therefore involve

--Sharing in God’s passion and willingness to destroy sin in our lives; even if it means suffering -- doing whatever it takes to put to death anything in our lives, body and soul, that is displeasing to him.

2. God is a God who has the power to raise Jesus from the dead and to give him a new life

Being righteous/rightly related to God – must therefore involve

-- Asking for God’s “resurrection power in Jesus” so that with God’s help so that we too might lead new lives for God; asking God to give “resurrection life” to our while lives, body and soul, so that they can be used, like Jesus, as instruments in God’s hands

3. The Transforming Christian Vision for Change -- is centered

- not on rules and regulations
- not just on Jesus’ teaching
- but on Jesus’ death: his willingness to die
- and his resurrection: God’s power to bring life out of death

Romans 6: 1-4, 10-11

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