# A Practical Study of ROMANS

## The Gift of God's Grace

## "A Relationship with God Based on His Righteousness"

## <u>Study Number Twelve</u> – Sin and the Relationship – <u>Romans 6:11-23</u>

What we have been studying in the book of Romans is a righteousness which comes to us by faith in Jesus Christ. Our righteousness, our performance will not gain acceptance in the presence of God. It comes through faith in Jesus Christ.

He says, "Abraham believed God and it was counted to him for righteousness." (ref. Romans 4:3)

That's his great illustration in chapter 4. He's created a universal need in chapters 1, 2 and 3 telling us that "all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." (ref. Romans 3:23)

Then the answer to that is the righteousness that can be ours in Christ as a gift.

When we move into chapter 5 we have the last chapter that deals with the salvation of the sinner and he gives us 8 results of that relationship. So we could test ourselves to see whether or not we're a believer. Whether or not we have a relationship



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with Christ.

And then we looked at the "how" of the relationship. And here the apostle divides all humanity in two parts. We are either IN ADAM and we were born there physically, in sin, in death, or we're IN JESUS CHRIST. We have been taken by the Spirit of God in answer to our faith and placed in Jesus Christ and given a righteousness that'll never change, that it's perfect.

And at the end of chapter 5 we finished with this great doctrine of how a man comes to a relationship with Christ.

In our last study we started on the matter of how we begin to live in this relationship. We noted that we are brought into a living union with Christ. It is so close it's like what Jesus predicted in John 15—the branches and the vine and His life flows through us. And because that life is flowing through us, that life is going to affect our attitude toward sin. And with the unhindered flow of that life through us, we progressively in our daily lives are going to begin to reflect the righteousness of the life that flows through us.

So it's kind of like this, when we come to Christ we have this perfect standing before God that'll never be changed. But then we realize we still sin. We realize we still fail. We still make mistakes.

How is it that we're supposed to go from right here where we are to the righteousness that's perfect in Jesus Christ? That's



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what we're dealing with in this study.

In our last study we talked about the guy who thought he was supposed to continue to live in a flooded house and the faucet was running. And to a lot of Christians that's the way it is. We sort of settle down to think that we're supposed to just keep on living in sin and making excuses and justification for it.

One guy tried to describe his Christian life by saying it's like grandmother's old bed. It's firm on both ends but it's sagging in the middle. And in some ways that might be the way we feel about the here and now.

Someone said:

"I finally got it all together but now I can't remember where I put it."
(source unknown)

A lot of people think that about the Christian life. They make a dedication, they make a commitment, they do this and say, "I've got it all together. Now I can't remember where I put it." And pretty soon things begin to fall apart and we become frustrated again.

Now what the apostle is going to do is to tell us, as a Christian in this living union with Christ, how we're supposed to deal with the problem of sin when it manifests itself in our life. How we deal with this old deposed dictator that still resides in us. And make no mistake about it, it's still there. And it's this



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that oftentimes confuses people as to whether or not they're Christians. Christians still have a dormant nature that will leap into action just that quickly.

The apostle wants us to see that. Now pick up at verse 11 and we'll see this worked out in verses 11 to 23.

**<u>v. 11</u> So also you consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.**

"So also you consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus."

Isn't it interesting that when he starts dealing with the problem of sin it begins with an attitude?

We are to "consider" what is true as being true. Now that's FAITH. That's TRUST.

From heaven's point of view we are "dead to sin" when we become a Christian. Now here on earth live like it is, he's saying.

"Consider" it to be true.

All truth is first POSITIONAL then we make it PRACTICAL by our faith.

For instance, we can say Satan is a defeated foe and we're right. But if we don't appropriate that to our life personally



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he'll wail the daylights out of us.

We have an absolute and then we must appropriate the absolute to our life. We have a fact that we reckon with and then we reckon on that fact by faith.

What did he tell us in our last study? He told us that we were "dead to sin."

Now sin isn't dead to us. So what are we supposed to do now that we're facing a world that is filled with sin.

As a Christian what are we supposed to do? Well the worldly philosophy would say, "Well strive to be what you are. Just work and struggle." And that's why we get the 10 commandments and the golden rule in that whole mess mixed into this thing. "You can do it! Just hang in there and do it! Pull yourself up by your bootstrap."

And then the first time we fail we just head on a guilt trip.

What he's saying here, is in Christ be what we are. Just consider it to be fact. That's putting our faith in His adequacy to give victory over sin.

First, recognize the fact that we don't have to answer the call of that old sin nature anymore that's within us. Reckon ourself "to be dead to sin."

That is what Paul means in Philippians when he says:



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Philippians 2:12, 13

…work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; …

He doesn't say "work for." He says "work it out." It starts with an attitude. We have to start thinking right.

"consider yourself to be dead to sin,"

God's whole method is to be what we are in Christ.

We can see the subtlety of the enemy of our souls, how he manipulates our mind.

What were our first thoughts when we woke up this morning? "Oh good grief, it's morning!" What a cool way to face the day, huh?

The enemy of our soul gets the first dawning thought and so it keeps us 30 or 40 minutes extra time in the sack while we're moaning and bemoaning all that we have to do. And then finally we hit the floor and we're so negative it's unreal if God even gets a chance to speak to the new nature about how grateful we ought to be that we have another day of life.

He works in the mind. So right at the beginning the apostle, in giving us a prescription on practically how to deal with sin in our life, says just reckon it to be true.

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Now how do we do that? Well Abraham and Sarah are great illustrations again. God says they're going to have a baby. Well for 25 years they didn't. But the scriptures tell us "they staggered not at the promises of God through unbelief but they believed that God was faithful to perform what He'd promised." (ref. Romans 4:20-21)

Twenty-five years later, on time, God gave them the child.

What we do then is accept God's Word and draw the inevitable conclusion from it. Draw the conclusion. What is it? We're "dead to sin." And being "dead to sin" we don't have to answer that any more in our life. Reckon ourselves to be dead to sin. It's logical with our mind based on the veracity of God's Word—He said it—now act upon it.

The whole problem in the Christian life of dealing with the matter of sin and becoming more and more righteous can be kind of seen in perspective with an Old Testament illustration. Remember the children of Israel when they came out of the land of Egypt? What happened when they crossed the Red Sea? They left behind them forever the nation of Egypt and they went on into the land that God had given them. Eventually they got there.

When they left the land of Egypt they could have made a choice to go back because Egypt was still there. And many times in the wilderness they said, "Oh if I could just have the leaks and the garlic and the melons of Egypt! And we're perishing out here in the wilderness with this manna and this

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meat!"

No matter what they got it wasn't enough and they were just griping and complaining and always wanting to go back.

God took care of that. He broke the power of the Egyptians over them and made them free men when they crossed the Red Sea. And that's what God did for us.

He broke the power and canceled sin! He set the prisoner free! We don't have to answer the call of that old nature that's there anymore. Before we were a Christian we just had one dictator and we lived to that but now we don't. We have the freedom to respond to the dictates of the new and to begin to reflect the righteousness of Jesus Christ.

So don't make a mistake about it. Victory over sin in our life as a Christian is not an automatic process. A lot of people think that. They teach us that when we become a Christian our old nature is just "RIP." Out it came and we don't have any more problems with sin.

We know full well that we still have a nature within us but we like to put on the paint and the pillows and the hypocritical front to make it look like we don't have any problem with that nature. And we put our head in the sand like an ostrich and deny the fact that nature still exists and it's there. And we know it.

The apostle recognizes it. Wait until we get to chapter 7 and



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we see him dealing with that problem even as a Christian.

It says here in the eleventh verse: "reckon yourself to be dead to sin," but what else? "Alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord."

He goes on to point out not only to "consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus." Now that solves the whole thing.

We have this life of Jesus Christ flowing through us. We're remembering what's already true of us!

It's Hudson Taylor who said:

Jesus I am resting, resting
in the joy of what Thou art.
I am finding out the greatness
of your loving heart.
(source unknown)

We're reckoning on something that is already a fact and in Jesus Christ our Lord there's no hunger and no thirst because in Him we have everything that we need.

He is alive in us,  providing the base for victory and for righteousness.

Now look at verse 12 because here's number two.

First with our HEAD, "consider" it to be true, that we're "dead



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to sin."

Number two with our WILL. That was intellectually, now our will is going to be involved. Take a stand.

**<u>v. 12</u> Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you are obeying its desires.**

"Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you are obeying its desires."

On the basis of the fact that this is a true thing by an act of our will, don't let it "reign." Take a stand.

Now why does the apostle give us a command like that? "Don't let sin reign in your mortal body so that you are obeying its desires." Because the minute we as Christians continue a path of sin, we are standing in the purpose of God to make us righteous.

Listen to these verses.

<u>1 Peter 1:16</u>

"Be ye holy, for I am holy," saith the Lord.

<u>1 Thessalonians 4:3</u>

This is the will of God, even your sanctification (or your being made holy).



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We're dead to sin but sin is not dead to us and it's still a very real power and we still have a free will and we can answer the call of it. And when we sin we're always saying "Sic'em old nature. Go ahead and do it." But every time we do that we are standing in the way of His purpose for our lives. And that is a purpose of making us more and more righteous on a daily basis and giving us victory in key areas of our lives.

Now listen to this verse.

<u>Galatians 5:17</u>

If we walk by means of the Spirit we shall not fulfill those desires of the flesh.

What's that a picture of? That's a picture of a polio victim who is unable to walk without the means of braces.

If we walk by means of the braces of the Spirit who now provides the power for the victory, we shall not fulfill the desires of the flesh which would be sin.

So with the strength and the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit who came to dwell in us at salvation, we will not fulfill these desires of the old nature.

There is a conflict that goes on in the life of the Christian. And as we begin to walk with the Lord and we get closer to Him, we're going to discover that conflict. We're going to find ourself



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being put in the crucible over and over again. And it's all to prove that He can be faithful in that situation.

Christianity is not having some goosebumps all over it. It's not making some emotional decision or getting on a high in some meeting. Christianity is a way of life friend! And we don't just grow up overnight spiritually. The laws of nature ought to tell us that.

What's it say about the Lord Jesus as He's speaking? "By their fruits you shall know them." (ref. Matthew 7:16)

Ever stopped to think about the process of fruit? What happens? First the blade, then the ear and then we have the fruit. It's the process in our life spiritually. As the life of Jesus Christ begins to flow unhindered through our life, we begin to ripen in the character of Jesus Christ. That's a process. And as we follow these instructions here with regard to our attitude toward sin, we're throwing ourselves open for full cooperation with the purpose of God and we begin to reflect the righteousness of Christ. And it's not going to happen in just one big decision that we're going to make and all of a sudden we're going to be zapped—spiritual—overnight.

If we fail to reckon with verse 12 we're going to get into trouble as a Christian. If we let sin reign in our mortal body, and we've been convicted about it and we haven't dealt with it and we're obeying its desires, we're heading down a pathway of trouble. Because in a relationship with a loving God, His life's flowing through us and we're desecrating that temple



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that belongs to Him, friend we're going to get in trouble.

That's what 1 Corinthians 11 says. If we would judge ourselves we would not be judged. But if we judge ourselves we would not be judged with the rest of the world.

And as Christians we can plan on it. God will not only stir up our circumstances, and if we don't deal with it He'll take us on a wailing expedition to the woodshed. And if we don't deal with it there, He can also call us home prematurely in physical death. That's how serious this matter is.

That's why the apostle says don't stand in the way of the purpose of God. "Don't let sin reign in your mortal body." We don't have to do that anymore! We have an adequate Christ and we have the strength of the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit to fulfill this command that's given here, else the Word of God would not be stating it so very clearly.

Now how do we do that? We say, "I just don't have the will and the strength. It just seems to always pin me down."

No we don't. And that's why He gave us the indwelling Spirit to depend upon. The victory is not sinning. No. It's trusting the Lord Jesus and the power of the Spirit to give this victory as we learn to be dependent. Walk by means of the Spirit. We're not moving in there independent but under the power of the Spirit there is a discipline about our life that's giving victory.

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Sometimes in our early Christian walk we have a problem with discipline. This verse leaps out at us from His Word:

Galatians 5:23

The fruit of the Spirit is self-control.

Wow! That's why that's there. Our old nature is controlled by that Spirit as the Spirit of God is free to manifest Christlikeness in our life.

That's the whole problem. We need to be more dependent upon the indwelling Spirit to produce that quality of self-control.

The apostle says in:

1 Corinthians 9:27

I treat my body roughly and I make it serve me lest when I have preached to others, I myself might be disqualified.

How does he treat his body roughly? He says "Old body, I don't have to answer you anymore. And in the power of the Spirit I'm not going to answer the appetites of that old body that way. So!"

He treats it roughly. It means he beats it black and blue. He just wails on it whenever it's necessary and it gets out of line, and it's heading the wrong direction.



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Now as a believer, the closer we get to the Lord, the more the Spirit of God begins to manifest Himself in our life, the more qualities of self-discipline are going to be there. We are going to be someone with determined direction in our life. If not, there's something wrong with us and our relationship to the Spirit of God who dwells within us. So He cannot manifest this quality that ought to be there.

Now look at verse 13.

**<u>v. 13</u> Moreover, stop presenting the members of your body to sin as tools of wickedness; but present yourselves to God as those who are alive from the dead, and your members as tools of righteousness to God.**

"Moreover, stop presenting the members of your body to sin as tools of wickedness; but present yourselves to God as those who are alive from the dead, and your members as tools of righteousness to God."

First, it starts with an ATTITUDE—our mind. What is it? "I consider myself to be dead to sin."

Number two, by our WILL we will not let sin reign. A will energized by the power of the Spirit that is.

And third, with our EMOTIONS we're making a daily presentation of our body to the Lord.



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Why? Because it is through the members of our body that this old nature is going to act contrary to what the Lord would want us to do.

So we have our INTELLECT, our WILL and our EMOTIONS involved in our victory over sin in those three verses—11, 12 and 13.

We say, "How do you present yourself? I mean, see if you can define that a little bit for me."

This prayer probably is the best way to make a presentation. This is not a presentation that we make and then it's all over. This is in the PRESENT TENSE.

He says, "Moreover, stop presenting the members of your body to sin as tools of wickedness; but" CONTINUALLY "be presenting your members as instruments of righteousness."

"walk by means of the Spirit." Every step is a potential fall. We're making progress as we walk.

So DAILY we must make this presentation. We don't start out on this bit, "Lord, I want to get the whole deal. I'm just presenting myself to You now and it's all over." That's what's exciting about the Christian life. Every day is a brand new opportunity for a fresh presentation of ourselves to Him.

Now here's a prayer that would kind of encompass the



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meaning of verse 13:

"Lord, I am dead to sin. I realize that to be a fact that I cannot control my body, but I trust You to do so. I place myself at Your disposal so You can do Your thinking and Your acting through me. You can hear through me, You can speak through me, whatever it is that You want, I am putting myself at your disposal."

In other words:

"Lord, I'm making a presentation of the organs of my body for You to use today. "

It was Shawn Thomas who said:

"The best illustration of the Christian life is an empty glove. You take the empty glove and you give it to the Lord. Then the Master's hand fills the glove and begins to motivate it and activate it. And in the power of the Master's hands is the source of the living out of daily Christlikeness in our lives." (source unknown)

That's what Paul meant when he said:

<u>Galatians 2:20</u>

I have been crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, yet not I but Christ is living in me.

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The life we are now living, we're living by the faith of the Son of God who loves us and gave Himself for us.

Our big problem in Christian living, in Christian victory, is that we've finally come to the place where we can't do it ourselves and we receive Christ by faith. But we think we can live the Christian life and we turn around and we put it back on this performance kick again rather than realizing it is a vital, living relationship, a union with the in-living Christ and He gives all the power in the person of Christ in the indwelling Spirit to begin to reflect the righteousness and the victory and the Christlikeness that ought to be there in our lives.

Now what does it mean when it says, "don't present your members as tools of wickedness?" Well, we must not fraternize with the enemy. We must not turn over the tools of our body to the evil one and surrender. And we do by an act of our will, just that quick. When the temptation presents itself, Boom! We're gone.

Joseph is a great illustration. Joseph had just gotten out of the pit and he's put down in Potiphar's house and Mrs. Potiphar wants to have an affair. And she comes and says, "Come on, let's shack." And it says: "Joseph refused and he told her 'how can I sin and do this great wickedness against God?'" (ref. Genesis 39:9)

Now it was affecting him, it would have affected her. But he immediately recognizes where the real problem's going to



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come. “How can I sin and do this great wickedness against God?” More than offending and hurting her and hurting Potiphar and hurting everybody else, he puts it where it belongs and recognizes it’s a sin against God.

David did the same thing. When he comes to his time of confession he says: “Against Thee and Thee only have I sinned.” (ref. Psalm 51:4)

And we must not allow the members of our bodies to go the way they’re naturally heading, but to stand against that with the prescription of 11, 12 and 13.

We cannot allow our energy, our appetites, our speech, our mind, our thinking, our imaginations, our emotions to be of service to sin. We must surrender all of these to the Lord and own Him as Lord and trust Him to give the victory.

We are abiding in Him and He is abiding in us. And as a result of that, fruit is going to be born in our lives.

The little word “present” is the same word that occurs in Romans 12:

<u>Romans 12:1</u>

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God that you present your bodies a living sacrifice wholly acceptable unto God which is your reasonable service.

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That's the word used of a bride who presents herself to the bridegroom. She's presenting herself to him as a gift.

It's the same word that is used in Ephesians 5 when the Lord Jesus is going to present us as His perfect bride in glory to the Father. We would without spot and without blemish, transformed into perfect Christlikeness, are going to be presented to Him ultimately one day.

Now what he is saying here is that we have a responsibility not to present our body as "tools of wickedness" but to present ourselves to the Lord so that righteousness begins to result.

Luke 9:23

If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross daily and follow me.

Giving up our right to ourselves, we make a presentation of our members to him.

Now there are three things:

1. Intellectually with our MIND—We have an attitude. We consider ourselves to be "dead to sin."

2. With our WILL—being energized by the power of the Spirit, we don't let sin reign in our body.

3. And with our EMOTIONS we're making a daily



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presentation of our body to the Lord.

This provides the base for victory over sin.

Now the rest of the verses just make a contribution to that. Let's just see it.

**<u>v. 14</u> For sin shall not exercise lordship over you, for you are not under law, but under grace.**

"For sin shall not exercise lordship over you, for you are not under law, but under grace."

Why does he make that statement in verse 14?

"sin shall not exercise lordship over you,"

Because it never will. It never will. The power of sin has been broken in our life. And it will never permanently exercise Lordship over us.

"for you are not under law, but under grace."

Now what's the difference? When we're "under law" we were in bondage to performance weren't we? We had to live with law keeping.

And if we're not a Christian we are living under Law. And the Father's only alternative is if we die tonight He has to judge us on the basis of the Law. That ought to scare us to death to



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think that if we drop dead in the next moment that we were going to be judged on the basis of the Law.

What can the Law do? The Law can only bring death. We're not under Law anymore. We're under a new relationship. We're under GRACE.

The law can only condemn. When we break it, we suffer the consequences.

Thank God for grace. What is grace?

Someone has said:

"Grace is God's riches at Christ's expense."
(source unknown)

It is UNMERITED FAVOR. It is God Himself making the provision for the sin problem so that He can also give us the righteousness of Jesus Christ as a free gift apart from human works that makes it possible for us to have the gift of eternal life.

It is God catching us in the refrigerator guilty without permission! And forgiving, cleansing, and making all the provisions necessary for our eternal destiny.

Now having come to the relationship, then we're no longer under Law, but we're under grace. Right now we have a great deal of problem with faith in our Christian life about this



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matter of sin. Because most of us if we've been a Christian for very long, this is a tough assignment that we've just had in these three verses.

We've blown it a jillion times. We've failed. And when we've really dropped the mask and we get truthful about it, it's amazing how that old nature manifests itself as a reflex action on any given drop of the hat. We're so used to living by it.

And we recognize to have that right attitude to consider ourself dead and to have that will energized by the Spirit to not let sin reign. To have emotions and that we will remember every day to make a daily presentation of our body to the Lord is a pretty tough assignment.

Some of us are thinking like the 10 spies that came back from the land. "We cannot! We are not able! We can't go in. There are giants in the land and they'll eat our lunch as soon as we cross the river." And there are only two guys in that crowd that said we are well able. Because if God be for us, who can be against us?

Just because we've had defeat doesn't mean we can't taste victory. And if we've had defeat, it is not God's fault it's our fault because God has provided all that is necessary for the victory in Jesus Christ! Or He wouldn't have written this. God never makes a statement in the scripture but what He provides the enabling power and grace to give the victory necessary!

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This is real living! This is potentially possible for the believer! Follow the prescription and watch it begin to work in our life.

A sense of freedom! A sense of victory! A sense of being loved unconditionally and to recognize the source of the sin problem in life, because we want to cover that all over. We left performance and we have now been brought to an adequate relationship in Jesus Christ. And even those giants in the land will fall and thank God that there is strength in victory. Because if God be for us, who can be against us?

Now let's go on to verse 15.

**<u>v. 15</u> What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? May it never be!**

"What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? May it never be!"

Just because we're now in a free relationship can we just go on and sin up a storm? No. Not like that. The strong inclination of a person who is living on a performance basis will either go to one or two extremes. He'll either go to legalism or he'll go to a license. Do what we want to!

But he's living in a relationship he learns to make Christ Lord and become sensitive to the things that help and hurt that relationship.

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**<u>v. 16</u> Are you not knowing that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves resulting in obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you are obeying, whether of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?**

"Are you not knowing that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves resulting in obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you are obeying, whether of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?"

Now what is that "obedience resulting in righteousness?" That's verses 11, 12 and 13.

As we're obedient to what He's just told us to do, it is going to result in righteousness. We're doing what God desires in verses 11, 12 and 13 and it results in righteousness.

If we continue the call of the sin nature, the old nature, it results in death. We've already learned that back in Romans 5:12.

<u>Romans 5:12</u>

so death spread to all men because all have sinned.

Verse 17—he's just so excited he has to break into the doxology.

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**<u>v. 17</u> But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you obeyed from the heart to that form of teaching, for the learning of which you were given over,**

"But thanks be to God that though you were"—PAST TENSE—"slaves of sin,"—they couldn't do anything else but sin—"you obeyed from the heart to that form of teaching, for the learning of which you were given over,"

Notice it does not say, "thanks be to God that though you were slaves to sin you had an experience"?

We have all kinds of people today saying, "Oh you were slaves to sin but you had an experience. You raised a hand, you walked an aisle! You did something!"

No. "You obeyed from the heart that form of teaching" that "which you were given over."

The biblical pattern for right and New Testament Christianity is to be exposed to the truth. Obey the truth and the truth will give us an experience.

And the whole conflict in the church of Christ today is we have people running around striving for an experience, trying to go to the truth to verify their experience. And they have the cart before the horse.

When we are exposed to truth, truth will give us an



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experience! And we can thank God for it! And boy when we start eating the meat and the honey of the Word of God, we're not going to be satisfied with a Pepsi and potato chips of experience anymore. We're going to discover the vibrant, dynamic thrill of seeing our life shaped up with the teaching of scripture.

They heard this "form of teaching" and they gave themselves over to "that form of teaching" and they began to experience righteousness and victory in their lives.

**<u>v. 18</u> and having been set free from sin, you were made slaves to righteousness.**

"and having been set free from sin,"

We were freed from it when we came to Christ.

"you were made slaves to righteousness."

They went right out of freedom back into slavery again. They became a SLAVE to righteousness, cooperating with the work of the Spirit to make us Christlike.

**<u>v. 19</u> I am speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh: for just as you presented your members as slaves to uncleanness and lawlessness, resulting in lawlessness; so now present your members as slaves to righteousness resulting in holiness.**



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"I am speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh: for just as you presented"—there's that word again—"your members as slaves to uncleanness and lawlessness, resulting in lawlessness; so now"—here's another COMMAND—"present your members as slaves to righteousness resulting in holiness."

There's the whole key to victory in that little phrase.

How are we going to know victory in our life? There it is. Just like we used to present the members of our body as a slave to sin before we became a Christian, "now present your members as slaves to righteousness," and when we do that it is going to result "in holiness"—the Father's will. That's the clue to Christian victory.

**<u>v. 20</u> For when you were slaves of sin, you were free with respect to righteousness.**

"For when you were slaves of sin, you were free with respect to righteousness."

They didn't have anything to worry about.

**<u>v. 21</u> Therefore, what fruit were you having then from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the outcome of those things is death.**

"Therefore, what fruit were you having then from the things of



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which you are now ashamed? For the outcome of those things is death."

**<u>v. 22</u> But now, having been set free from sin and having been made bondslaves of God, you are having your fruit, resulting in holiness, and the outcome, eternal life.**

"But now, having been set free from sin"—there it is again—"you have been made bondslaves of God, you are having your fruit, resulting in holiness, and the outcome, eternal life."

Notice every time he speaks about what results from the relationship, as far as the Christian is concerned in our relationship, it's the word "fruit."

Now how do we get fruit? The branch doesn't struggle to get fruit. It abides in the vine and the life of the vine flows through the branch and fruit results.

That's interesting too. In Galatians 5 it says, "the fruit of the Spirit." (ref. Galatians 5:22)

But just before that it says, "the works of the flesh." (ref. Galatians 5:19)

Someone has said:

"Hell is always earned but heaven never."
(source unknown)



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It is the "wages of sin" when we get down to verse 23 here in just a second. But it's the "fruit" of the relationship that is produced in our life that is the authentic righteousness of Jesus Christ.

We can't take those nine manifestations of the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22 and go out and say, "I'm gonna love. I'm going to be patient." No.

Rather say to ourselves, "Oh God, the fruit of the Spirit is not manifesting itself in my life. I need to deepen the relationship with the Lord Jesus so the Spirit can manifest that fruit in my life."

We're so performance oriented. We hear a sermon on how we have to love our brothers, ourselves and we wail on it. We get out there and before we're all wailing on him too. And we failed again and we get frustrated, because we want to do it. We want to perform it.

And God says, "No. Look, be with Me! Deepen your relationship with Me."

The fruit of that is going to be eternal life.

When it comes right down to the end of it all and we face physical death, there's where we tell the difference.

Someone said that when the unbeliever dies he usually says,



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"God, here I go!" But when the believer dies he says, "Lord, here I come." And that's what's really neat. Because we know to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord.

"The outcome" of the fruit of the Spirit is "holiness" and "eternal life."

The last verse says:

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

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

Now how many times have we heard that verse preached in an evangelistic meeting where they're trying to help people come to Christ? A hundred times haven't we?

"The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Come to Jesus tonight."

How many of us have heard this verse?

"Do you know that the Lord is standing at the door, knocking, waiting to come into your life. He says in Revelation 3:20, 'Behold I stand at the door and knock. If any man hear my voice and open the door, I'll come into him.'"

Ever heard that? Both of these verses are in a context to



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Christians.

Revelation 3:20 is the picture of the Lord Jesus standing outside the door of the church of Laodicea. They've gotten so busy with their programs and trying to keep God on the map, they crowded the Savior outside the door and He's knocking and trying to get back in.

And here he's talking about the results of a Christian who continues to answer the old nature. The wages of that is going to be death—physical death. We're going to be called home to be with Him prematurely if we continue to walk in that pathway.

"but the free gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

And when we take that free gift it doesn't say that there are any wages involved. We receive a gift. No works attached.

Ephesians says:

<u>Ephesians 2:8, 9</u>

For by grace are you saved through faith, and that not of yourselves. It is a gift of God, not of works, lest any man should boast.

And as we come to the end of chapter 6, notice again that it is all "in Christ Jesus our Lord" that this whole thing resides.



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In wrapping this up, in chapter 6 he's talking about two things:

1. LORDSHIP and

2. LIFE.

As He is Lord in the relationship, these things that we've discovered are going to be true. And the result of Him being Lord is going to be life not death—eternal life and life abundant here and now.

People are getting caught up in eastern religion. It's a tragedy when we read the contributing factors. The fact that there's nothing valid in Christianity where they can find the depth of what they need to have to feel that they're answering the problems of life and so they're turning to some of these other more mystical forms of religion.

Now, here are the lessons that come from our passage of scripture.

Lesson #1: Having come to Jesus Christ, we have been set free from sin, we have been made bondslaves of God, and we are having now a new relationship and that is we are presenting our members as slaves to righteousness which results in holiness.

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Lesson #2: The Apostle has really challenged us in two areas: 1) in the area of the Lordship of Jesus Christ in our lives, resulting in the fruit of righteousness; and 2) the wages of sin which is death.

Lesson #3: Where do you stand? Have you come to know Jesus Christ as Savior?

Lesson #4: Have you received the free gift of righteousness in Jesus Christ?

Lesson #5: As a Christian, has He become not only your Savior, but your Lord?

Lesson #6: Is it your desire to be obedient to the things which He asks of you to do?

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# A Practical Study of ROMANS

## The Gift of God's Grace

## "A Relationship with God Based on His Righteousness"

## <u>Study Number Twelve</u> – Sin and the Relationship – <u>Romans 6:11-23</u>

**<u>NOTES</u>**

<u>v. 11</u> So also you consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.
<u>v. 12</u> Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you are obeying its desires.
<u>v. 13</u> Moreover, stop presenting the members of your body to sin as tools of wickedness; but present yourselves to God as those who are alive from the dead, and your members as tools of righteousness to God.
<u>v. 14</u> For sin shall not exercise lordship over you, for you are not under law, but under grace.
<u>v. 15</u> What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? May it never be!
<u>v. 16</u> Are you not knowing that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves resulting in obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you are obeying, whether of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?
<u>v. 17</u> But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you obeyed from the heart to that form of teaching, for the learning of which you were given over,
<u>v. 18</u> and having been set free from sin, you were made slaves to righteousness.
<u>v. 19</u> I am speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh: for just as you presented your members as slaves to uncleanness and lawlessness, resulting in lawlessness; so now present your members as slaves to righteousness resulting in holiness.

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## NOTES

v. 20 For when you were slaves of sin, you were free with respect to righteousness.
v. 21 Therefore, what fruit were you having then from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the outcome of those things is death.
v. 22 But now, having been set free from sin and having been made bondslaves of God, you are having your fruit, resulting in holiness, and the outcome, eternal life.
v. 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is life eternal in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## QUESTIONS:

1. Read Romans 6:11-23 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. Describe the Christian's attitude, according to verse 11.

3. What are we to do about sin, according to verse 12?

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4. Compare Romans 12:1, 2 with verse 13.

5. What is our relationship to the law, according to verse 14?

6. What are the results of sin and obedience, according to verse 16?

7. What is the fruit of our old way of life, according to verse 21?

8. What is the fruit of the new way of life, according to verse 22?

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9. Which verse in the study has meant the most to you?

_____

_____

_____

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

_____

_____

_____

**<u>LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE</u>:**

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: Having come to Jesus Christ, we have been set free from sin, we have been made bondslaves of God, and we are having now a new relationship and that is we are presenting our members as slaves to righteousness which results in holiness.

LESSON #2: The Apostle has really challenged us in two areas: 1) in the area of the Lordship of Jesus Christ in our lives, resulting in the fruit of righteousness; and 2) the wages of sin which is death.

LESSON #3: Where do you stand? Have you come to know Jesus Christ as Savior?

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LESSON #4: Have you received the free gift of righteousness in Jesus Christ?

LESSON #5: As a Christian, has He become not only your Savior, but your Lord?

LESSON #6: Is it your desire to be obedient to the things which He asks of you to do?

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