



PART 6: THE LIVING DEAD

INTRODUCTION – Identifying With The Exodus

1 Corinthians 10:2

Look To The Book

A QUICK SUMMARY...

Romans 6

1. Paul must now respond to the implications of saying that *justification* – that verdict of being declared alright with God that people look forward to on Judgement Day – has been pulled into the present and offered to us *now* through Jesus, apart from the Law. (6:1, 15; 3:8). Paul sets up the diatribe (dialogue) by asking and answering this question, first with theology (6:1-14) and second with illustration (6:15-23).
2. This radical message raises the natural question: Does how we live not matter at all? (6:1, 15; 3:8). Paul sets up the diatribe (dialogue) by asking and answering this question, first with theology (6:1-14) and second with illustration (6:15-23).
3. “By no means!” (NIV); “May it never be!” (NASB); “Of course not!” (NLT); “Certainly not!” (TEV) = Absolute negation of the possibility that our actions do not matter. (Also see 3:4, 6, 31; 7:7, 13; 9:14; 11:1, 11.)
4. Paul reminds his readers of their baptism (assumed for all believers as the initial expression of their faith) and the truth it illustrates, dramatizes, and applies to their lives – Christ-followers have been united with Christ, dying with him to our old way and resurrected with him to a new way of being (6:2-7).
5. This new way of being equips us to live different lives than before (6:4). We can live differently because we have been freed from the mastery of sin and are now able to make new choices (6:8-14).
6. Even though we no longer *have to* listen to temptation (6:14), we still need encouragement to live in the new reality or we may return to our old ways (6:12-13).
7. When we embrace and follow the teaching of Jesus, we are choosing a new Master (one that loves us and wants the best for us) rather than the destructive master of sin (6:16-18).
8. Paul encourages us to be as single-minded and passionate in our pursuit of righteousness as we were in our pursuit of sinful self-indulgence (6:19).
9. Our spiritual growth is like a dance in which we are immediately responsive to God’s lead. God’s action (6:2, 6, 22, 23). Our reaction (6:11, 12, 13, 19).
10. Sin *earns* death. God *gives* life. **Romans 6:23** is as important for what it doesn’t say as for what it does.

So What?

TAKE OUT #1:

You are more likely proclaiming the true Gospel when it raises _____ questions (e.g., 3:3, 5, 31; 6:1, 15; 7:7, 13; 9:14; 11:1, 11). If the message sounds tame, it ain’t Jesus’ message.

TAKE OUT #2:

Baptism should be a *believer’s* _____ expression of faith.
Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16;
Acts 2:38, 41; 8:12, 36-38; 9:18; 10:47-48; 16:14-15, 31-33; 19:4-6; 22:16

TAKE OUT #3:

Since sin’s power over us has truly been abolished (6:6), to wilfully continue to sin shows a lack of _____ (6:3, 6, 9, 16; Hosea 4:6), a lack of _____ (6:11, 19; 2 Corinthians 5:17), or a lack of _____.

TAKE OUT #4:

Jesus’ _____ is not just given to us; we give ourselves to *it* (6:17)!

CONCLUSION – Asking The Tough Questions

Romans 6:2

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...

WARMING UP & REVIEW...

① Use your notes to review this week’s message. As you go, talk about what challenged, perplexed, or encouraged you.

LOOK TO THE BOOK...

- ② Review our key text (**Romans 6**). a) What verse or thought stands out to you the most? Why? b) Even though **verse 14** is true, the command of **verse 12** is obviously still necessary. Why is this? c) How does **verse 11** help us obey the command of **verse 12**? d) What about **verse 23** is contrary to the usual way of religion?
3. How do you think Paul would have us respond to someone who claimed to follow Jesus yet believed they could live anyway they pleased because God would forgive them? Well, we don’t have to guess. Read **1 Corinthians 5** to find out. a) What is the right (and wrong) response to a persistently unrepentant Christ-follower? b) What reasons does Paul give for taking strong action with someone like this? c) What are the differences in how we should react to unrepentant Christians vs. non-Christians?
4. Review the biblical data on how baptism was used in the early church (listed after Take Out #1). How is this similar or different to the ways you’ve seen baptism used in churches today?

SO WHAT?...

- ⑤ Review TAKE OUT #2. If you are a Christ-follower, have you been baptized as an expression of your faith? If not, why not? If so, in light of Romans 6, what is its significance to you?
6. Read **verse 17** and pray for each other regarding radical obedience from the heart.

HOMEWORK...

7. Read ahead. What questions does **Romans 7** raise for you?

Bruxy Cavey @ THE MEETING HOUSE – Sunday, March 6 / 13, 2005