Romans 6

Bible Study by Gerald Cumby

We sing with gusto….Grace Greater Than All Our Sin!

♫♪ ***Marvelous grace of our loving Lord;***
Grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt…

Paul introduced the idea that "where sin abounded, grace abounded much more," (<u>Romans 5:20</u>).

Question: So…no matter what sin or sins we commit, God's grace will cover it??

Romans 6:1, "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?

The new or immature Christian might say, "Should we live a life of sin so we can receive more grace?"

What is Paul really saying to all of us?

Don't look for ways to approve of your sin!

Here are some immature thoughts about God's grace:

1. ***"Since God loves sinners, then why worry about my sin?"***
2. ***"Sounds like to me, Romans 5:20 is saying, 'it doesn't matter if a Christian lives a life of sin, God will always overcome greater sin with greater grace.***
3. ***On the other hand, there are some theologians and Bible teachers teaching the opposite of the above. They believe that if you tell people that God saves and accepts them apart from what they deserve, then they will have no motive to be obedient.***
4. ***Another misrepresentation of God's Word: If God's salvation and approval are given on the basis of faith instead of works, won't some Christians just say, "I believe" and then live any way they please?***

The word "continue" in sin makes it clear that Paul is describing the "practice of habitual sin." CONTINUING TO PRACTICE the sins we have been forgiven of is a sure sign that we need to reevaluate "our understanding of what sins God has forgiven us of."

<u>Romans 6:2</u> "Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?"

"Certainly not" ***is a strong phrase. It might also be translated, "Perish the thought!" Or, "Away with the notion!"***

Notes: Truths We "Can take to the bank."

- **A life of sin is unacceptable because our death to sin changes our relationship to sin.**
- **Paul establishes an important principle. When we were born again (believed on Jesus for our salvation…repented and turned from our wicked ways), our**

relationship with sin was changed/quickened to new life . We have died to sin. Therefore, if we have died to sin, then we should not live "continually" in it.

> ***Romans 6:3-4*, "*Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore, we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life*. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be *in the likeness* of *His* resurrection, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with *Him,* that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. For he who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. For *the death* that He died, He died to sin once for all; but *the life* that He lives, He lives to God."**

- **"Or do you not know" – Again, Paul realizes that his audience at the time of writing were very immature in their Christian walk.**
- **The ancient Greek word for baptized is "to immerse or overwhelm something."**
  - ✓ **When a person is baptized in water, they are immersed or covered over with water.**
  - ✓ **When they are baptized *with the Holy Spirit* (Matthew 3:11, Acts 1:5), they are "immersed" or "covered over" with the Holy Spirit.**
  - ✓ **Water baptism (being baptized into Christ) is a dramatization or "acting out" of the believer's "immersion" or identification with Jesus in His death and resurrection.**
- **Paul's point is clear: something dramatic and life changing happened in the life of the believer. You can't die and rise again without it changing your life. The believer has a real (although spiritual) death and resurrection with Jesus Christ.**
- **United together: The phrase "exactly expresses the process by which a graft becomes united with the life of a tree." The union is of the closest sort (abiding in Christ). This close union is *both* in His death and in His resurrection. Some are all too ready to be united together in the glory of resurrection, but are unwilling to be united together in His death.**
- **As we willingly see ourselves crucified with Christ…We also need to see the bigger picture…preparation for resurrection life. Hallelujah!**
- **Knowing this, that "our old man" was crucified with Him:**
  - ✓ **The death of the old man is an established fact. It happened spiritually when we were identified with Jesus' death at our salvation.**
  - ✓ **The crucifixion of the old man is something that God did in us. None of us nailed the old man to the cross. Jesus did it, and we are told to account it as being done.**
- **In place of the old man, God gives the believer a *new man* — a self that should be instinctively obedient and pleasing to God.**

- **That the body of sin might be done away with: God uses our death to the old man, the sin nature, to liberate us from sin.**

A Frequent Question: If the old man is dead, why do I feel a pull to sin inside? It comes from the *flesh*, which is distinct from the old man. It's hard to precisely describe the flesh; some have called it "the screen on which the inner man is displayed." Our inner being has desires, impulses, and passions; these are played out in our *mind*, in our *will*, and in our *emotions*. The *flesh* is what acts out the inner man.

- **The flesh is a problem in the battle against sin because it has been expertly trained in sinful habits by three (3) sources.**
    1. **The old man, before he was crucified with Christ, trained and "imprinted" himself on the flesh.**
    2. **The *world system*, in its spirit of rebellion against God, can have a continuing influence on the flesh.**
    3. **Satan seeks to tempt and influence the flesh towards sin.**
- **That we should no longer be slaves of sin. For he who has died has been freed from sin:**
    - ✓ **Our slavery to sin can only be broken by death.**
    - ✓ **We are set free from sin because the old man has died with Jesus on the cross. Now a new man, a free man, lives.**
- **Having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him:**
    - ✓ **The new man not only has life; he has *eternal* life.**
    - ✓ **We aren't dead to sin, free from sin, and given eternal life to live as we please, but to live to please God.**

God takes away our rock-like heart and gives us a soft heart of flesh.

Romans 6:11-23, "Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Therefore, do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace. A new question is asked: shall we sin (occasionally) because we are not under law but under grace? Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness? But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness. For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. What fruit did you have then in the things of which

you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

- **Reckon yourselves to be dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord: The death to sin is only one side of the equation. The old man is gone, but the new man lives on (alive forever more).**
- **Only the person set free from sin can be told, "do not let sin reign."**
  - ✓ **Many Christians never *experience* this freedom. Because of unbelief, self-reliance, or ignorance, many Christians never live in the freedom Jesus paid for on the cross.**
- **Do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God:**
  - ✓ **A person can be "officially" set free, yet still imprisoned.**
  - ✓ **Give your rights to God…He knows how to release you from your chains.**

  Note: Your members are the parts of your body — your ears, lips, eyes, hands, mind, and so forth. The idea is very practical: "You have eyes. Do not put them in the service of sin. You have ears. Do not put them in the service of sin."

- **For sin shall not have dominion over you: Spurgeon said that these words give us a *test*, a *promise*, and an *encouragement*.**
  1. ***It is a test of our claim to be Christians*. Does anger have dominion over you? Does murmuring, complaining, covetousness, laziness, and/or pride have dominion over you? If sin has dominion over us, we should seriously ask if we are really converted.**
  2. ***It is a promise of victory*. The promise is…that sin will not have *dominion* over us because of the great work Jesus did in us when we were born again.**
  3. ***It is an encouragement for hope and strength in the battle against sin*. God hasn't condemned you under the dominion of sin — He has set you free in Jesus. This is encouragement for the Christian struggling against sin, for the new Christian, and for the backslider.**

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord: *When you work for sin, your wages are death. When we serve God we get no pay — but He freely gives us the best benefit package imaginable…Eternal life!*