

THE BOOK OF ROMANS



7. Free to Live Righteously

Introduction

In the first five chapters of the book of Romans the Apostle Paul has explained God's plan of salvation. He began by showing that all men and women are sinners, both Jews and Gentiles, and that we can only be made righteous by faith in Jesus Christ. At the end of chapter 5 he writes, "But where sin increased, grace increased all the more." However Paul knew that this could be misunderstood and so in chapter 6 he answers two questions that were in people's minds. Let's look at these questions and answers.

Scripture Reading: Romans 6:1-23

- ⊗ What are the two questions that Paul raises in chapter 6? See verses 1 and 15. In what ways do people think like this today? Discuss.

The answer to both questions is, "no"! Although we have been saved by grace, it does not mean we should go on sinning or treat sin lightly. Paul gives two reasons to show why we should not go on sinning, using illustrations.

- ⊗ The first illustration is taken from water baptism in verses 1 - 10. Why should we no longer live in sin according to verse 2?
- ⊗ What is the meaning of baptism and how does this help us understand that we are set free from sin to live righteous lives?
- ⊗ The second illustration Paul gives is taken from the picture of a slave and his master in verses 15 – 23. What is the relationship between a master and his slave? What rights does a slave have? Why does Paul use this illustration do you think?
- ⊗ What is the condition of a person who is a slave to sin compared to the one who is a 'slave' of righteousness? Romans 6:19-22
- ⊗ In chapter 6 there are 3 truths that can help us live righteous lives. What are the truths in verses 11 and 12? What do these verses mean?
- ⊗ Sometimes we try to justify our sinful behaviour by saying, "Well I am like that. I can't change." Why is this attitude wrong and how do these verses help us?
- ⊗ The third truth is in verse 13. What must we do according to verse 13? What does this mean?
- ⊗ Which part of your body causes you to sin the most? Your mind, your mouth?? How can you offer that part of your body to God?

Conclusion

We have been saved by God's grace. This is a wonderful truth, but as Paul shows, it can be misunderstood. It was then, and it is today. Now we are saved by grace, we are set free from the bondage of sin to live righteous lives. There is a little song that says, "I'm free, I'm free, I'm free to be the servant of the Lord." This is the truth we learn in Romans 6.