

The Old Man is Dead

(Romans 6:1~8)

This morning I want to take a few moments to look at a passage here in Romans that probably explains what we are doing here this morning, better than any other passage in scripture.

Paul begins with a question...¹*What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?*

Paul asks this question, in order to clear up any questions anyone might have, concerning what he has just explained throughout chapter five, concerning the purpose of the Law of God, and the role it plays in man's justification before God. That's what this whole chapter speaks to, man's justification before God.

Paul opens with this statement in verse one...¹*Therefore being **justified** by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: ²By whom also we have access by faith **into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*** Justification speaks of being "right before God," being declared innocent before Him. Of which Paul says, comes about by faith and faith alone in God's Son. I love that statement there in verse two, ²*By whom also we have access by faith **into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*** Beloved, think about what Paul is saying here. Prior to, there was no peace with God, but rather we all stood guilty before God, we stood as the objects of His wrath! But thanks be unto God, that now, in Christ, we no longer stand before Him as the objects of His wrath, but now, we stand before Him as the objects of His love!²*By whom also we have access by faith **into this grace wherein we stand**...* We now stand as the objects of His love! All because of Him.

Well, the rest of this chapter is devoted to explain man's justification before God, in Christ.

(Vs 6~11) Paul speaks to our justification through Christ's death on the cross...

(Vs 12~19) Paul recounts on the origin of sin...

Understood, it all comes down to a story about two men, Adam and Jesus Christ. Through Adam, sin entered into the world, bringing death upon all men. And then Jesus Christ came to into the world, to restore fallen man back to God.

(Vs 18) ¹⁸*Therefore... **Paul sums up everything he's been saying here to this point...***

¹⁸*Therefore...as by the offence of one (ADAM)...judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one (JESUS)...the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. ¹⁹For as by one man's disobedience (because of ADAM's disobedience)...many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one (by the obedience of JESUS)...shall many be made righteous.*

The gospel is about two men...Adam and Jesus. In Adam, all men stand as guilty, condemned sinners before God. Those who are in Christ, stand justified before God, and rest in the peace of God. The only remaining question is, where a man stands. Every person in this world, is identified with one of these two men, you are still yet of Adam...or...you are In Christ. That brings us to the final part of this passage, the purpose of God's Law, and the role it plays in man's justification before God.

(Vs 20-21) ²⁰*Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: ²¹That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Listen closely, because here Paul declares why God gave the Law...

²⁰*Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound...*

Listen to what he's saying here, it is crucial that a man understand this. I'm terribly concerned that many in our day don't understand this. There's people all around us who promote and teach God's Law as the standard of righteousness, teaching that obedience to God's law is the means of man's justification. There's just one problem with that, the scriptures are clear, no man will be justified by the works of the

Law. Paul makes it crystal clear here, as to the purpose of God's Law. He says here, that God gave the Law through Moses... **not so** men could conform to it, be obedient to it, and be justified before Him. But quite the contrary, He gave it, so that in their efforts to be justified before Him by keeping His law, they would come to the knowledge of their sinful condition!

That's what Paul means here when he says...²⁰ *Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound...* Paul uses a word here "*abound*" that pictures a river overflowing its banks... Something that all of us here in Estill county understand... Rain causes our creeks and rivers to rise, and if there is enough rain, they run over, they exceed the limitations of their banks, and "*come out...*" causing flooding.²⁰ *Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound...* Like rain causes the water in creeks and rivers to rise, and overflow their bounds... In the same way, the Law causes the Sin in us to rise up and overflow...

Simply put, the Law was given to expose the sin in our lives...

It was given to "*reveal*" the ***sinful nature*** that we all received from Adam.

It's like this, God's Law is holy, just and good, it is the perfect standard of righteousness. Given that, when sinful man is exposed to it, the light of God's glory works its way in to the heart and soul of a man, and shines its light in the darkness of mans sinful heart, and opens our eyes to the awareness of our sinful condition.

That is whole purpose of God's Law...²⁰ *Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound...*

It was given to open our eyes to the sinful nature we all received from Adam.

Once it's done this, it's fulfilled its role in our lives, there's nothing more it can do. It has accomplished in our lives what God had intended for it to do, declare us guilty, condemned sinners before God.

But this is where Christ comes in you see... (Vs 20-21) ²⁰*Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: ²¹That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Listen beloved, if it were not for the work of the Law in our hearts, we would not see our need for Christ! *They that be whole, need not a physician*, right? It is the sick that seek a doctor, and it is those dying in sin that seek a Savior! And you see beloved, that's exactly how God has designed this thing. Through Moses, God gave us His Law, that it might open our eyes to the sinful nature we received from Adam, thus causing us to see our need of Christ. Which brings us to the whole point of this passage, man's justification before God. Sinners are justified before God by faith, when they come humbly before Jesus Christ, embracing Him as Lord and Savior, placing their trust in His righteousness, in His atoning blood that was shed on the cross.

Now having said that, we can now better understand the question he asks here in (6:1)

¹*What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?*

Paraphrasing, Paul says... *What am I saying here, am I teaching that in Christ, we can continue to live in sin, because we are under grace?*

Listen, Paul asks this question, *because he knows* **this is the very charge that his opponents will charge him with!** Who are Paul's **opponents** you might say? Those who of the Law! Those who argue that the Law is the means of man's justification before God. (Speaking of his fellow countrymen, the Jews, the Scribes and Pharisees...those who trust in their obedience to the law of God for their justification. They prided themselves on keeping God's law, and declared it to be the standard for all men!)

Given all this talk about "*Sin abounding*" and that "*Grace abounds all the more*," they will accuse him of teaching that a man can live how he wants to then, and still be right with God, using Grace as a covering for his sin. (And apparently...many have that same understanding of "Grace" in our day, manifested by the way they live. Many have the foolish notion that "Grace" is the freedom to sin, to live how you want to, and still go to heaven when you die.)

But as we shall see here in his reply to such a charge, nothing could be further from the truth!

¹*What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? “God forbid,” Paul says... That statement, “God forbid,” is the strongest, negative word in the Greek language. It’s a word that declares not the slightest possibility of being true. It is NO, without the slightest hint of YES in it. “Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? “God forbid” Paul says, “Absolutely not...that’s absurd, nothing could be farther from the truth,” he says. It is translated “God forbid” in the sense of saying, “may God not allow even the thought of such a thing to enter your mind.”*

God forbid...Paul says, I would never teach that a man can continue to live in sin, and be right with God! Think about it...**Sin** is what separated us from God in the first place! If that were true, then Christ died in vain! *God forbid anyone **even suggest such a thing**...(Vs 2) “How shall we that are **dead to sin**, live any longer therein?”* Rather than suggesting a man can continue to **live in sin**, Paul declares that any man who is in Christ, **is dead to sin**. He can’t live to sin, a dead man has no life, right? *“How shall we that are **dead to sin**, live any longer therein?”*

(Vs 3-4) Paul explains what he means by that...³*Know ye not... **do you not know**...that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his **death**? ⁴Therefore we are **buried** with him by baptism into **death**: that like as Christ was raised up from the **dead** by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*

Do you not know...Paul says. If anyone even suggests, that I’m teaching that in Christ, a man can continue to live in sin...then that just simply reveals **they are ignorant to the truth of God**. Far be it that we teach a man can continue in sin, for we teach that Jesus Christ, is the REMEDY for Man’s Sin! Because **“In Christ”** we teach that a man is dead to sin, and if a man be dead to sin, *how can he live any longer therein?*

³*Know ye not... **do you not know**...that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his **death**? ⁴Therefore we are **buried** with him by baptism into **death**: that like as Christ was raised up from the **dead** by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*

Paul says don’t you know that we who are in Christ, have been “baptized” into His death! That word “baptized” simply means “to fully immerse into”. I need you to listen closely here, and not miss what Paul is saying... Because in our day, more emphasis is placed on the actual act of water baptism, than teaching what it really means. There’s a debate among many over how to baptize someone. Some argue “*sprinkling is ok*,” others partial immersion, while others adamantly reject both of those, declaring that “*full immersion*” is the only true biblical form. And I want you to know, that some of these debates can get downright heated, to the point, that people and churches are divided over the issue. Now let me say this, as far as water baptism goes, I’m of the firm belief that it is full immersion, because that’s what the word means. But...I want to say, that sadly in our day, the whole point of baptism has been all but lost over such matters. In our day, so much emphasis has been placed on water baptism, that the main point has been all but lost, and that is, being baptized into His death. Identifying with Christ death on the cross...

Today as this young man and I enter the water, I will lay him in that watery grave, symbolizing his identification with Christ’s death...and then as I raise him up from that grave, it will symbolize him being raised with Christ, to walk in newness of life! ⁴*Therefore we are **buried** with him by baptism into **death**: that like as Christ was raised up from the **dead** by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. ⁵For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his **death**, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:*

Beloved, baptism is so much more than just a ceremonial service that we perform when someone accepts Christ. It is so much greater than that, for it represents the great reality of the Christian faith, the death, burial and resurrection. But the difference here is, it’s not speaking to that of Christ, but those who follow Him. It’s referring to the fact that all that follow Christ, identify with Him in His death on the Cross. Paul says, “*When He died, I died!*”

⁶*Knowing this, that **our old man** is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.*

Paul says here, that **our old man** is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed... He's talking about the "**man**" that the Law revealed in us, and condemned. He's talking about the **sinful nature** of Adam that the law exposed in us, **the flesh**, as Paul refers to throughout his writings!

¹*What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid...we teach that any man who is in Christ, takes up the Cross of Christ, and crucifies the old man, the sinful nature we received from Adam, so that we might not be servants of sin any longer...but servants of Jesus Christ. That sin should no longer rule in our lives...but Christ and Christ alone.*

⁶*Knowing this, that **our old man** is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that Thenceforth we should not serve sin. ⁷*For he that is **dead** is freed from sin.**

Listen, Paul says, far be it that we teach a man can continue in sin, for *we teach that Jesus Christ, is the REMEDY for Man's Sin!* I need you to listen very closely to me... What Paul says here, "⁷*For he that is dead is freed from sin*" lies at the very heart of the Christian faith. The Cross is the cure for man's sin...

This is what separates Christianity from every other religion in the world! Listen, this truth that Paul declares here is how I know that the way of Christ is the only way. I've had people ask me, with all the different religions in the world, how do you know for sure, that this is right? I know that the way of Christ is the only way, and that it's the right way, because it is the only one that address man's true problem. You see, every other religion in the world, all have the same thing in common, in that it's all about men conforming to a certain standard, living to a set of prescribed commandments, in order to live in a way that is pleasing to God.

This is where Christianity differs from all the rest, this is what sets it apart, and how I know that the way of Christ is the only way for a man to be "*truly right with God.*" You see, the problem with man is not merely his actions. If it was, then religion would be the answer. Obedience to a creed or certain commandments, would result in a better lifestyle. But the problem with man is not merely his actions. It goes much deeper than that, it's his heart. More specifically, it's the desires of his heart. There not right towards God. Man is born with a heart that is naturally bent towards sin, he loves this world, and the things of this world. The only god he serves is the god of SELF. By that I mean that the natural man, fallen man, the nature we received from Adam, rejects the authority of God in his life, to serve his own will, his own ways, his own desires.

There is only one true remedy for such a man, and Christ alone has the answer. ⁷*For he that is **dead** is freed from sin.* Christ did not come in this world with a set of commandments to keep or a certain standard to follow...He just hands us a cross, and calls for us to come follow Him. Jesus said, "If any man come after me, let him deny himself, take up the cross and follow me." You see, the ways of Christ is that of denying ourselves, and putting the desires of the flesh to death, that we might live unto Him as Lord. This is why I know that the way of Christ is the only true way, because this what truly declares a man to be right with God, when he humbles himself before God, His creator, to serve His will and desires for his life. That is a man...that is right with God.

The Great Hope of the Christian Faith...

⁸*Now if we be **dead** with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:*