

## Romans 6: 1~7, part 1

Back in 5:1~2, Paul made a statement, that if we understood it correctly, would result in continuous praise flowing out of our mouth's <sup>1</sup>*Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: <sup>2</sup>By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*

It speaks to the "**position**" that we now occupy, being "*followers of Christ.*" Because of our faith in Christ sacrificial offering on the cross for our sin, we now stand in the "*Grace of God...*" Which is a contrasting statement to the position we once stood in, when we were the enemies of God, people who stood in the position of "*His Wrath!*" But now, through faith in Christ death on the cross, we have entered into the "*Love of God...*" Because of our sin, we were the "*objects of His wrath*, but now, because of Christ, we have become the "*objects of His affection.*"

But too understand what that means is not easy... It's very hard to comprehend the enormity of the blessings that we have entered being in "*His Grace.*" Yet, that is what Paul has been trying to explain throughout chapter five.

(Vs 3~10) A brief picture of how much we are loved...

(Vs 11~21) Paul explains "*God's historical plan of salvation*"... The operation of *Grace*...

Beginning here in chapter 6, Paul moves from "*How Grace saves us,*" to the place of grace in our day-to-day lives. An area I might say, in which there is *much confusion*... Some have "*greatly misunderstood*" the message of Grace... Many have the idea, that because the bible teaches we aren't saved by our "*obedience to the Law,*" by our works, that "*obedience to God*" is no longer a requirement. But nothing could be farther from the truth!

In this chapter, Paul gives himself to answering two questions... Questions that men have asked and debated on for hundreds of years... Questions that give way to answers that provide "*extremely important*" truths concerning God's plan of salvation!

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

<sup>15</sup>*What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace?*

Now that we *stand in Grace*... Does that mean, we can live how we want too?

**When we find ourselves "*guilty before God*", condemned by God's Law, coming to the realization of our need for Grace... does being in "*Grace*" mean that we can continue in our Disobedience to God, and it's OK!**

Both of which, Paul answers with an emphatic... "**God Forbid!**"

**God forbid:** Paul answers that question with the strongest "*Negative Greek word*" in the Greek language! ABSOLUTELY NOT! There's not the "*slightest possibility*"... It conveys the idea, that there is not even the "*slightest hint*" of yes in there! It's the total absence of Yes, and pure no! It is impossible!

This morning, I want to deal with the first of the two questions... To do so, we must back up a couple of verses, to the source of his question. This question, naturally arises out of the statement he just made...

<sup>19</sup>*For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.* <sup>20</sup>*Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:*

Paul says, only one person has ever lived up to the righteous standard of the Law, the Lord Jesus Christ... Despite our best efforts, by our adherence to the Law of God, we still fall short...

And Paul says that God gave the law for that purpose, to manifest our failure to live up to it...

If there is not a “*Standard*” to meet, than we would never know we fell short...*right*?  
So God gave us the law, not so that we could be obedient to it, and be justified before Him... **Far from it,** God gave the Law for the purpose of revealing our Sin! That through trying to be “*obedient*” to it, we would see our “*disobedience...*” <sup>20</sup>*Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound...*

Paul used the word “*abound*” which is a picture word... It is a picture of a river that overflows its banks. Paul uses it to say, that God gave us the Law to “*cause our Sin to come out!*” Which leads to the end of Gods purpose of the Law, causing us to seek God’s mercy and grace...

*They that be whole...need not a physician...* We do not go to the doctor, unless we are sick!  
Illustration: My dad... Dad would have never went to the doctor, if his legs hadn’t kept getting progressively weaker. Dad’s weakness progressed to the point, that he realized, he had a “*serious problem!*” A problem that he couldn’t fix! When dad finally came to the point, that he realized, he had a serious health condition, he went to the doctor. Long story short, he was diagnosed with **Lambert-Eaton syndrome**... a muscle disease. But you know what, (and he’ll testify to this...) that disease likely saved his life! Because they disease is a “*result*” of cancer somewhere in the body... They started looking for the cancer and found it, in his *lymph nodes* in the early stages... If it hadn’t been for the muscle disease, the cancer would have made itself known later, when it was too late!

Dad is convinced that God gave him the “*muscle disease...*” to manifest that he had cancer!

**And that is a “good analogy” to describe the purpose of the Law...**

God gave us the Law to make us see that we too have cancer...SIN!

I like what Wayne said... God sends us to see “*Dr. Law*” who checks us out, and finds that we are eat up with cancer... “*Dr. Law*” says, all I can do is to diagnose that you have cancer; I’ll have to refer you to the one who treats this kind of cancer, “*Dr. Grace!*”

**D.L. Moody...The law tells me how crooked I am. Grace comes along and straightens me out.**

**God gave us the law, to reveal our sin...so that we would see our need of Grace!**

(Vs 20) The more and more we saw our Sin, (transgression of Gods standard); the more we’d see “*our guilt,*” and the more we saw our guilt, the more we’d see our need of grace!

<sup>20</sup>*Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound... But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:*

“Seeing” that we fall short of the requirements of the Law, finding ourselves in disobedience to the Law, our eyes are opened to our need of Christ! Our disobedience to the Law, causes us to no longer trust in ourselves, and place our trust in Christ!

Having declared such a “*glorious truth*”...that we are saved by His Grace...there arises a question.

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

**Does this message of “Salvation by Grace, through Faith” mean that we can continue in “our transgressions against God” (SIN); and Grace will take care of it?**

**God forbid!** Though it is true, that we cannot live up to the righteous standard of the Law...that we transgress the law, in no way does that mean, we can continue in sin, in our transgressions against God!

God forbid...Just because we “*Realize*” that we fall short of the righteous standard of the law, doesn’t mean, to continue doing so is ok... Not at all...

**All that means is that *our obedience to the LAW is not the means of our justification*...**

The truth Paul declared by in 3:19~20...<sup>19</sup>*Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.*<sup>20</sup>*Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.*

The more we try to be right with God through obedience to His law, the more we see ourselves falling short of the standard! All the Law of God does, is to help us see our “GUILT!”

In chapter 5:13~14, Paul made it clear...that we are “*Guilty sinners*” with or without the law! God just gave the Law, so that we could see that!

The Law *entered* the world to manifest the SIN that had entered in the world, and abided in us! Our attempts to “*Keep it*” only causes men to see their sinfulness! Leading to the “guilty sinner” to seek for the mercy and grace of God.

That really sets up the question that Paul ask in 6:1...<sup>1</sup>What shall we say then?

**WHAT NOW?** *Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?*

**When we find ourselves “*guilty before God*”, condemned by God’s Law, coming to the realization of our need for Grace...does being in “*Grace*” mean that we can continue in our Disobedience to God, and it’s OK!**

Something that is “Vital” in understanding this passage... Paul is not speaking to those who are outside the synagogue, those who obviously do not care, nor even attempt to be obedient to God. He is speaking to those who are trying too... His audience is not those outside who are living in various ungodly lifestyles, but he is speaking to those who do there best to “conform” to the Law of God... Their problem is not due to lack of error! It is not due to lack of sincerity, their problem lies in the fact, that no one is justified in God’s sight, by the “*deeds of the Law.*” And unless they come to realize that, they will DIE believing that their so called, “goodness, good-deeds” that come as a result of adhering to the Law, they will die believing they have “*lived*” a righteous enough life to attain salvation.

**Paul’s whole argument here is that is certainly not the case! Because God gave the Law not for the purpose that we’d be just in it, but declared guilty by it!**

Once a man sees his guilt...only then is he able to see Grace... It is in the “*Darkness of Guilt*” that we are able to see the “*Light of Grace.*” In darkness, light abounds...the darker it is...the brighter the light shines.

*Paul is saying...*Do you think, that by preaching grace...that I am saying, that even though we continue to live in disobedience to God, that we will still be declared JUST on the basis of Grace?

Do you think that the “*Message of Grace*” declares “*Obedience to God*” as no longer an issue! Do you think I’m saying our sins, **our transgressions against God**, are no big deal?

**God Forbid!**.....Nothing could be further from the truth!

In **NO WAY**...does the message of Grace teach that disobedience to God is acceptable!

The “*Message of Grace*” declares justification by the Law as unacceptable!

All that means is that our obedience to the LAW is not the means of our justification...

**But, IN NO WAY** can we continue to live in disobedience to God!

*God forbid*... That’s an absurd thought! How can you even entertain the thought, that disobedience to God is acceptable? Far from saying that it is ok for a man to continue in his SIN, the message of grace points men to the ANSWER for men’s sin! By exhorting all men to turn from the Law, and turn to Christ!

The “*Message of Grace*” only points out that we no longer seek to be right with God by our obedience to the Law...but rather now we turn to the one, true source of justification with God...obedience to Christ!

The LAW revealed our “*problem,*” while the cross shows us **the answer!**

“*Obedience to God*” is a must! Disobedience is what separated us in the first place. God forbid someone think we can continue in disobedience, and think it’s ok! The difference is this...with the Law as your master, when you fall short, it condemns you...But with Christ as your master, when you fall short, His graces picks you up!

Submission to the Lordship of Christ, **Not the Law,** is God’s means of Justification & Salvation!

There are three categories of people in the religious world...

1) **There are those who serve the Law**, (they are trusting in their good works, their adherence to Law) And I will point out...they are very sincere, they go the full gamete, to the letter of the Law... If anybody on earth could be saved through adherence to the bible, they would. (*Ph. 3, Paul says as much...*)

2) **Then there are those who are just the opposite** (they understand that adherence to the Law won’t do it, that no all fall short, and **do not seek to justify themselves by the Law**...) But the problem with this group, they have stopped there. They go the opposite extreme, they have the “*mindset*” that there’s nothing we can do...and presume on Grace! They fall into the category of people Paul is speaking too here in this passage. Even though they may be associated with the church, they continue in transgressing God, in that they do not “submit” themselves to Jesus as Lord of their life! This is manifested by a life lived for SELF! A life lived for this world, the here and now... No real “Obedience” to Christ as LORD!

These two groups... Will die in their SINS! *And they will undergo the judgment and wrath of God!*

God’s salvation plan is this...

We all have sinned against God...and as a result, our sins have “separated us” from God...

But thank God, He has made a provision for our sin, He has sent to us, a “*Savior...*”

That whosoever would come to Him, and receive Him as Lord...would be saved...

**Jesus is Lord!** That is not in question, He is!

The only question, is He Lord of your life?