

Romans 6:1~7, part 2

Beginning back in 5:1, Paul has been speaking too the “*Doctrine of Grace!*” From chapters 1~4, Paul had dealt with the “*Doctrine of Justification...*” A truth that is undeniable, one that is overtly clear that man is justified by **FAITH!** My prayer to God is this...that God has used me, and His precious word to build into you the clear understanding of how we are justified with God. That you fully understand, that it is not by our works, but by the works of Christ, and our faith in His work...opening to us, the grace of God!

Beginning in 5:1, Paul picks up the subject of “*God’s Grace...*” He does so by pointing to the “*Wonder*” of His grace, and the “*Sufficiency of His Grace!*” God’s grace is mind boggling, when you think of “*how far reaching*” it is, the depths of God’s love, it has no boundaries! There is nothing God would not do for you and I! Paul says, if He died for us, while yet His enemies, will he not now take care and love you? God’s grace is beyond comprehension...beyond understanding, it’s amazing!

Well, beginning here in chapter 6:1 Paul continues his look at the “*Doctrine of Grace...*”

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

When we find ourselves “*guilty before God*”, condemned by God’s Law, does the “*Doctrine of Grace*” teach, that to continue in Disobedience to God, is OK?

And that really is the question... This passage speaks to “*obedience, submission*”... In these 23 verses, Paul refers to a form of that word some 17 times. (*servants, yield, obey*)

When, we realize our “*disobedience to God*”, through the Law, does “*the doctrine of Grace*” teach that disobedience is a non-issue?

A question he answers with the strongest “*Negative Greek word*” in the Greek language!²**God forbid:** 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!

In **NO WAY**...does “*the message of Grace*” teach that disobedience to God is acceptable!
It is because of man’s “Disobedience” that the wrath of God abides on Him!

Paul answers that question...with another question...

²*God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?*

Paul points to the heart of the Christian faith, he points to what the “*Gospel of Christ*” is all about... The DEATH, BURIAL and RESURRECTION of Jesus Christ.

I find it interesting that Paul declared this truth in the form of a question... The question Paul asked in 6:1, is a question that Paul knows his “*opponents of grace*” will argue! Saying that Paul is teaching that “*obedience to God*” is a non issue, that Paul is teaching that a man can live how he wants too...that a man can live in Disobedience to God, and that “With Grace” it’s OK!



In essence, *he answers the man who thinks this way, by questioning HIS understanding*... In other words, the man who would “*think such*” **obviously doesn’t understand** the “*Gospel of Grace!*”

Anyone who thinks that you can continue to live in disobedience, living your life for your own will, without humble submission to Christ as “LORD of your Life...” obviously does not understand the message!

Listen closely, and you’ll see this to be true...

¹*What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?²**God forbid.** (how can you think such...)How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?*

Look at Paul’s answer...Continue to “Live in Sin?” **HOW can a dead man still live in Sin?**

Far from teaching that its OK to “Continue Living in disobedience to God”, the gospel teaches, “Disobedience no longer exist!”

We are “**Dead to Transgressions...**” We are “**Dead to SIN!**”

How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

Preacher, are you saying that we are “**Sinless?**”

YES! Listen closely... The bible defines SIN in this manner...(Listen, MOST IMPORTANT)

⁴*Whosoever commits sin transgresses also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.*
⁵*And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.* ⁶*Whosoever abides in him sins not: whosoever sins hath not seen him, neither known him.*

Our “*faith in Christ*” is what makes us saints...not our good works... We have turned from the Law, and turned to Christ. Which is THE OBEDIENCE God requires...to submit ourselves to Jesus as Lord!

Listen... The Standard of God is still “**Righteousness!**” The difference in the “*gospel of Christ*” is the means to attain that standard! We no longer seek to be “*righteous*” by our adherence to the Law, which only reveals our sin! But in Christ, we “*Turn from the Law*” and turn to Christ! If SIN is the transgression of the Law, as John has clearly stated... And if Christ is the new standard, as John has clearly stated... Then we are no longer sinners...but saints! We have submitted to the true standard of righteousness, the Lord Jesus Christ!

The beauty of the gospel, is this... As I serve Him, I still fall short of what I want to do...but unlike the Law, He doesn’t condemn me. He picks me up, dusts me off, and helps me own my way!

My obedience to Christ is in no way perfect obedience, but it’s not a transgression against God, **but rather a result of the weakness of my flesh!** Thus, the grace of God becomes active!

God forbid that we ever think that “*obedience to God*” doesn’t matter now that we are under grace!

²**God forbid.** (how can you think such)How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

Grace is not “Freedom TO sin” ...but “Freedom FROM sin!”

⁷*For he that is dead is freed from sin.*

The “Key” here to understanding this passage, is “*Our death in Christ...*”

⁷*For he that is dead is freed from sin.*

Paul mentions this word in one form or another sum 16 times in 13 verses...

In answering the question stated in verse one, Paul just explains what the “*gospel*” is all about! It is one of the best definitions of what it means to have “*Faith in Christ!*”

¹*What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? ²God forbid. How shall we, that are **dead to sin**, live any longer therein?*

³*Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?*

Before we came to Christ, we all manifested a “DEADNESS...” But it was a “*Deadness to God...*”

There are three forms of **Deadness**...

- 1) The ***dead in trespasses and sins*** ...
- 2) The ***dead in the Law*** ...
- 3) The ***dead in Christ***...

The first **deadness** is manifested those who are alive to desires and lust of flesh...By living for self, living for the things of this world, for the here and now!” The description Paul ascribes to the DEAD in Sins in (Ep. 2:1~3)

¹*And you hath he quickened, who were **dead in trespasses and sins**;*

²*Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now works in the children of disobedience: ³Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past **in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind**; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.*

The Gentiles are marked as, prior to coming to Christ, they did what they wanted, followed their hearts, lived how ever they wanted too.

*...the spirit that now works in the children of disobedience: ³Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past **in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind**;*

There is “*NO Earthly reason*” for anyone who lives for themselves, who have no real concern for the will of God, the purpose of God in their life, to think that they are “OK” with God... For that is a better description of a lost, dead man... That best describes a man who is “DEAD to God” and “ALIVE to this world, and HIMSELF!”

The FIRST are those ***dead in trespasses and sins*** ... (they are alive to desires and lust of flesh...)

The SECOND group, are those who are ***dead in the Law*** ... (those who try to live to the requirements of the Law)

Paul describes the “*Gentiles*” much differently than he does the Jews... The Jews were marked differently... they were raised “***in the law***.” In our day, that would be to be raised in church... And that doesn’t do it... They conformed to the Law, they really tried to do right, to serve God. But as Paul has clearly shown, they are still dead in sins. Because the law is not the answer to man’s sin problem.

The FIRST are those ***dead in trespasses and sins*** ... (they are alive to desires and lust of flesh...)

The SECOND group, are those who are ***dead in the Law*** ... (those who try to live to the Law)

The LAST group, are those who are ***dead in Christ***... (those who have turned from this world, and the lust thereof, and from the law, placing their faith in Christ as the Messiah)

But Paul declares, that through “*Faith in Christ*” sacrificial death on the cross...we are made alive! We leave the Law and the World and the desires of the lust of the flesh... and submit ourselves in obedience to Christ as Lord!