Things You Should Know

Romans 6:1-13; 16
1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?
2 God 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?

This evening I want to build on where we left off last Sunday evening.
• As a church we are in a season of searching our lives
  o and removing things that hinder our walk with God.
• We are doing this in preparation for the things that God wants do in our church in this New Year
  o and with an eye towards taking communion next Sunday evening.
• Last week we addressed the “Old Man” in the terms of “Old Leaven”
  o and we talked about the inherent need in our lives to remove the leavening influence of Egypt from our lives.
• This week I want to build on that theme by turning to Romans Chapter 6.

Let me explain why we are looking at this chapter tonight for our text.
• After an exhaustive treatment of the subject of Justification by Faith,
  o where Paul explains, in great detail, how that we are saved by our faith and not by our works,
  o Paul makes a transition in Chapter 6 and begins to explain the “works” of Sanctification that arise from the faith that justifies us.
• What Paul is teaching the church is that we are saved by faith, alone – apart from works
  o – but the faith that saves us is never alone,
  o it always results in obedience to God.
• We are not saved by our works,
  o we are saved by our faith,
    ▪ but genuine faith always produces works in our lives.
• This is why James and Paul are in complete harmony.
  o Paul says we are saved by our faith and not by our works
    ▪ but James says that faith without works is dead.
  o The two aren’t in disagreement;
    ▪ both were inspired of the Holy Ghost.
  o They agree, together,
    ▪ that genuine faith in Jesus Christ is going to cause you to ACT
      on that faith,
    ▪ thereby producing certain works in your life.

So, in order to lead into that discussion, Paul starts Romans Chapter 6 with a question:
• Should Christians sin?
or, to rephrase it,

- does grace allow for continual ongoing sin in the life of a believer?

- Paul’s resounding answer in the second verse is, “No!”
  - Absolutely not.

Romans 6

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

Paul then launches into a very important and instructive portion of the letter that begins in verse 3 with an exclamation, “Know ye not?” Or, “Don’t you know?”

- From that platform Paul begins to explain to every believer some things that you SHOULD know!

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

The first thing that you need to know is “how” you are saved.

- Don’t you know, Paul says, that you can’t be joined to Jesus if you aren’t joined with him in his death, burial, and resurrection?
  - Right off the bat we establish the fact that a saving association with Jesus Christ is more than just mere assent that he is my savior,
    - I have to be joined with him in his death, burial and resurrection.
  - He saved me at the cross;
    - his death liberates me from sin.
    - His burial and subsequent resurrection gives me hope of spiritual life.
  - That which was lost in the garden,
    - that spiritual life that was lost in Adam,
    - is able to be restored to me
    - because of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the second man Adam.
  - I am saved, by my faith in that
    - and that faith is actualized in my life
      - when I obey the gospel message of repentance, water baptism in Jesus name for the remission of my sins.
  - On that basis, God fills me with his spirit as I receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Some will argue that by stressing our need to repent and be baptized we are, somehow, promoting a salvation that is based on our works.

- However, that viewpoint is inherently flawed,
because it assumes that the efficacy of repentance, water baptism, and the infilling of the Holy Ghost rests upon our works.

- Nothing could be further from the truth.
  - We repent but God forgives.
  - We are baptized in his name and He washes away our sins.
  - We surrender our lives fully to Him and He fills us with His spirit.

- Any attempt to repent, be baptized or be filled with the Holy Ghost apart from God is an absolute fallacy.
  - He does not save us by our works, but, rather, by His works.
    - Faith requires of us that we obey the gospel of Jesus Christ, which is the vehicle of regeneration in our lives.
  - Through the gospel,
    - through our obedience to the gospel,
    - faith does its wonderful work in us
    - and gives rise to regeneration
      - and that, which was dead, is revived.

- That, which died in the Garden, is made brand new within us.

This is the first thing that Paul establishes in Romans 6.

- You need to know what happens when you are saved.
  - We appropriate salvation into our lives by identifying with Jesus Christ in His death and all that proceeds from that.

- This is one of the things you need to know.
  - You weren't saved just because Jesus lived.
  - You were saved on the basis of His death.

- You were saved by identifying with Jesus in his death.
  - Verse 6 explains this:

> 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.

Our old man, the sin bound man, is crucified with Jesus Christ so that sin's hold on you might be destroyed

- so that you are no longer bound to serve sin.
- This happens initially at repentance,
  - when your heart is moved with conviction
    - as the reality of what happened at the cross
    - shines into your life.
- When you come to an altar of repentance
  - you crucify, as it were, the old man with Jesus Christ.
- His death bought your salvation
  - and it is appropriated into your life by the death of the old man.
- The old man,
  - the old nature,
  - the old way,
o the old things,
  ▪ they have to die at an altar of repentance.

• This is the critical, crucial, first response to the Gospel.
  o You can’t overlook this,
  o you can’t pass it over,
  o you can’t sugar coat it
    ▪ – every man has to come to Jesus in a state of repentance.

• It takes a genuine death,
  o the old man has to die,
  o the old nature has to be crucified,
    ▪ it’s the only way that the chains that had you bound can be broken.

• The power behind repentance is not your actions but His.
  o You are set free by virtue of the innocent death that Jesus died on the cross,
    ▪ but it is appropriated into your life by the much more personal death of repentance,
      ▪ where you “die” to sin.

• The natural course of action, then, is to bury what has died.

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.

Dead men are buried.
• Baptism identifies us with the burial of Jesus
  o and it is an essential step in salvation
    ▪ because it is done, according to Acts 2:38, for the remission of sins.

• Baptism is the ultimate evidence of repentance,
  o just as burial is the ultimate evidence of death.

• This past week I stood at a graveside with Brother Larry and his family
  o as we laid a 16 year old young man to rest.
  o It was a different kind of graveside service for me
    ▪ because, after it was over, nobody left.
  o The whole family waited around the grave
    ▪ for the workers to close the vault,
    ▪ lower it into the ground
    ▪ and cover it over with dirt.
  o Brother Larry’s brother explained to me,
    ▪ “This is the way we get closure.
      ▪ The burial makes the death final.”

• You know, there’s a theological truth in that.
  o The ultimate evidence of death is burial.
    ▪ So it is with baptism,
• the ultimate evidence that repentance has done its work in your life is baptism.
  o Because, once the old man is dead,
    ▪ he must be buried!
• So when we are baptized,
  o we are baptized into Jesus Christ (vs3),
    ▪ into his death!

But burial isn’t the end of the process.
• The burial isn’t the final step.
  o Just like Jesus Christ was raised up from the dead
    ▪ even so we also should walk in the newness of life!
  o Baptism comes with a promise.
    ▪ What is buried with Christ
      ▪ will, ultimately, be resurrected in Him!

5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:

We are promised that, if we are crucified with Christ,
• if we are baptized into his death and burial,
  o we will also be in the likeness of his resurrection.
    ▪ We will also walk in the newness of life!
• It’s the promise of new life in Jesus Christ.
  o The old man passes away and the new man lives within us!
    ▪ The old man has been crucified with Christ,
      ▪ but the new man is born within us
      ▪ as we are gloriously “born again”
      ▪ when the Holy Ghost comes in!
• God breathes life into us.
  o God, restores us,
    ▪ His spirit does the work of regeneration in us.
• It’s the wonderful result of faith in our lives.
  o In faith we repent and God forgives us.
  o In faith we are baptized and God washes away the curse of sin.
  o In faith we yield our lives to Him and God fills us with his spirit!
• This is why, when Peter preached on the day of Pentecost, he said:
  o repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.
• Because that gift, that promise of resurrection, is promised to all who die with Christ!

The result of this is that we are set free from sin:
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.

7 For he that is dead is freed from sin.

Somewhere along the way, some have lost sight of what we were saved from.

- We are saved FROM sin
  - We have been saved, in order to be set free from sin,
    - not that we might remain in sin,
    - not that we might continue therein,
    - but that we would be set free from sin’s hold in our lives!
  - That we, being dead with Christ might also live with Him!

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

Paul said in Galatians 2:20

- “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”
  - Having died with Christ in His death, Paul said,
    - I now live with Christ in his life,
    - in the power of his resurrection.
  - In fact, Paul goes a step further,
    - this new life in Christ is nothing less
      - than the risen Christ living his life inside of me.
    - Sin once controlled me.
    - Sin once governed me.
    - Sin once lived in me.
      - I was bound to the will of my flesh.
    - But now Christ lives in me.
      - His power now governs my life.
      - Now I am bound to live a Christ-like life.

- How does this happen?
  - We are empowered to live in Christ
    - by the indwelling spirit of God in our lives.
  - To live by faith is to live by the power of the indwelling spirit of God!

The next passage of Romans 6 summarizes what we should know about our salvation:

9 Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.
10 For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.
Jesus will never die again because death has no more power over him.

- The point is that once we have been born again,
  - we should never again return to the “old” sinful lifestyle
    - because sin no longer has any power over us.
  - We have died with Christ.
  - We have been buried with Christ.
    - And we now have the spirit of Christ living inside of us.
- We are no longer bound to that old body of sin and death,
  - it has no more dominion over us!
- This is what we need to know about our salvation.
  - We need to know that we are not bound to sin any more.
- We were born in sin’s bondage
  - but we have been set free
    - because we have been born again.
- The old man was bound by sin.
  - But the old man has been crucified,
    - he died
    - and he was buried with Christ in baptism.
- We have arisen to walk in the newness of life
  - as God has filled us with his spirit.
    - The new man is free from the bondage of sin.
    - The new man is free from the sin’s dominion and control.

Now, here’s where the conundrum comes in.

- I was crucified with Christ, yet I live.
  - I am free from sin’s authority
    - but I am not free from my flesh’s influence.
  - I still live
    - and I still have a sinful nature.
  - I am still a man, flesh and blood
    - and temptation still appeals to my flesh.
  - I am still tempted,
    - in the words of scripture,
      - as I am drawn out of my own lust and enticed.
- The lust of the flesh,
  - the lust of the eyes,
  - and the pride of life
    - still appeal to my carnal man.
- I have been set free from this body of sin and death,
  - but I’m still walking around in this carnal fleshly body.
- What do I do?

Up to verse 10, Paul has been explaining to us that we are dead to sin,

- that we are called to live in the newness of life
  - through the spirit of God within us.
• We have been reminded that we died to sin,
  o that the old man has been crucified,
    ▪ and that we were born again unto spiritual life.
• But verse 11 is the application of this essential knowledge.
  o This is WHY we need to know the ramifications of our salvation.

11 Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Based on what we now know, we should reckon ourselves to be dead to sin.
• To reckon means to “count”, it means to act like it.
  o Likewise, Paul says, live like it.
    ▪ Act like it.
  o Reckon yourself to be dead to sin
    ▪ but alive unto God.
• Its an action that is required of us in response to what we know.
  o We know that the old man died.
  o We know that we buried him in baptism.
  o We know that we have been filled with the Holy Ghost.
  o We know that we have been set free from the control of the old man.
• So, when the old man tries to assert control over us,
  o Paul says, we need to act like we have been set free!
    ▪ We need to act like we know what happened to us in salvation!

How do we act like it?
• We consider ourselves to be dead to sin.
  o We live like,
  o and act like,
    ▪ God has set us free from the control of our flesh.
• You see, now we are back to the same place where we started last week.
  o We have died to sin.
    ▪ The mortal body of sin has been buried with Christ in baptism.
    ▪ Spiritual life has been quickened within us by the infilling of the Holy Ghost.
  o We are no longer under the power of sin.
    ▪ We have been “declared” to be righteous,
      ▪ we ARE unleavened.
• Now we are challenged TO LIVE LIKE IT.
  o We are challenged TO ACT LIKE IT!

We must become in practice what we already are in position.
• We ARE dead to sin.
  o Sin NO LONGER has the mastery over us.
• Our carnal flesh CANNOT force us to violate God’s principles or God’s laws.
  o Sin DOESN’T have the rule over us any more.
• If we walk in the newness of life,
  o we WILL walk in obedience to Jesus Christ.
• If we allow the crucified Christ to live within us
  o then we WILL NOT continue in sin.
• If we allow the risen savior to have dominion in our lives,
  o then our flesh WILL NOT rule over us!
• We will no longer walk in disobedience
  o because we are now walking in the newness of life.

**If, after you have been set free from sin, you continue in sin it is because you choose to disobey God.**

• You see sin can’t force you any longer.
  o Sin doesn’t control you any more.
    ▪ You are no longer bound.
• You have to choose to ignore the Holy Ghost within you, in order to continue in sin.

12 *Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.*

That’s not the way we are supposed to live!

• Don’t let sin rule you!
  o You aren’t bound to obey the lusts of your mortal body.
• Let me point out here that this verse highlights the fact
  o that it is possible for a born-again believer to allow sin to reassert its authority in your life.
• Paul wouldn’t warn us not to allow it to happen
  o if it was impossible for it to happen.
• But it also promises us that we can overcome sin in our lives!
  o Sin *could* rule us,
    ▪ but we don’t have to let that happen!
• How do we keep that from happening?
  o How do we overcome?
  o How do we “reckon” ourselves dead to sin?
• The answer is in verse 13:

13 *Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.*

Don’t YIELD yourselves to sin.

• We RECKON ourselves to be dead to sin
  o by refusing to YIELD ourselves to sin.
• Not only do we refuse to YIELD ourselves to sin
  o but, where we used to YIELD to sin,
Things You Should Know

- we now YIELD to God!
  - We now yield to the power of the Holy Ghost in our lives!
- We no longer yield to sin,
  - instead, we yield to righteousness.
- We no longer cultivate sin and vice and rebellion in our lives,
  - instead we produce the fruit of the spirit in our lives!
- It all depends on what you yield to.
  - Maybe if you are having a hard time manifesting the fruit of the spirit,
    - you ought to investigate what you’ve been yielding your life to!

How do you yield to sin?
- You yield to sin by being disobedient to the spirit of God within you,
  - by ignoring your conscience,
  - by putting yourself in situations that will lead you to sin,
  - by refusing to allow God to direct your life.
- You yield to sin by not allowing God’s word to speak into your life,
  - by not allowing God’s spirit to direct you,
  - even by ignoring godly leaders
  - and the Shepherd that God has placed in your life.

To the contrary, we yield to God by walking in the newness of life,
- by being obedient to the leading of the Holy Ghost,
- by praying and seeking God’s presence on a regular basis,
- by reading our Bibles daily,
- by going to church,
- by worshipping God when we are at church,
- and by listening to the godly leaders that God has placed in our lives.

This is Paul’s point:
- Don’t you know that you died with Christ?
  - It’s time to start living like it!
- You can’t build good, godly character
  - on bad habits in your life.
- You can’t develop an attitude of love and kindness
  - when you are consumed with bitterness and hatred.
- You can’t establish a life that is pleasing unto God
  - on wickedness and perverted thoughts.
- You can’t live righteously
  - and continually chase after every lust and desire of your flesh.
- You can’t be controlled by the spirit of God
  - and be ruled over by every carnal whim that you have.
- You can’t build integrity
  - on a foundation of dishonesty
- and you can’t show forth the goodness of God
  - when your life is marred by the wickedness of sin.
Things You Should Know

• Its time to clean out your life.
  o Its time to purge out the ways of the old man.
  o Its time to separate yourself unto God.
• Its time to recognize that light has no fellowship with darkness,
  o you can’t walk in the newness of life
    ▪ and continue in the bondage of death!

Close
Verse 16 says it best:

16 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

Your actions demonstrate who your master is.
• Your works provide the evidence of your salvation or lack thereof.
  o Whatever you yield to,
    ▪ that is what rules over you!
• Sin gives way to death
  o but obedience gives way to righteousness.
• Notice, sin is contrasted to obedience
  o and death is contrasted to righteousness.
• To disobey is to sin
  o and to not walk in righteousness is to allow death to reign in you.

These are the things that you need to know!
• This is the implication of your salvation.

The question, tonight, is this: **Now that you know it, what are you going to do about it?**

• The spirit is calling the church to a place of repentance
  o to a place of searching ourselves
  o to a place of yielding to the spirit of God in our lives.
• I, for one, don't want to be guilty of allowing my carnal flesh to reassert its control over my life.
• I want to continue in the spirit,
  o even as I have been born in the spirit.