

## SERMON NOTES

SERIES: Romans: God's Power for Salvation

TITLE: Dead to Sin

SCRIPTURE: Romans 6:1-14

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The book of Romans is a masterfully written exposition of the gospel of God. Without a doubt, it is the foundation of authentic Christianity and the most articulate, systematic understanding of our faith found in the Bible. Countless lives have been changed by the truth found in this ancient letter, and it continues to change lives today. Interestingly enough, Romans was written to Christians. So, while the good news found in Romans can certainly bring people to faith in Jesus, the actual focus is on how the gospel helps Christians think rightly about God, life, faith, and Christian community. If you want to grow to know God more personal and intimate way, this letter is for you!

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In the first five and a half chapters of the book Romans (1:1-5:11), the apostle Paul clearly and logically lays out what it means to become a Christian. He says that we have been forgiven of our sins and that we have been “justified”— put into a right relationship with God — by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. He says, religious laws and rules and rituals play no part in making us right with God (cf 3:21-24). Beginning in 5:12 and going through 8:39, Paul discusses the fact that not only have we been delivered from the penalty of sin (justification), but also, we’ve been delivered from the power of sin. The Bible calls this sanctification (cf. 6:19, 22). The question is: *How do we live everyday of our lives as the new person God has made us to be?* Romans 6-8 give us the answer to that question. And, at least at first, it’s a complicated and confusing answer. The fact is — we all know the struggle Paul talks about in Romans 7:15, 18-19 (READ). There are things we know we shouldn’t do, but we do them anyway. There are things we know we should do that we don’t do. But, *if God has made me new, then why do I do the things I do? Why this struggle? And why is it so hard to overcome?*

The reason we keep doing things we don’t want to do is because sin lives in us (5:12-21).

Through Adam’s one sin, sin and death entered the world and spread to all people so that sin lives in every one of us. This is the first part of Paul’s explanation of why we do things we know we shouldn’t do and why we don’t do things we know we should do. It’s because we were born in Adam and sin lives in us. Our rescue from this problem does not come from a *what*, but from a *who*. We are rescued “through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Rom 7:24-25). *How so?*

Just as one unrighteous act of one man (Adam) ensured that you were born a slave to sin, so also one righteous act of one man (Jesus) frees you from the power of sin.

All the benefits of Christ's death and resurrection have been applied to you because you have been placed into Christ (6:1-4). When you became a Christian, you were taken out of Adam and baptized (put/placed) into Christ. What was true of Adam was true of you. You were condemned, guilty, unrighteous, a slave of sin. In Christ, what is true of Christ is true of you: you are free from sin.

When you put your faith in Christ you were put into Christ — you were crucified with Christ — and having been crucified with Christ, you have been set free from the power of sin in your life (6:5-6).

You have died to sin and been raised to live a new way of life (6:7-10).

However, life change is not automatic — it's a process of learning to live everyday out of your new identity in Christ (6:11-14). (*We will come back to this next week.*)

For now and for your homework assignment this week — "Consider" this — train yourself to begin thinking this way — "Sin has no power over me." "I am dead to sin, but alive to God."

*"The Gospel breaks the power of cancelled sin and sets the prisoner free" from the power of sin, so we are empowered to live a new way of life.*

#### *For Discussion —*

When you listen to Bible teaching, you should be listening with an ear to learn, but also an ear to share with others what you are learning. Keep that in mind as you discuss today's message. How do you need to internalize this message so you could share this Good News with people who need to hear it?

1. Talk about something you struggle with that you want to overcome, but so far, that thing still trips you up.
2. What are some of the things you have done in hopes of overcoming this problem — prayer, reading books, more discipline, accountability, counseling, etc.
3. Read Romans 6:1-14.
4. Go back now to 6:1-4. What makes this passage hard to understand? What is the central truth this passage is teaching? What do we need to know here that has the power to set us free from the pull of sin in our lives?
5. Read 6:5-10. What benefits of Jesus' death and resurrection directly apply to overcoming the power of sin in your daily life?
6. How does Paul's application in 6:11-14 help us understand why, if we are truly dead to sin, that we still struggle with sin?