



Romans

Right With God

Free!

Live It!

Lesson Twenty-Seven

Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex Curriculum

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Free! Live It!

The lengthy scripture lesson for today inspires excitement. That is why the title of the lesson has exclamation marks in it. Someone has said, “We cannot live our physical life unless we are in the air and the air is in us. Unless we are in Christ and Christ is in us, we cannot live the life of God.”* Paul is talking about this in our lesson today. Read Romans 6:11-14.

We are “in Christ.” God sees us not as in ourselves, but in Christ. There are many ideas as to what Paul means by this phrase. But he is definitely, for sure, talking about our spiritual union with Christ as seen from God’s point of view.

In light of this, certain things must follow. He is speaking only to believers here. His message: “Godly living is a necessity, not an option.” Believers must not let sin reign...have power over us. The picture here is of a kingdom of sin. The king is sin. The laws require sin. Citizens of the kingdom are expected to sin. Everywhere one goes there is sin. Sin reigns. But now, sin is conquered and there is a new kingdom. King sin is off the throne. The laws governing citizens’ behaviors have been changed. There is a new king. He is King Jesus.

Believers are in Christ and in Christ they are not under the reign (the power) of sin. We remain in the flesh, and thus sin continues to be with us. However, sin does not have the power it once had. Believers are free, and to let sin win means that we are denying our freedom. Andrew Murray says that “to say to a slave, ‘Do not behave as a slave.’ is to mock him. But, it is a meaningful thing to say to someone who has been set free that he must now give up thinking and living like a slave and start behaving like a free person.”

When a person goes out into the world, he or she is free to choose. And, God is looking for people to use in changing the world and bringing the world to Him. He has chosen to use humans to speak His words, do His work, help people to be all they can be, and lift people from sin. On the other hand, sin is looking for people who will tempt others to sin. Paul is saying that there is an eternal battle in this world between sin and God. You must choose your team. We can be on the sin team or the God team. The believer may say, “Choosing sides is too much for me. I will fail.” But Paul says, “Don’t despair. Sin will not win. Sin cannot lord it over you. Jesus has set you free.”

Paul launches into a more detailed discussion about their freedom. Read Romans 6:15-23. Of the fifteenth verse, a commentator named Vinet said, “There is a subtle poison which insinuates itself into the heart even of the Christian; it is the temptation to say, “Let’s sin not that grace may abound (6:1), but *because* it abounds.(6:15)” Paul responds with a loud “By no means.” Or, as the King James translation of the Bible puts it, “God forbid!”

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Paul uses the idea of slavery to clarify his teaching here. Slavery was not just another form of working nine to five and going home. Slavery meant that the male or female slave was totally and completely under the power of the slave owner. There was no “my time.” There was no “my stuff.” There was, for the most part, no power even over your own body. Before Jesus came into our lives, we were slaves to sin. Then, verse twenty-two begins with two very important little words: “But now.” Christians were, at one time, slaves to sin. **But now, they are slaves to God.**

We could see this as just a continuation of slavery. However, God is the most wonderful master one can imagine. He wants for and gives to each of His children, only the best now, but also the best in eternity.

Then Paul writes down the law of the universe: “The wages of sin is death, but the (free) gift of God is eternal life...” And, in Christ, we are free to live our lives serving others.

Scripture Memory: “The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:23

*Underlined statements in this Teacher’s Guide appear in the Student Worksheet with blanks to be filled in by the student during the lesson. Words in the Student Worksheet may not appear exactly as printed in the Teacher’s Guide.

For the Teacher:

Lesson Goal: To help students understand that after salvation, we are free to serve God in righteousness.

1. Romans 6:11 has Paul’s first use of the phrase “in Christ.” It is one of his favorite expressions. He uses it over and over again. Someone has said that the phrase “in Christ” or “in Him” is used by Paul at least 167 times. Paul means the whole body of true believers on earth.
2. Paul ends verse fourteen with, “you are not under the law, but under grace. He said that the Law was given, not as a way of deliverance from sin, but so that every mouth may be stopped and all people be held accountable to God (3:19); Law gives knowledge of sin (3:20); it works wrath (4:15); no one will be justified by the Law (3:20); sin brought about all kinds of lust through the commandment, and sin is dead apart from the law (7:8); people’s sinful passions work through the Law (7:54); the Law is weak through the flesh (8:3).
3. In verse seventeen. Paul celebrates with “Thanks be to God...” This phrase is very common to Paul’s writing. See 7:2; I Corinthians 5:57; II Corinthians 2:14; 8:16 and 9:15. This is occasion for rejoicing. It is occasion for expressing gratitude to God with enthusiasm. They had been slaves to sin. Sin had full control of their lives. Then, they decided to choose to be something else. Verse 18 says that Paul thanks God that they have been set free from sin!
4. One of the most damaging of all theological behaviors is the extraction of one verse, or phrase, or idea from Scripture and building a belief system on it. This has happened with these verses. When one reads that we must become slaves to righteousness, one can assume that a Christian will, after salvation, become perfectly righteous. We must understand these verses as telling us that we have a new master. He is Jesus. His name is righteousness. He is the only one who has ever lived up to God’s ideal. He is the only one who ever will. It is His righteousness that will make us right before God. Paul has been saying this and will continue to say it. That understanding is in agreement with the rest of the Bible. Sinless perfection for humans after salvation is not a Biblical concept.

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Student Worksheet

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=“We cannot live our physical life unless we are in the _____ and the air is in _____. Unless we are in _____ and Christ is in us, we cannot _____ the life of God.”

=Believers are in Christ and in _____ they are not under the reign (the power) of _____.

=We can be on the _____ team or the God _____.

=Vinet said, “There is a subtle _____ which insinuates itself into the heart even of the Christian; it is the temptation to say, “Let’s _____ not that grace may abound (6:1), but *because* it _____.(6:15)” Paul responds with a loud “By no means.” Or, “God forbid!”

=Before Jesus came into our lives, we were slaves to _____. Then, verse twenty-two begins with two very important little words: “_____.” Christians were, at one time, _____ to sin. *But now*, they are slaves to _____.

=God wants for and gives to each of His children, only the _____ now, but also the _____ in eternity.

Scripture Memory: “The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:23

A Roman Road to Salvation:

Romans 3:23 “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Everyone is a sinner and needs salvation.

Romans 6:23a “For the wages of sin is death.” The law of God is unchangeable. If someone sins the penalty must be paid, the payment is death.

Romans 5:8 “But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners Christ died for us.” God loves us so much, according to John 3:16, that He sent His Son, Jesus, to die for our sins.

Romans 6:23b “But the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” The penalty for sin is spiritual death, but God, through the death of Jesus on the cross, took the penalty for the sins of all people, and now everyone can have eternal life. See also, II Corinthians 5:21

Romans 10:9, 10 “That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.” To personally receive the gift of God, eternal life in Christ Jesus, you trust God to be what He says He is. Believing that “God raised Him (Jesus) from the dead” is to accept all that the Bible says about God and His Son, Jesus. Then you speak (confess) the words, “Jesus is Lord,” as a statement of faith. Believing “with your heart” means that you believe with your mind and with everything that you are.

Romans 10:13 “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” You have the promise of God Himself that if you do what Romans 10:9, 10 says, you will become God’s child and have eternal life.

Romans 12:1, 2 “I urge you brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will.” Becoming a Christian is a life-long act of faith and worship.