



## Sermon, Sunday March 6, 2022 “Sin’s Power Is Broken”

**SCRIPTURE: Romans 6:12-23** <sup>12</sup>Therefore, do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. <sup>13</sup>No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. <sup>14</sup>For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. <sup>15</sup>What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! <sup>16</sup>Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? <sup>17</sup>But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, <sup>18</sup>and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. <sup>19</sup>I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification. <sup>20</sup>When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. <sup>21</sup>So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. <sup>22</sup>But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. <sup>23</sup>For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### **Introduction: Don't Let Sin Take Control of Our Lives!**

Today is the first week of Lent in the church calendar. Christians should spend the Lent season as a time of deep reflection on our sinfulness and the necessity of God's grace. For Christians, the first step to living the life the Lord wants is to realize our sinfulness and to repent.

**Romans 6:12 says, “Therefore, do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions.”**

In fact, we have a hard time obeying God's will; we fall too easily when it comes to sin. Yet we are promised eternal life and salvation through the grace of the Lord. Therefore, we must be able to bear good fruits worthy of our position. We must not forget that if we live, we live by the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Through the words of today's text, we want to reflect on our sinfulness, thank the Lord for granting us the grace of repentance, and think deeply about what it means to live according to the Lord's will.

### **Body: Sin, Freedom, and Christian's Choice**

The Apostle Paul explains 'the way of salvation' through his letter to the church members in Rome and guides them to lead a right life of faith through 'ethical counsel'.

Romans chapter 6 speaks of freedom from sin. After 6:12, it says that we, who are freed from sin, must bear the fruit of a holy life.



Today's text clearly tells us how living as slaves to sin is different from the life of those who have been saved by the grace of Jesus Christ. Let's take a closer look at the lives of those who are saved from sin, and have freedom, and grace as described in today's text.

## **1. The Christian's Right Attitude to Sin and Freedom**

We live by the grace of redemption and the power of resurrection of Jesus Christ. Through the death of Jesus, we are set free from sin. And we are justified through obedience and faith in Jesus Christ.

However, we are still exposed to sin, and we must make choices and make decisions in a sinful world. However, the freedom we receive from the Lord's grace requires us to live responsibly.

So, as Romans 6:1 states, we should not live in sin to increase grace. A Christian should be able to deal with the problem of sin thoroughly and sensitively as a recipient of grace.

In Romans chapter 6, the Apostle Paul refers to a case in which one slave serves his master and then serves another master. However, the important thing is that we must pay a price for this process. In other words, Jesus bought us with a price, so our master is changed.

In fact, being freed from sin is a matter of our life and death. But in many cases, we are not aware of this. So, we must choose between whether sin will allow us to use us as instruments of wickedness, as Romans 6:13 says, or will we present ourselves to the Lord as instruments of righteousness. Because, for us there is no middle ground between the two choices.

## **2. Things we should pay attention to make the right choice**

At the crossroads of this choice, there is a criterion that we must not forget. Psalm 13 is classified as a personal lament. It shows the figure of King David, who is earnestly seeking God with a mourning heart. However, the biggest problem that King David is facing does not come from physical pain caused by disease or political defeat. It is the fear of being forgotten by God.

**Psalm 13:1 says: "How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?"**

King David realizes that he needs God through the pain that has come in his life. If the Lord is not with us in our lives, we will live as prisoners of sin. But when the Lord is with us, we will no longer be slaves to sin.

We must be afraid of being forgotten by the Lord if we remain in the sinful life of not obeying the Lord's will. In that case what must we do to bear the fruit of holy righteousness?

### **First, let us reflect on ourselves with the help of the Holy Spirit.**

We are beings saved by the grace of Jesus on the cross. However, we still sin in real life, and we easily fall for the temptation of sin. That is why we must fight sin every day. And we must be sensitive to sin. Also, we must fight the problem of sin through dependence on the Holy Spirit.

### **Second, when the Holy Spirit gives us a heart of repentance, let us repent by obedience.**

The power of sin is strong. We sin either unconsciously or knowingly. Therefore, if we are not sensitive to sin, we are easily stained by it. Also, if we do not fight sin, it is difficult for us to escape the effects of sin. To overcome this situation, we must have genuine repentance for our sins. Fortunately, the merciful Holy Spirit helps and guides us toward true repentance.

In fact, we often downplay our efforts to rationalize our sins and live as responsible Christians in the name of faith and grace. We can produce good fruit in our daily lives through the guidance of the Holy Spirit and our will, determination, and repentance responding to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. And as a result of these efforts, eternal life and salvation, the final fruits, must be revealed in our lives. Until those things are fulfilled, we must do well with the things the Lord has given us according to the measure of our faith.



**Conclusion: Die with Christ and Live with Christ.**

Now let's summarize today's sermon. Through the power of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross and resurrection, Christians are freed from sin and become the Lord's holy servants. But we are still under the reality of sin. Yet Christians are no longer subject to sin because the power of Jesus has overcome the world. The Christian is dead to sin and living in righteousness with Jesus Christ. So, although we may fall for a moment by making a mistake about sin, nevertheless, we still live as servants of righteousness, not slaves of sin.

But still the power of sin is strong, and we are weak. But the Holy Spirit still helps us and leads us to repentance and leads us to live responsibly. Meditate deeply on the life of Jesus in the first week of Lent and find strength and courage in all that He has accomplished for us.

Amen!

