

Romans - God's Heart Explained

Week #6: Freedom from the domain of sin.

November 17, 2019

Paul's letter to the Christians living in Rome is perhaps the most influential book of the Bible outside the four Gospels. Its influence lies in the way God's heart is explained, and how His heart powerfully interrupts our empty existence. The American Pastor, Charles Swindoll describes Romans as God's grace invading the sin-fueled storms of our humanity - a grace that puts an end to our emptiness by offering forgiveness, new life through Jesus Christ and hope both for this present life we live and what lies beyond.¹ More than any other book, Romans explains our depravity, God's holiness, Christ's redemption and what new life in Jesus really means. You cannot follow Jesus well without comprehending what Paul writes to the Christians in Rome.

Our Sunday teaching on Romans this fall will speak to some of these deep truths that we must grow familiar with: human depravity; justification through faith; sanctification in Christ; glorification in God. But the mind is never the target ... it's our heart that matters. So, while engaging our minds with the goal of renewing them, we will consistently target our heart - because God wants our affections not merely our assent.

Study Questions: Our Freedom from sin's dominion in Christ.

Read Romans 6:1-14

1. Is it possible to "take advantage" of God and sin by saying to yourself, "God will forgive me so there is little danger in continuing to sin?" See Romans 3:8.
 2. Those who are enslaved have little option over their destiny. Take some time to discuss how widespread sin's dominion is in our local communities. What are some of its most devastating effects? Who would you free from sin's influence if you could and what would be the effect of that salvation?
 3. Broadly, the Christian church has many modes of baptism - immersion, sprinkling, dipping. Why is immersion in water significant in the context of what Paul says about death in baptism?
 4. If we have been freed by our death in Christ to our obligations to this world, why do we still pay our taxes, or why do we still concern ourselves with keeping the law? See Romans 3:31 and Romans 13:1-7.
 5. Is there a difference between acting out of obligation and acting because of free choice? Think of an employee who does the right thing begrudgingly and an employee who does the same thing joyfully.
 6. In what ways can the parts of our bodies be presented to sin as weapons of unrighteousness? In what ways can God use our eyes/hands/feet as weapons or tools for righteousness? See Romans 6:13.
 7. Take time to pray for one another and the complete redemption of our bodies from sin's domain.
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