

VIRAL WEEK 4 – IF I CANNOT LOSE MY SALVATION, THEN CAN I LIVE HOWEVER I WANT? (ROMANS 6)

GETTING STARTED

MAIN POINT THIS WEEK: If you have been saved by grace by faith in Jesus Christ, you have been set free from the penalty and the power of sin and have been empowered to continue living this new life by grace through faith.

- Share the story around your baptism as a believer (when, where, what impact did it have on your life, etc.).
- Think of an area in which you have struggles with sin in your life. How has God helped you overcome these struggles?

DISCUSSION

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION: If I cannot lose my salvation, then can I live however I want?

“Like a skillful lawyer building an airtight case, the apostle Paul has been laying out the remarkable facts of the gospel in this letter called Romans. After an extensive discussion of human beings’ sin and inability to please God (chapters 1-3), Paul announced the doctrine of justification, which is God’s declaration of believing sinners as righteous (chapters 4-5). Next he moves to the subject of the believer’s holiness – living in obedience to God’s Word through the power of His Spirit. In short, Paul sets out to demonstrate the practical ramifications of salvation for those who have been justified. He also addresses the logical conclusion of his readers: If the old self is dead, why is there continually a struggle with sin, and how can the new self become dominant?” -- *John MacArthur, Romans: Grace, Truth and Redemption*

- How would you summarize Paul’s response to the false notion that it is acceptable for believers in Christ to continue living as they did when they were unbelievers?
- Read Romans 6. In this chapter the words “death”, “dead”, and “died” are used at least 17 times. What is the main point that Paul is trying to make? What does it mean that a believer is *dead to sin*?
- If Romans 6:3-4 is not referring to water baptism, but rather the work of the Holy Spirit in putting us “into Christ” as members of His body, explain how water baptism illustrates what took place when we trusted Jesus as Savior?
- In what ways do Christians often continue living like “slaves to sin”? How can someone escape this bondage? What do you do with the flashbacks and voices that keep reminding you of your past mistakes?

“Jesus Christ is not looking for people who want to add Him to their life as an insurance against hell. He is not looking for people who want to apply His high moral principles to their unregenerate lives. He is not looking for those who want only to be outwardly reformed by having their old nature improved. Jesus Christ calls to Himself those willing to be inwardly transformed by Him, who desire an entirely new nature that is created in His own holy likeness. He calls to Himself those who are willing to die with Him in order to be raised with Him, who are willing to relinquish slavery to their sin for slavery to His righteousness. And when people come to Him on His terms, He changes their destiny from eternal death to eternal life.” - John MacArthur

- What are your reactions to this statement by John MacArthur? What do you think it means to come to Jesus “on His own terms”? Are you willing to relinquish your sinful inclinations and be transformed from the inside out?
- Discuss how Ephesians 2:8-9 and Galatians 2:20 reinforce this week’s Main Point.

MAIN POINT: If you have been saved by grace by faith in Jesus Christ, you have been set free from the penalty and the power of sin and have been empowered to continue living this new life by grace through faith.

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. (Galatians 2:20)

What encourages you most about the truth of Galatians 2:20 and how will you look to apply this truth in your walk with Jesus?

PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, it is in Your mighty name that I pray.

Father, Your Word says that a patient man is better than a warrior and one who controls his temper than one who takes a city. You have admonished me in Your Word to control my body – my appetites and behavior – in a way that is holy and honorable to You. But I confess, Father, that I fall short of this in many areas of my life, and I ask that you strengthen me by Your Spirit, so that I might not let my body or give in to evil desires (Pause and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal those areas of your life that are not yet submitted to Him.)

May the fruit of self-control continually increase in my life that this godly characteristic may be evident in the way I eat, how I shop, the hobbies I engage in, my sexuality, my words and actions.... May every aspect of who I am and how I live be under the life-giving control of the Holy Spirit. I submit to You now in Jesus’ name, Father.

Empower me to keep a tight rein on my tongue. May I be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry, knowing that anger does not bring about the righteous life that You desire. May I bless with my mouth and my life.

May my life be so controlled by Your Holy Spirit that I truly live and move and have my being in You alone. Help me this day to not indulge my fleshly nature. Strengthen me to stand firm and be self-controlled in thought, word, and action – that I might be a usable, noble vessel for Your purposes and the glory of Your great name. Accomplish this through Christ in me, for I pray in His name.

(Prov 16:32; 1 Thes 4:4; Rom 6:12; 2 Pet 1:5-6; Dan 1:8; 1 Cor 6:19; James 1:26; James 1:19; Acts 17:28; Rom 9:21)

(From Pray the Word, Tiece L. King)