“Dead To Sin, Alive To God”

May 20, 2018

Colossians 3:1-10

Find a Bible and please open with me to the 6th chapter of Romans. In a moment we will read the passage.

Is there anyone here with bad habits? Do you want to hear something interesting about bad habits? We all have them and we all have a hard time letting others know what they are. Most of us won’t even mention them. In a general way, yes; we’ll say something about a bad habit. But, do you ever really want anyone to know *your* bad habits? The other interesting thing about habits it this. Habits are laws. They’re really laws; laws that *you* have applied; laws that you’ve made pare of *your* life. You have made that habit a law.

So, for example, let’s take a good habit. One of my laws/habits is that every morning just as soon as I get out of bed, I exercise on my stepper. Every day. A number of months ago I decided to exercise using a stepper. I admit that it’s difficult. It’s still difficult. And even though it doesn’t get easier every day, I formed a habit; a good habit; a habit that I benefit by’ a law, which I’ve applied to my life.

And how about the habit of, like, being able to drive? How did you get to the stage where driving is now second nature to you? How? By wanting to learn to drive. How? By putting yourself under the basic laws of driving. How? By turning the key, by applying your foot to the brake, by adjusting your mirrors, by pressing the accelerator slowly at first, by braking in plenty of time, by always looking both ways before proceeding into an intersection after the light turns green; by repeatedly doing these things over and over and over.

 So, you can easily conclude that the reason for your *bad* habits is the same as the reason for your *good* habits; because you really *want* to do them. You wanted to do them so much and so often that you applied yourself as often as you could; so much so that they are now second nature. They are laws. And when someone comes along, like maybe a preacher, and he says that your bad habits are sins against God, you react.

Well, if Romans six was an article on the subject of bad habits, I think you’d be interested. And I think you’d read it. So, Romans six is a word to you who have bad habits on “how to get rid of them.”

I’ve titled today’s message “Dead To Sin, Alive To God.” Shall we pray?

Please follow with me in your Bible at Romans 6:1. Romans 6:1 *“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? (2) God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? (3) Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?*

*(4) Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. (5) For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:*

*(6) Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. (7) For he that is dead is freed from sin.”*

First, is any of this true?

Vs. 2 – we are dead to sin

Vs. 3 – we’ve been baptized into Christ’s death

Vs. 4 – we were buried with Him by baptism into death

Vs. 4 – we’ve been raised up from the dead

Vs. 5 – we’ve been planted together in the likeness of both His death *and* His resurrection

Vs. 6 – we’ve been crucified with Him

Vs. 6 – we, the dead, no longer serve sin

Vs. 7 – we’re dead; so we are now freed from sin

Are these eight things true?

You’re here today, most of you, because you are saved. But, are *these* things true? Or, are they true of only a few people?

The Book of Romans is an amazing piece of literature. The main topics of the first six chapters of Romans one are these: sin and death. What other book ever written in all of history covers these two topics?

And many of us are missing out on something very simple. Either these things are *true* or they aren’t.

What we’re all guilty of is this. We don’t want to think about sin. We don’t want to think about death; unless we have to. Preaching makes you to listen to things you sometimes don’t want to listen to. Even reading these verses makes you sit up and take notice.

Now, I’m sure that you believe that Christ died for your sins. Is there a Christian anywhere who doesn’t believe that Jesus died for his or her sins? You can’t be a Christian and not believe that Jesus died for your sins.

But, you can be a Christian and not believe what it says here. Now, here’s what’s on my heart today. You *really* believe in Christ’s death. Now, will you *really* believe in Christ’s life?

You believe in His death; that He died for you; that He paid for your sins. But, do you believe that you died too?

Look again at the word; verse one. Romans 6:1 *“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? (2) God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?*

Let me show you why this is so important. So often a Christian believes and has been taught that he needs to live a godly life, live a pure life, be filled with the Spirit, love the LORD with your whole heart, soul, mind, and strength, witness to your family, friends, and neighbors, etc. Yet, have you ever found a passage in the Bible that tells you how to do it; how to live a life of obedience to the LORD?

Well, here’s that passage.

First, do you believe these eight things?

Vs. 2 – we are dead to sin

Vs. 3 – we’ve been baptized into Christ’s death

Vs. 4 – we were buried with Him by baptism into death

Vs. 4 – we’ve been raised up from the dead

Vs. 5 – we’ve been planted together in the likeness of both His death *and* His resurrection

Vs. 6 – we’ve been crucified with Him

Vs. 6 – we, the dead, no longer serve sin

Vs. 7 – we’re dead; so we are now freed from sin

Second, have you made Romans six one on one; just *you* and the LORD?

Some of you here today want to get rid of your bad habits; you sins. But you’ve given up trying. You’ve been defeated by the same bad habits so many times that you don’t even try anymore. Well, I want to tell you that that’s good. If you don’t come to the end of your “trying” to live the Christian life, you likely won’t see or attempt to understand what Paul is saying here in Romans six.

So, I’m coming to you today with a proposal. Here’s the proposal. Will you make Romans six one on one, just you and the LORD?

Here’s what I mean. Romans 6:1 *“What shall I say then?? Shall I continue in sin that grace may abound? (2) God forbid. How shall I who am dead to sin, live any longer therein? (3) Don’t I know that as many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death?*

*(4) Therefore I was buried with Him by baptism into death; that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father; even so I should walk in newness of life. (5) For, if I have been planted together in the likeness of His death, I shall also be planted into the likeness of His resurrection.*

*(6) Knowing this, that my old man was crucified with Him that the body of sin might be destroyed that henceforth I should not serve sin. (7) For I who am dead am freed from sin.”*

Just like you needed to make John 3:16 personal and believe that God so loved you on the day of your salvation, you need to make Romans six personal too.

Romans six is for the Christian. Romans six is the most important passage you will ever make personal. Romans six requires that you come to a God in exactly the same way you came to Him for salvation; by faith.

You see, folks, if you don’t step out in faith and make these verses personal, you will not be able to live the Christian life. Instead, what you’ll be doing is this. Trying to live the Christian life; trying to please the LORD; trying to not sin; trying to do something impossible.

First, do you believe these eight things?

Second, have you made Romans six one on one, just you and the LORD?

Third, will you pray your most important prayer today?

What I’m trying to say this morning is this. One day you came to the LORD and you prayed to sinner’s prayer or something similar to it. And on that day, God saved you.

Now, what have you been doing? You’ve been trying to live the Christian life as best as you know. And you’ve failed, and failed again and again and again. I have too.

So, what’s the answer to a Christian failing to obey; failing to live up to his name? Here it is. Pray your most important prayer today.

And here’s why. Jesus Christ is your life. Your life is bound up in His life. His life is bound up in yours. You are dead to sin. You were baptized (immersed) into both His death and His resurrection. Your old man was crucified with Him; the sin that indwells your human body is no longer your master. You are freed from sin and you are no longer a servant to it.

This morning I’m going to ask you to receive Christ in a new way. Once you said *“LORD Jesus, be my Savior.”* And He came into your heart and became your Savior. Today, I’m asking you to say *“LORD Jesus, be my Life.”*

That’s the essence of Romans six. And that prayer is your next most important prayer. Who’s going to pray this prayer?

Can you see how you’ve got to do it by faith? Can you see that it takes a new level of faith to pray this prayer?

Do you want to get rid of bad habits, sinful habits? Do you want to know how to stop giving in to sin? Do you want to know where to find the power to live the Christian life?

Look at it like this. On the day you came to know the LORD, you passed from death to life; from condemnation to no condemnation. But, for how many years have you tried your best to live the Christian life and found couldn’t do it? I’m telling you today you need a white funeral. You need to pray the most important prayer you’ve ever prayed. And you can do it today.

What’s a white funeral? “Have you really come to your last days? You have often come to them in your mind, but have you *really* experienced them? You cannot die or go to your funeral in a mood of excitement. Death means you stop being. You must agree with God and stop being the intensely striving kind of Christian you have been.

We avoid the cemetery and continually refuse our own death. It will not happen by striving, but by yielding to death. It is dying— being “baptized into His death” ([Romans 6:3](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+6:3)).

Have you had your “white funeral,” or are you piously deceiving your own soul? Has there been a point in your life which you now mark as your last day? Is there a place in your life to which you go back in memory with humility and overwhelming gratitude, so that you can honestly proclaim, “Yes, it was then, at my ‘white funeral,’ that I made an agreement with God.” … Are you willing to experience that “white funeral” now? Will you agree with Him that this is your last day on earth? The moment of agreement depends on you.” (O. Chambers).

Here’s the prayer again. “LORD Jesus, be my Life.”

Now, some of you are thinking “Jesus is my Life.” Is He? Is He *really* your Life? Or is Romans six completely foreign to you? Folks, you are either dead to sin and alive to God or you are alive to sin and dead to God. It’s one or the other.

You’ve marked in your Bible the day you were saved. I’ve done the same thing. I was saved on December 8, 1967. But do you have marked in your Bible the day you had your “white funeral”?

Christian, pray this prayer “LORD Jesus, be my Life.” Don’t worry what anyone else will think. Don’t worry what will happen tomorrow. The LORD knows you’ve tried and tried to dedicate yourself to Him and re-dedicated yourself to Him and done it over and over. I have too. Today is the day you pray the most important prayer you’ve ever prayed.

Now, notice how hard it is to pray this prayer? Are you noticing that you aren’t quite onboard with this “white funeral” prayer? Are you noticing that you’d rather not be under the influence of a sermon right now? It’s a huge decision, isn’t it?

First, do you believe these eight things?

Second, have you made Romans six one on one, just you and the LORD?

Third, will you pray your most important prayer today?

And fourth, “What shall I say then? Will I continue in sin that grace may abound?”

The Bible teaches that we are saved by grace. But what does Paul teach here? He’s teaching us that *“where sin abounds, grace does much more abound.”* Romans 5:20 *“Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: (21) That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.”*

Now Romans 6:1*“What shall I say then?? Shall I continue in sin that grace may abound? (2) God forbid. How shall I who am dead to sin, live any longer therein?”*

The greater the sin, the greater the grace of God. The greater the lies, the greater the grace of God. The greater the immorality, the greater the grace of God. The greater the bad habits, the greater the grace of God.

Now, some of you might be thinking “Don’t we need to be more obedient if we’ve sinned quite badly? Don’t we need to put more power into trying to stop sinning?” “Don’t we need more penance?”

He’s the Door. He’s gotten you into the Christian life. Now, it’s *your* job to keep yourself strong and obedient and prayerful and full of the Holy Spirit. Right? Wrong? Well, if that was the case, then you wouldn’t need Jesus to live your Christian life. But you see, that’s not the case. It’s Christ in you that enables you to do it. *“It is no longer I, but Christ who lives in me,”* said Paul.

Philippians 1:21 *“For to me to live is Christ…”*

Folks, the only answer to your bad habits is the LORD’s grace. Here’s why. Habits are laws. And your sins are laws. You are a servant to your sins. But, says the Holy Spirit in Paul, *“where sin abounds, grace does much more abound.”*

First, do you believe these eight things?

Second, have you made Romans six one on one, just you and the LORD?

Third, will you pray your most important prayer today?

And fourth, “What shall I say then? Will I continue in sin that grace may abound?”

My last point is this. “Every Christian is joined to Christ.”

So, is Jesus bound to your bad habits and your sins; those sins that only you and He know about?

Folks, He has joined Himself to you for the very purpose of moving those sins out. If you can get your mind and heart around the fact that your sins are your habits, you might see and understand the message of Romans six.

So, what does God say in this passage?

I want to say to you this morning the greatest thing ever spoken. Here it is. Sin is not the center of your life. Jesus Christ is the Center and He has joined Himself to you.

Romans 6:3*“Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? (4) Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. (5) For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: …”*

Sin is not the center of your life anymore. Now that Christ is in you, you are in Christ. You and your Savior are joined for eternity.

A lady said to me this past month. *“I can’t memorize anything. I’ve never been able to memorize. I always had trouble memorizing when I was in school.”*

Well, do you know how to drive? Do you know your Social Security number? Do you know your mailing address? Do you know your children’s names? Do you know their birthdays? Do you know your anniversary date?

So, what will you do with Romans 6? Will you memorize it? And will you memorize it like this?

Romans 6:1 *“What shall I say then?? Shall I continue in sin that grace may abound? (2) God forbid. How shall I who am dead to sin, live any longer therein? (3) Don’t I know that as many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death?*

*(4) Therefore I was buried with Him by baptism into death; that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father; even so I should walk in newness of life. (5) For, if I have been planted together in the likeness of His death, I shall also be planted into the likeness of His resurrection.*

*(6) Knowing this, that my old man was crucified with Him that the body of sin might be destroyed that henceforth I should not serve sin. (7) For I who am dead am freed from sin.”*

It’s your choice. He’s come to live in you. What will you do today in light of what He’s done for you?

Shall we pray?

Hymn # 436 “Freely, Freely”

Romans 7:21 *“I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. (22) For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: (23) But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.*

*(24) O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death? (25) I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.”*

And folks, the Bible is filled with laws. There’s the law of faith. There’s the law of righteousness. There’s the law of the Spirit. There’s the law of sin. There’s the law of your mind. There’s the law of God. There’s the Law of Moses. There’s the law of liberty. So, the concept of law is an essential in the Christian life.

So, as a Christian I need to know how a law works. Now, the Christian is free from the law. Well, what law? The law of sin. And we are freed from that law.

Do you want to see something even more amazing?

Romans 6:7 *“For he that is dead is* ***freed from sin****.”*

Romans 6:18 *“Being then made* ***free from sin****, ye became the servants of righteousness.”*

Romans 6:22 *“But now being made* ***free from sin****, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.”*

Romans 8:2 *“For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free* ***from the law of sin and death****.”*

Do you see the power of the grace of God? Once I was alive to sin. Now I am alive to God. Once I was dead to God. Now I am dead to sin. Once I was a slave to sin. Now I am free from sin.