

Saved to Serve
Romans 6:11-18
Berean Baptist Church
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INTRODUCTION

If you trust Jesus' death for your sins and resurrection as your Lord, you are saved from sin and death. But, why did God save you? And, so what? Sure, you're not going to hell if you trust Jesus, but what does that have to do with my life right now?

This passage of Romans connects the eternal, heavenly truths of salvation with the day-to-day, mundane facts of life. We see how the radical inner change that comes with being born again must work its way out into death to sin and life to holy service. If you have trusted Christ but you feel like you are stalling in your walk, then you will see a way forward in this passage.

If you are struggling hard with sin, if you feel like your life is out of control, this passage will show you how you can be free, and how you can have a life full of meaning.

Count yourself dead to sin, offer your entire life to Jesus by faith, and serve righteousness by following His pattern!

Romans 6:11-14 Count Yourself Dead to Sin and Present Yourself as a Living Sacrifice to God!

Vs 11 “Reckon” means to count or consider; to look at something and decide. Just as Romans 4:3 says: “Abraham believed God, and it was **counted** unto him for righteousness.” “Counted” in Rom 4:3 and “Reckon” here are the same work.

God, considering Abraham's trust in Him, looked at Abraham and counted him righteous even though Abraham was a sinner. This is true of us as well if you place your trust (faith) in Jesus as your Lord and Savior, God looks at you and counts you righteous forgiving all of your sins.

So, if you are *counted* righteous by God, you should *count* yourself dead to sin. *Train your mind in the truths of the faith so that when you are tempted to sin you remember to say “No, I don't have to do that because I am dead to sin; sin has no real power over me.”*

Vs 12 For the Christian struggling with sin, there is great hope in this command! Until you are in Christ you are enslaved to sin, but one who trusts Jesus can choose to deny sin's control over their body.

Know that God wants you to do right, and has made a way through Jesus, but you must make the choice: depend on His mighty grace, and refuse sin's demands on you. *Count yourself dead to sin!*

Vs 12-13 What you do with your body matters. Every part of your body was created by God for a purpose. When you sin with your body you pervert God's purpose.

So, what we do with our body matters. But, we must balance this with the fact that our current bodies are temporary. God plans to give Christians a new, redeemed body that will not suffer from the effects of sin.

“Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats: but God shall destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body. And God hath both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by his own power (1 Cor 6:13-14).

So, if you have sinned in your body and carry around the scares of sin – physical, emotional, or mental, know that Jesus has the power to give you a new, whole body.

Trust Him, look forward to His appearing and your new body, but until then offer what you have to Jesus by faith

If giving your body or your time to God seems hard, some perspective helps...

You didn't choose your body, or when it would be made, you won't keep our body or chose when you leave it, you can't really control your body or add even a moment to a day. So "our body" and "our time" are not very much ours in any event. Among humans, you (or your spouse – 1 Cor 7:4) have the strongest claim on your own body.

But see the absurd selfishness to claiming absolute ownership of something that you did not make, cannot fully control and don't really understand. Selfishness always hinders Christian growth.

“For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it (Luke 9:24).”

Vs 13 “members as instruments of righteousness unto God.” The way the Bible talks about service to God shows that this service is a mighty and sacred act. Paul's talks about divine service in the same way that we talk about military service. The word **“instruments”** is the Greek word for a weapon.

Your body and all of its parts are meant to be used as powerful weapons of righteousness unto God.

Vs 14 Without God's help sin has “dominion over you.” But once you place your faith in Christ, then you are completely freed from the power of sin. This is a promise of God, place your trust in Jesus (God's unique son, fully human, fully Divine, who died to free you from sin, and was resurrected to give you eternal life and heal the world when He comes again) and sin will not dominate you. How can Jesus free us from sin?

“for ye are not under the law, but under grace.” The **“Law”** is the way to earn a relationship with God through good works summarized by the Ten Commandments (Exd 20). **“Grace”** is God's free gift of a relationship with no contribution on your part.

The Law was mighty and terrifying, perfect and awesome. It was marked by thunder, darkness, fire, death, and holy terror (Heb 12). The Law brings human weakness and evil to light. But for all of the Law's eternal strength, there is one thing it cannot do: free you from the power of sin.

But *grace* frees sinners. “For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ (John 1:17).” Grace, the free gift of a right relationship with God, given only because you trust Him and ask for His help, has the power to make you free from sin.

How can you be free from evil thoughts, destructive habits, hurtful actions?

*Count yourself dead to sin, offer your entire life to Jesus by faith, and you will be under His grace! **And grace changes things.***

Romans 6:15-16 Obey God As A Servant Righteousness!

Vs 15 So, why fight sin if Jesus will save me from it anyway?

Vs 16 “ye yield yourselves servants” This phrase means to stand up and offer your service, or "to make available." The first Christians used the same wording to talk about sacrifices appearing before God. Paul will use the same word (translated as "present") in Romans **12:1** "I beseech you, therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."

There is nothing holy, nothing of God, nothing ultimately satisfying in selfishness. God is absolutely sovereign and all powerful. But He, of His own choice, is also a servant.

“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap (Gal 6:7).”

Romans 6:17-18 Christian, You Were Saved To Serve!

Vs 17 “form of doctrine” This phrase means a pattern of teaching. This is not just learning a few isolated facts, or being able to recite some verses. This is complete instruction that lines out a pattern for living; this is discipleship.

Vs 17-18 Christian discipleship brings freedom; freedom from fear, anger, addiction, guilt, bitterness, immorality, and every other sin that dominates you and wrecks your life.

This freedom does not come into your life through some 12 step program, though wealth, technology, or some new psychological or medical treatment; Jesus said "...If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free (John 8:31-32).

Now those who heard Jesus say this were very offended, you might even say "triggered," how dare this Jesus to say that they were not free and that they did not know the truth?

“Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin (John 8:34).” But “If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed (John 8:36).

This freedom comes through the person and teaching of Jesus – He Himself is "the form of doctrine." When you submit to Him and work to pattern your life after His, you become His disciple. Jesus said "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light (Matt 11:28-30)."

Vs 18 “free from sin...servants of righteousness” Receiving Jesus saves your soul from the eternal suffering that sin brings, and walking in His teaching sets you free from the daily, shameful domination of sin. But why have we been given so great a salvation? The answer to the question “Why did God save you?” is key to the Christian life.

The great Old Testament picture of salvation is Israel's deliverance from Egypt during the Exodus.

“Thus saith the LORD, Let my people go, that they may serve me.” God says this at least seven times in Exodus chapters four through ten.

God saved Israel from slavery in Egypt so that they would serve Him, God saves Christians from their sin to make us servants of righteousness.

Grasp this truth: a Christian is saved to serve!

To be free from sin, sincerely follow the pattern of Christ by making yourself a servant of righteousness! You draw closer to Jesus when you serve because God-Almighty came to earth to be a servant (Phil 2:7).

“But ye shall not be so: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve. For whether is greater, he that sitteth at meat, or he that serveth? is not he that sitteth at meat? but I am among you as he that serveth (Luke 22:26-27).”

This does not mean that you have to be a church every time the doors are open! This does not mean that you have to neglect your family and everything else God has given you for "ministry!"

God invented rest, Jesus told His disciples to rest, and the Bible calls all Christians to provide for their families. Being saved to serve means that if you want to walk with Jesus, to know the full joy of salvation, and fulfill your calling as a saint, you must serve God.

CONCLUSION

Are you living under the Law counting on religion to save you? Or maybe you are living for yourself, for small respectable pleasures, or monstrous addictions? Or maybe you don't know, but you're just trying to live life on your own terms. If this is you, you must know that something is missing from your life; something is not quite right. I'll tell you what you are missing: you are missing the grace of God that sets us free to be agents of righteousness in the world.

If you want God's grace, you must die to sin, self, and the world by simply turning your back on those things and asking for mercy from God through Jesus, His unique Son. *Trust Jesus, sincerely receive the pattern of Jesus' teaching, and you will be freed from sin to serve righteousness!*

Maybe you have trusted Christ, maybe you want to fully receive the pattern of His doctrine, but you are holding some part of your body, your time, or your life back from service.

See that you have been saved to serve, see that sin dominates every part that you do not present to God. At this moment apologize to God, and ask Him to help you present every part of your life to Him so that you can serve as He served and walk with Him.

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