

SIN HAS NO HOLD ON YOU - Romans 5:12-6:14

Paul is building his lego blocks, adding to his explanation of the gospel and salvation. He's putting up the roof. Because if we don't get today's teaching, the foundation could be damaged.

Today we're tracking from Romans 5:12 through to Romans 6:14

I've called today's message: SIN HAS NO HOLD ON YOU

Let's Read from 5:12

12 Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned — **13** To be sure, sin was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not charged against anyone's account where there is no law. **14** Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who is a pattern of the one to come. **15** But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many!

What's Paul saying here?

Well, he takes us right back to the beginning, to the first man, and the first sin

Adam brought sin, Christ brought righteousness

- Adam little fruit fetish (We know its more than that) brought sin into the world
- Paul's saying it's the law that reveals sin. Without law how do we know what sin is?
- **STORY OF ME BEING PULLED OVER FOR VOICE NOTING WHILE DRIVING**
- Why did death reign between Adam and Moses? Because the law had not been given yet. People didn't realise how far they were falling short?

Adam's sin brought condemnation, Christ brought justification

Verse 17 says

17 For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ! **18** Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people.

- Can you see how Paul is contrasting Adam with Christ!
- He's saying: Christ is the second Adam and has cancelled out the consequence of death

Adam brought death, Christ brought life

20 The law was brought in so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more, **21** so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Paul's saying that Adam was a foreshadowing of Christ.

Adam's sin is all of our sin. **EG: FOOD COLOURING IN WATER- THERE'S NO REMOVING IT.**

As we've seen in the first couple of chapters: Jesus is the only answer to sin.

- **People are more lost than we realise.** Sino and I were recently chatting with a Muslim believer. he was so convinced that he was walking in truth, following Allah's commands, but he also seemed to embrace universalism. As he was talking I realised how lost he really was.

- **Deceit is all around us: Our neighbours are Jehovah's witnesses.** And we recently overheard them teaching a kid's class online. They were explaining how easter was a 'celebration of Satan'. People are searching all around us, and we hold the truth.

Jesus Christ is abounding in the grace that the world thirsts for.

- Paul's wanting to blow up the significance and brilliance of Jesus!
- As if he was saying: small Adam, small us, BIG CHRIST, MASSIVE SAVIOUR

Here's the amazing truth: As we inherited the consequences of Adam's sin, so we also inherit the consequences of Jesus Death and resurrection.

- **STORY ABOUT GETTING IN TROUBLE AT SCHOOL, AND THE WHOLE CLASS SUFFERS**

Let's move on to Chapter 6

Paul begins by addressing a real question: That if you receive it salvation without doing anything, why would you change, or want to change? Why not just keep on living your same old life?

Let's read:

6 What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? 2 By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? 3 Or don't you know that all of us who were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death? 4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

The questions is: If grace covers our sin, Shall we sin so that grace may increase?

This is important: Christ's obedience, not ours, forms the basis of our justification. God declares us righteous, and accepts us, not because of deeds done by us in righteousness, but because of deeds done by Christ in righteousness.

Paul plays his own worst adversary in Rom 6:1. I love how the MSG puts it:

1-2 So what do we do? Keep on sinning so God can keep on forgiving? I should hope not! If we've left the country where sin is sovereign, how can we still live in our old house there? Or didn't you realize we packed up and left there for good? MSG

Sometimes we forget that we've moved house, and for some reason we visiting our old house. Justified people don't continue in sin that grace may abound. We live under GRACE

BALLOON ILLUSTRATION (Kid's you may enjoy this too - light candle)

Meet Arno and Lerato. 2 good South African names. Arno lives in the old covenant, before Christ, and Mpho lives in the new covenant, after Christ.

EXPERIMENT: Candle represents - SIN.

- Arno's sin leads to Death,
- Lerato's sin has been dealt with, and so death is overcome

In Christ, there is no death. Is there a consequence of sin, yes, the balloon is still heating up, but it's not death. Pauls is challenging this mindset: Well if the fire doesn't kill me, then why can't I just hang around it and have as much fun without getting burn't. Paul is saying: If this is your thinking , you've missed it! We Can't keep sinning! SIN HAS NO HOLD ON YOU!

Paul is making a statement: He's saying that: **Dead people don't sin!**

Why Don't Dead People Sin?

In verse 3, Paul uses the example of baptism, saying: Surely you understand the full extent of baptism into Christ? That we die to our old self.

- You died, so consider yourselves dead. You are alive, so consider yourselves alive to God.
- You are now in Christ. . . so now become who you are.

Vs 6 puts it so clearly:

6 For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin

As Christians, it's not about not sinning at all, we will sin to some degree in this life, **but, Paul wants to remind us that the power of sin has been broken. The legacy of sin is over.**

IF I COULD use a painful example quickly, if we think about South Africa's past, the rule of apartheid ended in the early 90's, but the legacy, many of the ideologies and behaviour have continued on for decades. It takes time for a new era to come in. Especially for those of us who were somewhat indoctrinated. **With sin, it's a gradual process of healing and restoration**

Oswald Chambers has some powerful quotes about sin:

- Sin is not doing wrong, it's wrong BEING, deliberate and empathic independence of God
- Measure your growth in grace by your sensitiveness to sin
- The root of all sin is the suspicion that God is not good.

The normal pattern for the life of a Christian is progressive growth in becoming more like Jesus, just a little bit more, just a little more like Jesus. The beautiful thing is that it compounds.

IT'S KIND OF LIKE SAVING. Either you like saving or you don't. The thing about saving is that you don't see the benefit in the moment. But over time, in the words of Albert Einstein, we see that compound interest is the 8th wonder of the world. Because after a few decades your savings grow excessively fast. **And you know who helps us get there? The Holy Spirit**

I want to become like Jesus a little more each day, more and amore like Jesus, and less of me.

- **Sometimes our view on sin is very one-sided.** I don't do that, I don't gossip. **But sin is far deeper..** Sin secretly aims to give us an identity apart from God, to get an identity apart from God'. Because then the enemy knows he's got us.
- **Sin is not just about doing bad things**, but the turning seemingly good things into our everything.

STAY WITH ME HERE

- Sin seeks to make our sense of self, central to our significance, purpose and happiness.
- So that God is completely removed. **Sin is not about having a list of items that we must stay away from. The enemy is way more cunning than that.**

- **Our sin pattern could be entrenched in who we worship**

- Our significance, our independence, or love of money, romance, success, being a social media icon. What gives you your significance? When do you feel on top of the world? If it's ultimately anything besides receiving love, approval, and affirmation from our heavenly father, that's sin.
- Sin always leaves us feeling more empty.
- God is not pre-occupied with sin, because he's already dealt with it.
- *"It is impossible to sin out of who you are in God – every sin a believer commits comes from believing a lie" - Bill Johnson*
- *The more in touch you are with the Holy Spirit, the more you will be aware of how you never match up to God. When you're in this place, you can fully embrace Christ's identity.*

COMING IN FOR A LANDING NOW *Worship Team UP*

Let's read the last 3 verses 12-14

12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. 13 Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God (Greek says do it in a decisive act) as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness. 14 For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace.

Verse 14 is a promise to us:

Sin will have no dominion over you. You live under the new covenant and that is a covenant of grace. We are recipients of God's favour and mercy.

- We are not freed from the presence of sin, but we are freed from the power of sin.
- SIN HAS NO HOLD ON YOU!

I'd like to read some truths over us this morning. Close your eyes and just receive:

- Because Jesus died for your sin, you can put your sin to death
- Because you are changed you can change
- You are not saved by your good works, but you are saved to do good works
- You are not yet perfect, but you are new, & you will be perfect.
- Because you love Jesus the most, you hate sin because it killed the One you love
- Jesus didn't go through all His sufferings so we could go to church; He did what He did to atone for sin. So that we can be set free from the hold of sin and so that we can live ever-changing lives for his glory.

We're going to respond by coming around the Lord's table this morning. If you haven't done this before, and you'd like to join in. just grab some grape juice and bread, or the closest thing.

This morning, I sense that for some of us, the season of Covid, the last 18 months, has led to some self-reliance and to some new 'idols' in our life. Particularly, financial security, independence, and indifference. For some it's just a stubbornness. We don't want to change. TO the point where the prompting of God has had no effect on us. It's almost as if we've objectified sin, at the expense of allowing the Holy Spirit to investigate our hearts.

We are recipients of God's favour and mercy. We cannot be loved anymore, and its for this reason that we need to allow the Spirit to reveal areas in our lives that aren't fully surrendered to him. I believe God wants to soften our hearts this morning.

2 questions I have for us

- How sensitive are you towards sin in your life?
- How suspicious are you of God's intentions?

Walking in grace is walking in surrender. And walking in surrender is walking in faith.

This morning, I'd like to us invite the Holy Spirit to come and reveal those areas in our life:

- What gives you your significance?
- What or who do you rely on?
- What gives you ultimate happiness in life?

When we open up our hearts and repent from our selfishness, God embraces us with his love!

SIN HAS NO HOLD ON YOU

As we take some time to allow the HS to search our hearts and our lives, I'd like us to take communion. To remember his and to receive his grace. And to leave our sin, our self-reliance at the cross this morning. And walk away a changed person. Incomplete surrender of our lives to his will.