

**LESSONS THIS QUARTER**

1) 01 Mar 2020.....	Romans 01a.....	Compelled
2) 08 Mar.....	Romans 01b.....	Guilty
3) 15 Mar.....	Romans 02.....	Insufficient
4) 22 Mar.....	Romans 03-04.....	Justified
5) 29 Mar.....	Romans 05.....	At Peace
<b>6) 05 April.....</b>	<b>Romans 06-07.....</b>	<b>Free</b>
7) 12 April.....	Luke 24:1-12 [EASTER].....	Raised
8) 19 April.....	Romans 08-09.....	Secured
9) 26 April.....	Romans 10.....	Saved
10) 03 May.....	Romans 11.....	Mercy
11) 10 May.....	Romans 12.....	Sacrifices
12) 17 May.....	Romans 13.....	Citizens
13) 24 May.....	Romans 14.....	Accepting
14) 31 May.....	Romans 15-16.....	Reach

**INTRODUCTION TO ROMANS 6**

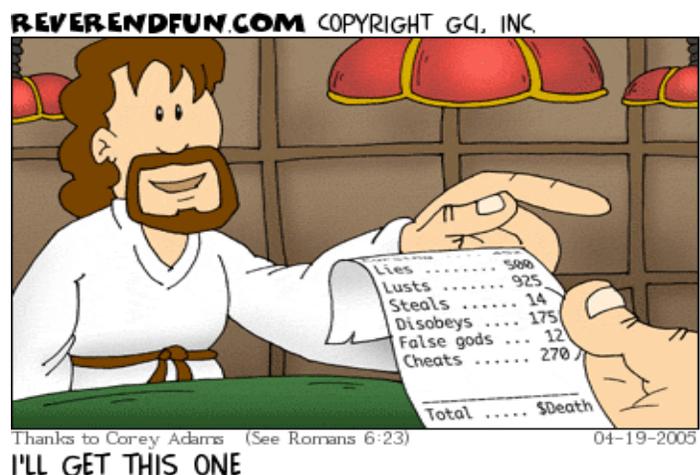
- The liberty we have in Christ frees us from every law (i.e., the letter of the law), yet makes us slaves to righteousness (i.e., the spirit of the law). An argument is made that if God can save anyone, whether they be a little sinner or a big sinner, it must take more of God's grace to save a big sinner. Therefore, is it theoretically possible to commit a lot of sins to see more of God's grace at work? The answer is YES, but Paul reasons against that philosophy – "Don't Do It!"
- Paul invokes comparative analogies to drive home spiritual truths not only to these young Roman believers but also to us. These include being dead/being alive, being buried in baptism/being resurrected, being slaves to sin/and slaves to righteousness

Passage	Comments
Romans 6:1-7	<p><b>Why Not Sin BIG to Receive More of God's Grace?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sinning BIG does invoke more grace from God, but also more consequences</li> <li>- Illustrations: Kings Saul, David and Solomon</li> <li>• v1. Are we to continue in sin? – This is present active deliberative subjunctive case indicating the practice of habitual sins. Simple answer is <b>NOPE!</b></li> <li>♦ What are some examples of habitual sins?                     <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lying? Stealing? Immorality? Cursing?</li> </ol> </li> <li>♦ We need to turn sin OFF like a light switch</li> <li>• vv3-7. Paul uses comparative analogies of baptism, death, burial, resurrection &amp; slavery to avoid sin</li> </ul>
6:8-11	<p><b>Dead People Can't Sin</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paul invokes a vivid illustration that a dead man in a casket can't sin – and that's what we should be like when it comes to sin – no response, no interest</li> <li>• In 1Cor 14:20, Paul uses the illustration of being like children when it comes to sin – naïve and ignorant</li> <li>• But, we should be energetically living for Christ</li> </ul>
6:12-14	<p><b>Those Who Chose Christ Should Not Chose Sin</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Being cavalier or nonchalant about sin ruins people</li> <li>• Society has adopted a Mardi Gras mentality – sin now, ask forgiveness later</li> <li>• v12. To sin or not to sin is a choice we must make every moment we live in, for God tries us from moment to moment ..... <a href="#">Job 7:18</a></li> <li>♦ How long is a moment? It could be a second in a thought or it could be hours or even days as we wrestle with major and minor issues of life</li> <li>• v13. Every part of us (e.g., arms, legs, tongue, mind) are either tools for God or tools for the devil</li> <li>➔ Let's rack up rewards for all eternity by using what God gave us for His glory</li> <li>• v14. Again, sin should not master us – it's our choice</li> </ul>

Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Remember what God told Cain before Cain killed his brother Abel – "If you do well, will not your attitude be improved? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is (to destroy) you, <b>but you must master it.</b>" ..... <a href="#">Gen 4:7</a></li> </ul>
6:15-19	<p><b>We Become Slaves to Righteousness</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v16. We are slaves no matter what. We either choose to be God's slaves or we remain slaves to something more sinister – our own cravings, lusts, addictions, debt, and eventually – slaves of Satan</li> <li>♦ Joshua said to Israel "choose you this day whom you will serve – but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" ..... <a href="#">Joshua 24:15</a></li> <li>♦ God eventually turned the Israelites over to their enemies as slaves because of their disobedience. In one passage God says the Jews will learn to appreciate being His slaves after considering the miserable treatment by their captors.....<a href="#">2Chron 12:8</a></li> <li>• vv17-18. Another passage highlights the Romans were once "slaves to sin" – BUT they became "obedient from the heart" – In other words, they made a decision to be a slave to righteousness</li> <li>• v19a. "I am speaking in common human terms because of your spiritual immaturity" – Paul comes down to their level and uses familiar analogies to convey heavenly truths to these young believers</li> <li>♦ <b>Principle to Live By</b> – Know your audience!</li> <li>• v19b. Paul's analogy of being a slave yields benefits                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ A slave to bad things results in more bad things</li> <li>♦ A slave to righteousness leads to good things</li> <li>➔ Sanctification (spiritual maturity &amp; fruitfulness)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
6:20-23	<p><b>Freed From Sin ➔ Sanctification ➔ Eternal Life</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vv20-21. Benefits of being a slave to Sin                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ More bad things happening to you</li> <li>♦ But you are free from doing righteous things</li> <li>♦ The end result, however, is eternal misery in Hell</li> </ul> </li> <li>• vv22-23. Benefits of being a slave to Righteousness                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Sanctification leads to eternal bliss in Heaven</li> <li>♦ ...and it's a free gift from God thanks to the cross</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**ROMANS 6 CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS**

- We should adopt the attitude of the Psalmist – "I'd rather be a doorkeeper (or a slave) in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness (with riches galore)." ..... [Ps 84:10](#)



**INTRODUCTION TO ROMANS 7**

- Pat Robertson says a husband can divorce his wife if she has Alzheimer's and marry another without it being adulterous since she is mentally dead. In contrast, **Romans 7** says if a man divorces his wife and marries another while his first wife is still alive (i.e., breathing), he becomes an adulterer. Now, who is right?
- Bible commentary by Albert Barnes (1798-1870) says this about Chapter 7: "Few chapters in the Bible have been the subject of more decidedly different interpretations than this"
- The essence of Chapter 7 is to show that since we are dead to the Law (our first spouse) because of what Christ did on the cross (He freed us from the Law), we can now be legally married to Christ (our new spouse) without being called adulterous
- This chapter also conveys we have 1 purpose in life – to bear fruit, BUT the only thing stopping us from being fruitful for God lays between our ears – Who's going to win the battle for the mind?

Passage	Comments
Romans 7:1-3	<p><b>The Law Binds and Releases – Conditionally</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paul presents a simple but contentious analogy regarding divorce and remarriage – According to God's Law we become adulterers if we marry someone while our previous spouse is still alive. There are no exceptions! Even if our previous spouse has Alzheimer's (according to Pat Robertson, Sept. 16, 2011), or if they are unfaithful, or they abandoned the marriage, or even if they are unsaved – there are no exceptions!..... <b>Mat 5:32; 19:9; Mrk 10:11; Lk 16:18</b></li> <li>♦ God's solution is to reconcile or remain single. Now do we obey or stray?..... <b>1Cor 7:10-11</b></li> <li>• Remember, we are legally and scripturally bound as long as our spouse is alive.....<b>Rom 7:2; 1Cor 7:39</b></li> <li>• God's ideal plan for a marriage between one man and one woman for life was to emulate our special relationship with Him. Anything that deviates from or pollutes God's pristine plan is considered adulterous</li> <li>• Fortunately, God does not throw anybody away for failing in this area. If He worked with adulterous King David &amp; the woman at the well who had 5 husbands and a live-in boyfriend, He can work with us</li> <li>• BUT the marriages God WILL NOT work with are those which He does not "join together" (e.g., same sex unions and incestual unions [Herod &amp; Herodias] to name a few). See <b>Lev 18</b> for other forbidden marriages</li> </ul>
7:4-6	<p><b>We Died to the Law So We Can be Fruitful</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v4. God's plan for us is to be married to Christ so we can bear good fruit for God &amp; reap rewards</li> <li>• v5. How does the Law stir up our passions to sin and to bear deadly fruit? And what is "fruit unto death" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Basically, when we are told not to speed, cuss, lust or touch wet paint, what do we want to do?</li> <li>♦ Deadly fruit would be the hurts and turmoil we cause from our words and deeds</li> </ul> </li> <li>• v6. The key to being free from the Law is to be a slave to God (willful obedience to His word) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ And if we are led by the Spirit (through obedience), we are not under the Law.....<b>Galatians 5:18</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Fruit for God	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What should our fruit look like? Is it changed lives and behavior? Or increased possessions? Souls Won?</li> <li>• When our kids, family, friends, co-workers or strangers make decisions to live for God because of things we said or examples we set – that is fruit to our account!</li> </ul>

Passage	Comments
7:7-13	<p><b>The Law is Holy, Righteous and Good</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vv7-8. The problem is not with the Law, which makes us fully aware of our shortcomings. The problem is with us and our cravings to do our own thing – to sin!</li> <li>• vv9-11. Paul says he was once alive before the Law became known to him? Was this when he was a child before the 'age of accountability'? Paul doesn't say "we" but "I", so the context seems to apply to his pre-conversion days when he was blissfully ignorant of the true meaning of the Law, though he had a zeal for God but not according to knowledge (Rom 10:2) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In other words, Paul didn't know better back then</li> </ul> </li> <li>• vv12-13. It was at his conversion when he realized the Law was indeed holy and he was in need of a Savior</li> </ul>
7:14-20	<p><b>The Law is Spiritual, and it was Meant for Our Good</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vv15-17. Even Paul wrestled with his fleshly desires – "nothing good dwells within me"</li> <li>• vv17,20. Sin is to blame (but it's our willingness to sin) – Recall from last week (Rom 6 14 and Gen 4:7) we are responsible to master sin – We have no excuse!</li> </ul>
7:21-25	<p><b>The Real Battle is in the Mind</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• So how can feeble-minded creatures like us who have evil ever present within us and who would rather take the path of least resistance, ever win this sin battle? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Jesus to the rescue – and the Holy Spirit who is the life-changing agent – but that's next week's lesson</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**ROMANS 7 CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS**

- "When Christ calls a man—He bids him come and die."
  - Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906–1945) was a German Lutheran pastor, theologian and martyr

**NEXT WEEK: Luke 24:1-12.** Preparation for Easter. If the Resurrection of Christ is the cornerstone of our faith, why so few details?

- ♦ Can the resurrection be scientifically proved?
- ♦ Can the resurrection be historically verified?

