

March 25, 2007

Sermon: “Winning the War On Sin”

Scripture: Romans 6:1-23

¹What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? ²By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? ³Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We 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.

⁵If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. ⁶For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—⁷because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.

⁸Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. ¹⁰The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.

¹¹In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

¹²Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. ¹³Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. ¹⁴For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.

¹⁵What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means!

¹⁶Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. ¹⁸You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.

¹⁹I put this in human terms because you are weak in your natural selves. Just as you used to offer the parts of your body in slavery to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer them in slavery to righteousness leading to holiness. ²⁰When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. ²¹What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! ²²But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. ²³For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Introduction

- Whatever happened to sin?

- Sin has played havoc on us as individuals and ultimately on the world. We pay a dear price.
- So, how can I become a better person?
- We can win the war on sin - here's the promise - Romans 6:14
- There are three steps we need to take:

I. Understand the meaning of salvation.

- Salvation means - new life. (6:4)
- A new life lives in you - The Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 1:4)
- Colossians 2:13; Romans 6:7-7, 11; Romans 7:19, 24
- Your spiritual standing isn't based on your feelings. It's based on the Word of God.

II. Do the math on sin and righteousness.

- Nothing good can come from sin.
- Romans 6:16, 21, 23
- Remember three things about sin:
 1. It leads to death.
 2. It leads to shame.
 3. It brings about its own punishment.
- Sin hurts, burns and destroys.
- What does righteousness do? It leads to: Life, Joy, Peace, holiness and fellowship with God.
- Romans 6:16, 22

III. Choose the master you will obey.

- Romans 6:16
- Whose slave do you want to be? (Romans 6:17-18)
- For the Christian, his master is God! God promises in Roman 6:14.
- Romans 6:20, 22 tells us that our loyalties have changed.
- Choose sin or righteousness - the one you obey will be your master.

Conclusion

- God's grace set us free from sin - from the penalty of sin, from the power of sin, from the presence of sin.
- Romans 6:6
- Choose your master today.