

Breaking the Power of Cancelled Sin

Winning the War Against Sin

(Romans 6-8)

Romans Series
PBC 2025

Text: Romans 6:1-14

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ² By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? ³ Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. ⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

⁶ ***We know that our old self was crucified with him*** in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷ For one who has died has been set free from sin. ⁸ Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹ ***We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again;*** death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰ For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God.

¹¹ ***So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.*** ¹² Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. ¹³ ***Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.***

¹⁴ **For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.**

Introduction:

- We are starting a new section in our journey through the greatest letter ever written – Romans (*“How and Why God Saves the World”*)!
- The chapters in this section (Romans 6-11) are the most important chapters in the entire Bible regarding how we who have been saved from sin can live in consistent victory over sin in our daily lives.
- Now that we have been saved from the penalty of sin, how can we stop practicing the sins that continue to tempt us and, at times, enslave us?

- The answers we seek and the help we need are in this section of Romans.
- What I want to do this morning is survey the chapters above to give us a clear picture of the terrain Paul is about to take us through, so that we understand what we are looking at and don't get lost, distracted, or confused along the way!
- I am especially interested in what Paul has to say in chapters 6-8 because ***these three chapters contain the details of a powerful battle plan that, if we follow carefully, prayerfully, and consistently, will help us win the war against sin and strengthen us in the daily battles and constant personal skirmishes*** we will inevitably face throughout the duration of this war!
- To make sure we start our journey well this morning, I would like to outline several ***observations*** we need to make, the ***realities*** we must embrace, and the important ***questions*** we need Paul to answer as we navigate this vital section of Romans.

I. Observations About Grace We Must See and Understand

A. Observation 1: Our Position in the Journey (5:20-21)

Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Justification accomplished for us by Christ and applied to us by His Spirit.

- Paul describes what happened to us in Romans 5:21 – grace reigning through righteousness leading to eternal life!
- Rescued from Condemnation of the Law – justification by grace, through faith, in Christ alone.
- Removed from the Realm of Sin and Death – union with Christ
- Result in grace now reigning over us through a righteousness that has been imputed to us, which rescued us from eternal condemnation and granted us eternal life through Jesus Christ, our new Lord!

B. Observation 2: Our Destination at the end of the Journey (8:28-30)

²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

Glorification promised to us and commenced in us.

- Paul speaks about this in the past tense – “he also glorified” which means it is a done deal!
- But we don’t have to wait until the end to be glorified; we are currently experiencing important aspects of that glorification now in our inner man as it progresses from one level of glory to another through the Spirit’s work in us, just as Paul taught the Corinthians (2 Cor. 3:18).

C. Observation 3: Our Aspiration during the Journey (12:1-2)

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Consecration of our bodies to God so that we become people who consistently discern and do the good, acceptable, and complete will of God for our lives.

- But before we can get from the end of chapter 5 to Romans 12, we must confront a reality we did not expect that has the potential to distract, discourage, damage, derail, or even disqualify us in our attempt to use our lives to advance the good news of the gospel!
- And this reality is the ongoing battle with sin that remains our experience. To put it in modern terms, “We have a Situation!”

Illustration: The Situation Room” in the White House is a 5000 square foot complex of rooms that serve as the command center for

intelligence gathering, crisis management, secure communication, and military strategy during a national crisis. First created in 1961 by JFK after the Bay of Pigs disaster, it is a place where questions are asked, answers are given, and strategy is determined by the President and his advisors so they can navigate immensely difficult threats to the life and security of our nation.

- Romans 6-11 constitute a Spiritual Situation Room for believers, and the person who can help us successfully carry out “Operation Sanctification” is our faithful guide, Paul.

D. Observation 4: Our Situation throughout the Journey (7:14-18)

For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin. ¹⁵ For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. ¹⁷ So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸ For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out.

Afflicted by and conflicted with ongoing sin that we thought salvation would deliver us from, since grace reigns over us and we now possess a righteousness that leads to eternal life.

- Despite salvation granting us grace and righteousness for eternal life, we still struggle with persistent sin.
- Grace has delivered us from the penalty of sin; rescued us from the power of death; removed us from the realm of sin/kingdom of darkness; and given us permanent standing in the realm of life/kingdom of God’s Son, with unrestricted access to the throne of grace.
- Grace has canceled the penalty of my sin; removed its condemnation; and destroyed its authority to reign over me!
- ***But somehow, I keep sinning!***
- Why doesn’t the victory I thought I would have in Jesus seem to be working out in my daily life? ***How do I break the power of canceled sin?***

- Answer – Grace! Grace does this through the biblical processes of progressive sanctification, enabled by grace, superintended by the Spirit, and accomplished by God’s life-giving Word!

E. Observation 5: Our Sanctification for the Journey (8:10-12)

But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. ¹² So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.

A grace-enabled fight against sin’s use of our bodies that will last for the rest of our earthly lives.

- These three chapters contain the most concentrated biblical truth on our sanctification and victory over sin.
- ***Chapter 6 tells us how to win the war against sin*** because now that we are in Christ, we are dead to sin.
- ***Chapter 7 tells us how to win the war against our flesh*** because we now have a new nature in Christ.
- ***Chapter 8 tells us how to win the war against the world and the effects of the curse.*** Now that we are in Christ, we are a new creation, indwelt by the HS, who enlightens our understanding, empowers our will, strengthens and sustains us in suffering, superintends our glorification, and delivers us from all the hostile powers of sin, death, the world, and Satan himself!

II. Realities About Grace We Must Believe and Embrace

Theme of 6-8: ***Grace that is Greater than all our Sin!***

- These are the three most important chapters in the NT on living the Christian life in victory over sin by means of Grace that breaks the power of canceled sin and frees us from the chains of its bondage!
- Grace is greater – not that it is larger but that it is stronger!

Grace delivered us from the penalty of Sin
Grace rescued us from the power/rule of Sin
Grace strengthens us so that we don't have to practice sin

- Grace overpowers Sin by these means in these three chapters:
 - A. **Chapter Six – Grace grants us a new Position** – dead to sin so there is no more dominion (so sin no longer can lord itself over me), no more obligation (so I no longer have to slave for sin); and no more condemnation (even though I still struggle with sin in my flesh).
 - B. **Chapter Seven – Grace grants us a new Perspective** – in my mind (inner man) I serve the Law of Righteousness even though in my mortal body, I struggle and suffer (serve) under the ongoing effects of the Law of Sin and Death
 - C. **Chapter Eight – Grace grants us a new Power** – the Holy Spirit who helps me walk after righteousness in my inner man; intercedes for me as my outer man struggles and groans; glorifies my inner man through the food of God's Word and the process of suffering; and will one day fully glorify my body.

This chapter begins with no condemnation and ends with no separation. Between those two realities, there is no need for desperation in our struggle against sin or suffering because the Holy Spirit himself is making Divine Intercession on our behalf, which is why there is no spiritual subjection to the tyranny of sin! We are more than super-conquerors through Christ!

III. Questions We Must Answer and Apply

We need a roadmap to help us navigate the complexity of these chapters, so we understand them properly, believe them personally, and apply what they teach successfully.

- They are complex – but not complicated.
- They are vital to our lives – not merely important doctrinal truths.
- They are theologically packed – not light and entertaining reading.
- And God designed them this way . . .
 - So we would have to slow down and focus spiritually
 - So we would have to engage with them intentionally and repeatedly
 - So we would have to strive to understand them accurately and progressively
 - So we would have to look to Him prayerfully and expectantly
 - So we would have to work on applying them personally and ongoingly in our lives
- Paul answers four important questions believers like us often ask:

A. *What is my relation to Sin now that I am justified? (6:1 – 7:6)*

Note the preponderance of the term “sin” in this chapter (17x)

1. Shall I remain **in** (*under the power of*) sin that grace may abound? (6:1-14). Paul’s answer: “*May it never be!*” (v. 2)
2. Shall I continue **to** practice sin since I am no longer under the Law but under Grace? (6:15-18) Paul’s answer: *May it never be!* (v. 15)
3. How should I deal with the propensity toward sin that remains in me? (6:19-7:6) Paul’s answer: “*Just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification (more righteousness)!*” (v. 19)

B. *Will the Law help me win the war against sin that is going on in me? (7:7-25)*

Note the preponderance of the term “Law” or “commandment” (24x)

- We were condemned according to the just demands of the Law, and we were executed when its penalty was carried out in the

- death of Jesus in our place. So, regarding the Law, we were released from its demands and claims when we died to it (7:1-6).
- However, though the Law justly demanded my death, it did not cause or occasion my death, either spiritually or physically – that happened on account of sin. Death came into the world because of Adam’s sin, and death came for me because of my sin!
 - While the Law continues to be God’s just representative and holy voice to a sinful world, it is as powerless to deliver me from the ongoing practice of sin as it was to deliver me from the power sin held over me or the penalty sin earned for me!
 - So, just as the Law was powerless to save me, it is powerless to sanctify me! (7:7-25)
 - Which is why legalism is so devastating to our souls!! Legalism takes something holy and righteous and attempts to use it to accomplish a sanctification God never designed it to do – and when it fails, we grow frustrated with the Giver of that Law!

C. Who will deliver me from this struggle against sin going on in me and at times by me? (8:1-30)

Note the preponderance of references to the “Holy Spirit” (20x)

- The One who will deliver me from the practice of sin is the One who rescued me from the power of sin over me and delivered me from the penalty of sin against me – God!
- He sent His Son to defeat the power of sin and death, to make atonement for the sins of the world that would satisfy the justice of God, and to fully obey the righteous demands of the law on our behalf! God imputed all of this to our account when we were justified by faith by repenting of our sin and turning to Jesus!
- Now He sends His Spirit to dwell permanently in us to accomplish four important things: 1) He strengthens us to resist sin; 2) He sustains us through the suffering we are called to endure in and

from the world; 3) He supplicates and continually intercedes for us before the Throne of Grace; and 4) He secures for us all the outcomes of salvation God promised to us, from our election to justification to sanctification to our final glorification.

D. What should be my committed, confident response to all of this? (8:31-39)

- Paul – this is very different from what I expected my experience to be after I repented of my sins and put my faith in Jesus.
- I had no idea that I would continue to struggle with the same sins as a committed disciple of Jesus that I had battled before my salvation. This isn't at all what I thought I signed up for!
- Frankly, this is overwhelming and intimidating. To top it all off, this battle plan sounds complicated, difficult, and drawn out.
- It sounds like you are planning for an extended war that will last for the rest of my earthly life, not just an occasional battle or two while the Spirit of God mops up the remaining little areas of resistance after my salvation.
- ***Help me navigate all of this – I need help and hope!!***
- Paul notes four things that will give us help and hope, given the immensity and intensity of our lifelong war against sin!
 1. Therefore *(on account of all that is in these three chapters)*, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus! (8:1)
 2. If God is for us *(and He is)*, who can stand against us *(no one)*? (8:31)
 3. No matter what or who comes against us, we are more than super-conquerors through Christ who loved us! (8:37)
 4. No one can separate us from the love of Christ or distance us from the love of God (8:35, 39)

Conclusion: How should I respond to these truths Paul has revealed?

- I must ask God to help me to truly and accurately understand the truth Paul presents in these three chapters. ***I need to understand them.***
- I must ask Christ to help me to cultivate an unshakable belief and conviction in the realities these truths reveal. ***I must believe them.***
- I must ask the Spirit to strengthen me in my inner man and to help me resolve to apply these truths consistently throughout the course of my life. ***I must live in light of them.***

Given what is at stake for me personally and for the church corporately, what is the best approach I can take as we go through these chapters?

Here are some practical ways we can strive to understand, believe, and live out the truths we will be learning as we study these chapters together:

1. **Read Up** – read these chapters every week thoughtfully.
2. **Show Up** – don't miss these services if possible.
3. **Listen Up** – take notes, use the additional materials, and use a journal Bible for this section. Go back and listen to the sermons in this series more than once.
4. **Look Up** – pray and ask God for help in understanding.
5. **Act Up** – put what you are learning into practice right away.

NOTE: Romans 9-11 demonstrate the power of grace that is greater than all of our sin! The nation that is guilty of more sin than any other nation or people group on the planet is Israel. They sinned openly and with a high hand against the written law of God and the Loving Word of God – and ultimately they rejected and crucified the very Son of God. And by the end of 11, God's grace has overcome their sins! And if grace can overcome sin like that, it can certainly overcome your sins regardless of their power or number!