

ROMANS CHAPTER SIX STUDY

We would encourage you to not cover more than one verse a day. On the first day simply read the chapter in at least two or three different translations (this study is based on the New American Standard Version). Along the way you will encounter various quotes by some of the great old saints and Bible scholars. We begin with two statements about the tremendous importance of this chapter to the believer regarding the victorious Christian Life.

“To know God’s way of deliverance from sin as a master the believer must apprehend the truth contained in the Sixth Chapter of Romans. There we see what God has done, not with our sins – that question the Apostle dealt with in the preceding chapters – but with ourselves, the agents and slaves of sin. He has put our old man – our original self – where he put our sins, namely on the cross with Christ (Rom. 6:6). The believer there sees not only that Christ died for him – substitution – but that he died with Christ – identification.” - Evan H. Hopkins

“The theme under consideration is concerned with the death of Christ as that death is related to the divine judgments of the sin nature in the child of God. The necessity of such judgments and the sublime revelation that these judgments are now fully accomplished for us is unfolded in Romans 6:1-10. This passage is the foundation as well as the key to the possibility of a walk in the Spirit.” – Lewis Sperry Chafer

6:1 - Write out the verse:

Why do you suppose Paul begins with a couple questions?

Why, specifically, does he ask the second question? (see Chp.5:10-21)

From the context in Chapter 5, what does Paul mean by sin

What does he mean by grace?

What is the relationship between sin, law and grace (who said this would be easy?)

Have you ever been tempted to “continue in sin” because God is rich in grace?

Does this verse raise any unanswered questions?

Try writing out the verse from memory:

“The very suggestion that the end justifies the means, that grace may be produced by living in sin, is so thoroughly obnoxious to Paul that he answers it by making use of one of his characteristic, blunt rejection formulas, ‘By no means.’ For a Christian, continuing to *live in sin* is not only impermissible, it is impossible!” – William Hendricksen

6:2 – Write out the verse:

May what never be?

The pronoun “we” refers to whom?

What are we told is the believer’s relationship to sin?

So what does it mean to be “dead” to something?

Are you dead to sin?

Do you still sin?

Is Paul distinguishing between committing a sin and living in sin?

Do you still “live in sin”?

Can a believer still “live in sin”?

What unanswered question(s) does this verse raise in your thinking?

Try writing out the verse from memory:

“To do away with our sinfulness we must do away with our life. Bondage to sin came by birth; deliverance from sin comes by death – and it is just this way of escape that God has provided. Death is the secret of emancipation. ‘We... died to sin.’” – Watchman Nee

6:3 – Write out the verse:

Here’s another question. What is the obvious answer?

Who does “all of us” refer to?

What does “baptized into” mean?

Have all believers been baptized into Christ? (look up 1 Cor. 12:13)

Have all believers also been baptized into His death?

So have you been baptized into Christ’s death?

When did that take place?

Does this verse raise any unanswered questions?

Write out the verse by memory:

6:4 – Write out the verse:

Why does the verse begin with therefore?

Who does “we” refer to?

Have you been baptized into his death?

If so, what else has happened to you?

Does this verse raise any unanswered questions?

When was Christ buried?

When were you buried?

Why was Christ raised from the dead?

What does it mean to “walk in newness of life”?

Are you doing that consistently?

Does this verse raise any unanswered questions?

Try to write out the verse from memory:

‘There is an old world and a new world, and between the two there is a tomb. God has already crucified me, but I must consent to be consigned to the tomb. My baptism confirms God’s sentence, passed upon me in the Cross of His Son.’ –Watchman Nee,

“If the difference between ‘Christ dying for us,’ and ‘our dying with Him,’ has not been recognized, acknowledged, and applied it may safely be affirmed that the Self is still the dominating factor in life.” - J. Penn-Lewis

6:5 – Write out the verse:

What does “united with Christ” mean?

What does “in the likeness of His death” mean?

Are all believers united in the likeness of His death?

Are all believers united in the likeness of His resurrection?

Are you united in the likeness of His resurrection?"

Does this verse raise any unanswered questions?

What does that mean?

Try to write out the verse from memory:

“Because He died ‘death hath no more dominion over Him,’ and because of our union with Him ‘sin shall not have dominion over you’ even though it is present over you. Our ‘reckoning’ ourselves dead to sin in Jesus Christ does not make it a fact – it is already a fact through our union with Him.” – James M. McConkey

“What, in fact, does this union imply? The real meaning of baptism is that in the Cross we were baptized into the historic death of Christ, so that His death became ours. Our death and His became so closely identified that it is impossible to divide between them.”
Watchman Nee

6:6 – Write out the verse:

What are we to know?

What, or who, exactly was crucified?

What is the “old self”?

The old self was crucified with whom?

Why was the old self crucified?

What is “our body of sin”?

What exactly does “done away with” mean?

Why was the body of sin done away with?

Does this verse raise any unanswered questions?

Try to write out the verse from memory:

When Christ was crucified we were crucified; and His crucifixion is past, therefore ours cannot be future. I challenge you to find one text in the New Testament telling us that our crucifixion is in the future. All the references to it are in the Greek aorist, which is the ‘once-for-all’ tense, the ‘eternally past’ tense.” – Watchman Nee

‘This is the distinctive mark of the Christian – the experience of the cross. Not merely that Christ died *for* us, but that we died *with* Him. This is a great fact, true of all believers’. – Norman B. Harrison

6:7 – Write out the verse:

Why does this verse begin with “for”?

Who does “he” refer to?

What happened to “he” and when did it happen?

How did the old self benefit from death?

Are all believers freed from sin? Are you?

Do you still sin? Why?

Does this verse raise any unanswered questions?

Try to write out the verse from memory:

“ If you feel you have died, you have died; and if you feel you have not died, you have died. These are divine facts. That Christ has died is a fact, that the two thieves have died is a fact also. Let me tell you, you have died ! You are done with! You are ruled out! The self you loathe is on the Cross in Christ. This is the Gospel for Christians.” – Watchman Nee

6:8 – Write out the verse:

Does the word “if” imply that some believers may not have died with Christ?

If you have died with Christ, what else do you have to believe?

Do you suppose “live with Him” is referring to our existence in heaven?

What does “live with Him” mean – for here and now?

Does this verse raise any unanswered questions?

Try to write out the verse from memory:

6:9 – Write out the verse:

What cannot Christ ever do again? Why can't he?

Who was raised up with Christ?

Do you really believe you were raised up with Christ?

Can you ever die again? (see also Jo. 5:24, 6:40, 11:25,26)

How did death “master” Christ?

Can death master you?

Does this verse raise any unanswered questions?

Try to write out the verse from memory:

“Because He died ‘death hath no more dominion over Him’ and because of our union with Him ‘sin shall not have dominion over you,’ even though it is present in you.”- James M. McConkey

6:10 – Write out the verse:

Why does this verse begin with “for”?

What did Christ die “to” when He died?

What does “once for all” mean?

How did His death affect you?

What does Christ live “to” now?

What does that mean for you today?”

Does this verse raise any unanswered questions?

Try to write out the verse from memory:

6:11: Write out the verse:

What does “even so” mean?

Why does the verse begin with this phrase?

What are some synonyms for “consider”? (check a dictionary and other translations)

What does “dead to sin” mean?

Are you dead to sin?

Do you still sin?

Do you feel dead to sin?

Do you *act like* you are dead to sin?

What does “alive to God” mean?

Are you alive to God?

Do you act like you are alive to God?

Would it be hypocritical to act like you are dead to sin and alive to God even if you don't feel it?

Does this verse raise any unanswered questions?

Try to write out the verse from memory:

“People are always trying to reckon [or consider] without knowing... When temptation comes they begin to reckon furiously. ‘I am dead. I am dead. I am dead.’ But in the very act of reckoning they lose their temper. Then they say, ‘It doesn’t work. Romans 11:6 doesn’t work.’ And we have to admit that verse 11 is no good without verse 6.”

“Our ‘considering’ ourselves dead to sin in Jesus Christ does not make it a fact – it is already a fact through our union with Him. Our considering it to be true only makes us begin to realize the fact in experience.”- James R. McConkey

6:12 - Write out the verse:

What is the “therefore” therefore?

Is it your *choice* as to whether sin will reign in you?

If you were to permit sin to reign, where would sin reign?

If you permit sin to reign, what exactly will you find yourself obeying?

Why would it be sheer stupidity to obey sin’s lusts?

Does this verse raise any unanswered questions?

Try to write out the verse from memory:

“This passage shows that true theology is a matter not merely of doctrine but also of life. It does not confine itself to the revelation of that which God has done for us, though that is basic. It also stresses that we, by his grace and power, should do in return. It not only teaches us but also pleads lovingly and earnestly.” – William Hendriksen

6:13 - Write out the verse:

Verse 12 specified the first thing you are no longer to do in relation to your “old boss.”
What is the second prohibition in this verse?

What exactly are your members?

What exactly was your “old boss”?

How will your old boss use your members if you give it the opportunity?

There are two things listed here that you are instructed to do. What is the first thing?

Are you “alive from the dead”? How do you know?

What is the second thing you are commanded to do?

Who’s your new boss? How will he use your members?

Does this verse raise any unanswered questions?

Try to write out the verse from memory:

“For it is our wills that are in question here. That strong self-assertive will of mine must go to the cross, and I must give myself wholly to the Lord. We cannot expect a tailor to make us a coat if we do not give him any cloth, nor a builder to build us a house if we provide him with no building materials; and in just the same way we cannot expect the Lord to live out His life in us if we do not give him our lives in which to live. Without reservation, without controversy, we must give ourselves to him to do as he pleases with us. Present yourselves unto God.” – Watchman Nee

6:14 - Write out the verse:

Why does the verse begin with “for”?

Why shall the old boss (i.e. sin) no longer master me?

What do you think being “mastered” by sin looks like in a person’s life? Does this apply to you today in any sense?

According to this verse, if a believer is mastered by sin, (i.e. in bondage) what exactly is the problem or cause? What’s the solution?

Which law are you no longer under, man’s or God’s?

If you are no longer under God’s law, do you still have to obey it? Can you do as you please? (see also Romans 13:8-10)

What does it mean to be “under grace”?

Does this verse raise any unanswered questions?

Try to write out the verse from memory:

6:15 - Write out the verse:

Does this verse sound familiar? In verses 1 and 2, Paul gave us one reason for not sinning. What was it?

What is the reason for not sinning given in this verse?

Why might a person conclude that since he is not under the law that he has a license to sin?

When a believer lives life under the jurisdiction of the law, what will the results be? (see also 7:5,9,19,11)

When a believer is living under the jurisdiction of grace, what will the results be? (see also 5:17; 7:4,6)

Does your life indicate you have been living under law or grace?

Does this verse raise any unanswered questions?

Try to write out the verse from memory:

6:16 - Write out the verse:

According to this verse, is anyone truly *free*?

What are the only two service options for the believer?

As a believer, are you *free* to choose who (or what) you will be a slave to?

If you present yourself to sin (i.e. independence from God), what will be the result?

What do you think “death” refers to?

If you present yourself to “obedience” (i.e. dependence on God), what will result?

So then, if a believer is experiencing any form of bondage, where exactly does the responsibility lie?

Being under grace is synonymous to slavery to what? What is life under the law synonymous to?

Does this verse raise any unanswered questions?

Try to write out the verse from memory:

“How did I become a slave to the Lord? On his part he bought me, on my part I presented myself to him. By right of redemption I am God’s property, but if I would be his slave I must willingly give myself to him, for he will never compel me to do so.” – Watchman Nee

“As J.B. Phillips states it: ‘You belong to the power which you chose to obey.’ It’s that simple. Each moment of every day we chose whom we wish to follow. If it’s the Savior, the benefits are many. If it’s sin, the consequences are destructive and miserable.... Before Christ we had no choice. Sin was our one and only route. All of our life was marked by unrighteousness. But once we came to the cross and gave the Lord Jesus the right to rule our lives, we were granted a choice we never had before. Grace freed us from the requirement to serve sin, allowing us the opportunity to follow Christ’s directives voluntarily. So long as we do this, *we will not sin!*” – Charles Swindoll

6:17 - Write out the verse:

What is Paul thankful for?

What is every nonbeliever’s relationship to sin?

The believer has become obedient to what?

The believer has been made obedient from the heart (see 7:22 and Heb 8:10) which frees us from slavish, legalistic adherence to the letter of the law. But what exactly is the “form of teaching to which you were committed.?” (clue: 1 Tim. 1:5. 2 Tim. 1:13)

Realistically, how is your life reflecting this reality?

Does this verse raise any unanswered questions?

Try to write out the verse from memory:

6:18 - Write out the verse:

This verse is really the end of the sentence beginning in verse 17. Here we see that we have been freed from what? (see also 8:2)

Do you *feel* like you have been freed from sin? Does it matter?

Do you *act* like you've been freed from sin? Why or why not?

Are there certain situations in which you do not typically act as if you have been freed from sin?

No one wants to be a hypocrite, i.e. one who pretends to be something he is not. If you are, in fact, dead to sin, and you behave yourself as if you are (quite apart from your feelings), are you being hypocritical?

You were freed from sin so you could become a slave to righteousness. Do you *feel* like a slave to righteousness? Do you behave like it?

Write out (in first person singular) a brief statement stating the truth about your relationship to sin and righteousness according to this verse.

Does this verse raise any unanswered questions?

Try to write out the verse from memory:

6:19 - Write out the verse:

This verse somewhat restates verse 13. How is it similar? Different?

As a believer, if I present my members to sin, what will be the result in my life?

On the other hand, what is the result if I present my members to righteousness (i.e. God)?

What exactly does sanctification mean? (refer to a Bible dictionary or other resource if possible)

Is there evidence that sanctification a growing reality in your life? What is some evidence?

Does this verse raise any unanswered questions?

Try to write out the verse from memory:

6:20 & 21 - Write out the verses:

We will consider these verses together since they present one basic thought. What is it?

Verse 20 begins with a penetrating question. How would you personally answer this question in regards to your life prior to becoming a believer. In other words, how did sin benefit you?

Paul sums up the “benefits” of sin in one word – death. What does he mean by death?

If sin has such devastating results, why is it so popular and attractive?

Does this verse raise any unanswered questions?

Try to write out the verses from memory:

“The meaning is clearly this: To be slaves of sin is to be enemies of righteousness; to be enemies of sin means to be friends of righteousness. To be devoted to both sin and righteousness at the same time is impossible. Compare the words of Jesus, ‘No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and look down on the other (Matt. 6:24).’” – William Hendriksen

6:22 - Write out the verse:

The previous verse was a summary of the “benefits” of slavery to sin. This verse summarizes the benefits of what?

Write out (first person singular) a declaration of your current status as a believer according to the first phrase of the verse.

What would be a personal example (or two) of the benefits you have derived from your slavery to God?

We learned in verse 19 that righteousness results in what?

Here we see that sanctification results in what? Is Paul saying that you cannot have one without the other?

Does this verse raise any unanswered questions?

Try to write out the verses from memory:

6:23 - Write out the verse:

We come at last to the final – and probably most quoted – verse in this chapter. Is this verse addressed to the unbeliever or the believer?

Why does the verse begin with “for”?

Is there any such thing as a believer who is a slave to sin as a way of life? Why, or why not, according to this verse? (see also 1 John 5:18)

What is the real difference between wages and a gift?

Paul uses the word free. Aren't all gifts free? Why, then, does he use the word free?

What is God's gift to you?

What could you – or anyone – ever do to earn eternal life?

If you can do nothing to *earn* eternal life, what can you do to lose it?

We see here that eternal life comes wrapped in a certain package. What, or rather who, is it? (see also 1 John 5:11-13)

Is it, therefore, possible for anyone to experience eternal life apart from Jesus Christ?

Paul refers to Jesus as “Christ Jesus our Lord.” Why do you suppose he uses all three names?

Does this verse raise any unanswered questions?

Try to write out the verse from memory:

SUMMARY

Take a few minutes to review the study and write down what you've learned.

The doctrines we hold – and *truly* believe – are always the wellspring of our behavior. What changes in your behavior are you experiencing as a result of saturating your mind in the truths of this magnificent chapter?

APPENDIX

The quotes included in this study were taken from the following books, all of which are well worth reading in their entirety.

Hendriksen, William, *New Testament Commentary – Romans*

Nee, Watchman, *The Normal Christian Life*

Stanford, Miles J., *Principles of Spiritual Growth*

Stanford, Miles J., *The Green Letters*

Swindoll, Charles, *The Grace Awakening*

