Welcome to “Learning and Living the God-centered life”

Carmel Baptist Church
www.learningandlivingtheword.com

May 30, 2010
Hope to see you tomorrow as we learn and live the God-centered life.

**Twitter Account**

Sign up for our community newsletter

May 29, 2010

Each week I try to send out encouraging notes to the leadership team in regard to Bible reading, Bible devotion and Bible study. Until recently I did not know the best way to make this available to the class at large. We now have a way for you to sign up and the newsletter can be sent directly to your email address. This is a way that we can “dig deeper” during the week in regard to the Bible reading plan or some doctrine that we are discussing on Sunday.

If you are interested I have outlined the steps for you to take. Just click on this LINK.
Bible Reading Plan
Week 36

Sun (2 Timothy 3-4)

Mon (Numbers 13-16)

Tue (1 Chronicles 20-24)

Wed (Psalms 105-107)

Thurs (Proverbs 22)

Fri (Joel)

Sat (John 13-15)

Audio click this LINK

SIGN UP FOR NEWSLETTER

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Learning and Living the God-centered Life
"one Biblical doctrine at a time"

What are you a slave to?
Sunday we will continue in Romans Chapter 6. In our ongoing study in the doctrine of salvation the theme this week will be; who are you a slave to? The apostle Paul writes that everyone is either a slave to sin or a slave to righteousness. One leads to eternal death and the other to eternal life. Romans 6 is divided into two main sections and for the first 6 weeks we have taken an in depth look at Romans 6:1-14. The theme for previous weeks has been "dead to sin and alive to Christ." Join us this Sunday in our ongoing study of Romans Chapter 6.

This past week
In the month of May we had a question and answer session each Tuesday night from 7 to 8:30 PM.

Q & A
- Week #1 - Jim and Patti Duckworth
- Week #2 - Danny and Rhonda Rhino
- Week #3 - Allan and Bonnie Cleveland
- Week #4 - Bert and Nancy Brimberry

This was a time to discuss specifics topics from the Bible and also to have fellowship that was up close and personal. Several people commented that this format needs to continue as we come back for the fall.

Hopefully we can have this as one of our main agenda items when the leadership team meets for our 2010 and 2011 planning session.

It is wonderful to see God's people getting back to God's word so that Christ can be glorified in us as we are satisfied in Him!
Dr. Bruce Ware welcomes invitation to be retreat speaker

May/26/2010

I am thrilled to announce that we have secured Dr. Bruce Ware to be our retreat speaker in 2011. It is no secret that Bruce is one of my favorite living theologians and his teachings on the doctrine of God have been invaluable to the 21st century church. Nancy and I feel blessed to call Bruce and Jodi friends and I can tell you this, you are in for a real treat. In the coming months the leadership team will meet and start to work out the details as to time and place. Also I will be providing more information about Bruce, his family, background, and hobbies. I think you will enjoy getting to know him from a distance before you meet him at the retreat.

Here is a short bio.

**Educational Background:**
A.S. Judson Baptist College, 1973  
Certif. Capernwray Bible School, 1974  
B.A. Whitworth College, 1975  
M.Div. Western Conservative Baptist Seminary, 1978  
Th.M. Western Conservative Baptist Seminary, 1980

**Current Profession:**  
Professor of Christian Theology

**Books Published:**  
Perspectives on the Doctrine of God: 4 Views (Editor)  
Broadman & Holman - 2007
Indicatives in Romans 6:15-23

Rom 6:15  ...en? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? ...
Rom 6:16  Do you not know that if you present yourselves to...
Rom 6:16  Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedie...
Rom 6:16  ... anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obe...
Rom 6:16  ...re slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to dea...
Rom 6:17  But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become...
Rom 6:17  ...ce slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of...
Rom 6:17  ...rd of teaching to which you were committed, slaves of righteousness.
Rom 6:18  ...et free from sin, have become slaves of...
Rom 6:19  I am speaking in human terms, because of you...
Rom 6:19  ...itations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to imp...
Rom 6:20  For when you were slaves of sin, you were...
Rom 6:20  ...hen you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness.
Rom 6:21  But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of w...
Rom 6:21  ... the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is d...
Rom 6:22  ...ome slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its en...
Indicatives in Romans 6:15-23

Rom 6:15  What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means!
Rom 6:16  Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, ... present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, ...
Rom 6:16  ...t yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are obedient to the standard of teaching to which you were committed,
Rom 6:17  ...ou who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.
Rom 6:18  ...e of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness.
Rom 6:19  I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness.
Rom 6:20  For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness.
Rom 6:20  For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness.
Rom 6:21  But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death.
Rom 6:21  ...t that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death.
Rom 6:22  ...and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life.
The indicatives in Romans 6:16

Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?

Paul is using the indicative mood because he wants us to understand that these facts are true. Therefore it doesn’t matter how we feel because this is true regardless of our feelings or our experiences.
I am speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness, resulting in further lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Just the facts</th>
<th>Indicatives</th>
<th>Imperatives</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rom. 6:15-23</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Romans 6</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romans 1-6</td>
<td>239</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Believing then</td>
<td>Root</td>
<td>Fruit</td>
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Understanding Romans 6:15-23

Romans Chapter 6 can be divided into two main sections:
➤ Romans 6:1-14 - new person in Christ
➤ Romans 6:15-23 freed from sin and enslaved to righteousness

Paul states the problem in verse 1 that if salvation is really by grace and you get a hold of this fact then people will just sin freely with no restraints.

Remember in order to properly interpret we must learn to stand their language community.
Imagine how an orthodox Jew who had been raised up to love the law would have responded to the apostle Paul's message of grace. They were so diligent about the law that they even went out to the garden in order to tithe the mint and cumin.

We can observe two primary distortions to what Paul was teaching;

1. **the legalist** - they object that someone could live a life of sin and then get saved when they weren't even moving in God's direction. Because the legalist is always doing their deeds with the hope of getting the love and approval of God. Here we have an objection to the teaching of grace that is truly free and undeserved.

Example: Our generation and above are wired legalists. We must do in order to get approval.
We can observe two primary distortions to what Paul was teaching;

2. the lawless - they pervert the grace of God in believing a once saved always saved and now can live however they want because it is all covered by the grace of God through Christ.

And once you start to mention the imperatives of obedience then this group immediately starts to call you a legalist.
Look at the pattern that the apostle Paul puts forth both in Romans 6:1-14 and 6:15-23

- Question
- Answer
- Reason
- Explanation

Side note: In Romans 6:15-23 there is one imperative but there are 16 indicatives!

Paul answer is that it is impossible for the Christian to continue in sin because there has occurred a miraculous work in their life. (the doctrine of regeneration)
Question

Rom. 6:15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace?

Answer

Rom. 6:15 May it never be!

Reason

Rom. 6:16 Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?

Explanation

Rom. 6:17-23
Definition of regeneration

Regeneration is a secret act of God in which He imparts new spiritual life to a person.

This is the same thing as conversion or being born again
And the key phrase that we focused on in Romans 6:1-10 was “dead to sin.”

When Paul says "dead to sin" many Christians believe that he is saying that we aren't affected by sin anymore.

So when the Christian gets down to verse 11 they think Paul is saying to pretend that they are dead to sin, even though you know you are not.
So what does Paul mean when he says the Christian is dead to sin? Paul is not saying that sin doesn't impact, tempt, hassle or effect us in the Christian life.

Paul is also going to say that not only have we died to sin but we have died to the law. So this is a parallel thought that we need to understand.

**Turn to Romans 7:4** Therefore, my brethren, you also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ, so that you might be joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God.

**Turn to Galatians 2:19** “For through the Law I died to the Law, so that I might live to God.
Galatians 6:14 But may it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. Therefore we are dead to the world.

Notice the pattern in these verses of how Paul writes about this truth. The Christian is as follows;
- Dead to sin
- Dead to the law
- Dead to the world

The apostle Paul tells us how this is truth about the Christian in Romans 6:10 For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.
So that ought to promote the following questions in us as we read this text:

How did Christ die to sin when He never was a sinner?
How did Christ live to God when He never died to God?

What do the terms die to and live to mean?

Christ died to sin in a physical way when He passed out of this world where sin reigns and passed into the heavenly realm and now lives to God.

Died to means passing out from the realm of
Lived to means passing into the realm of

Then in Romans 6:11 we have the connector "even so"
And the question for us is even so what?
The Christian is to consider themselves dead to sin in the same way that Christ died to sin.

Dead to sin for a Christian means as follows; We have passed out of the realm where sin reigns and the realm we have passed into is the realm in which grace reigns

In the other realm sin is my master and I have no choice other than to do what it tells me to do, it has me enslaved.

In this realm now grace reigns and grace assures me of the fact that sin is defeated and that I am going to be transformed into the image of Christ.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>In Adam sin reigns</th>
<th>In Christ grace reigns</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sin, the realm of Adam</td>
<td>Righteousness, the realm of Christ</td>
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<td>Condemnation in Adam</td>
<td>Justification in Christ</td>
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<td>Death in Adam</td>
<td>Life in Christ</td>
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<td>In Adam, the realm of bondage</td>
<td>In Christ, the realm of freedom</td>
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<tr>
<td>In Adam Sin, condemnation and death</td>
<td>In Christ Grace, righteousness and life</td>
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<td>In Adam, all are under sin</td>
<td>In Christ, all are under grace</td>
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<tr>
<td>In Adam, slaves to sin</td>
<td>In Christ, slaves to righteousness</td>
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<td>In Adam death reigns</td>
<td>In Christ we reign in life</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flesh in the realm of Adam</td>
<td>Spirit in the realm of Christ</td>
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<td>Adam in the world</td>
<td>Christ in the heavenly places</td>
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<td>The kingdom of darkness</td>
<td>The kingdom of light</td>
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A person is in one of the two realms, they cannot reside in both

A Christian will have a sinful event in life and say "well I got in my flesh"
That is a Biblical impossibility because the word of God says that you are in the Spirit and no longer in the flesh. You can't get in the flesh anymore than you can get temporarily unregenerate.

It is possible for you to act in a fleshly way but you no longer can get in the flesh because a Christian is now in the Spirit

Romans 6:11 means that we as Christians are to count upon the fact that we are no longer under the reign of sin but now we are alive to God.
So here is the question from verse 1
How is it possible once a Christian has passed from the realm of being under the reign of sin and now under the realm of grace to go on living in sin?

How is it possible that a Christian who has the power of the resurrected Jesus living inside of them to going on living like a child of the devil?

Paul's answer to the two questions above is that for the Christian it is impossible to live in this manner because they are now in union with Christ and they are a new person living in a new realm.
Romans 6:15 - The apostle Paul begins this verse by repeating the problem
Look again at the pattern of Paul's writing

**Question** - *What then*

**Answer** - *May it never be*

**Reason** - *you are either a slave of sin that leads to death, or a slave to righteousness that leads to life*

**Explanation** - *the rest of the chapter*

In verse 1 Paul asks about continuing in sin that grace might increase - so this has to do with grace
In verse 15 Paul asks should we continue in sin because we are no longer under law but grace
We need to understand that we have passed from the realm of the law to the realm of grace. The law is no longer hanging over the head of a Christian telling him not to do what he wants to do.

So the twisted or distorted conclusion is this - well if we are no longer under the law then we can sin freely because grace will take care of it.

Paul restates a very similar problem that he stated in verse 1 with a bit of a variation.

The objector says why not go on sinning if we are not under the law but under grace.
And Paul answers that the proof of the realm which you are living in is proportionate to who you are obeying and he gives one of two possibilities. Either a person is the slave of sin or the slave of righteousness.

If you are continuing to be enslaved to sin then you are back under the law and sin is your master. The law is no longer hanging over us tell us to do the things that we hate.

But now the law has been written on our hearts giving us the desire to do the things that are right.

We move from duty to delight!
2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

Do you see the passing from the realm of the old into the realm of the new

Turn to Luke 16:13, and then to Luke 18:24-27 (seed of truth in the gospels and the flower in the epistles)

No man can serve two masters either a man is enslaved to sin or a man is enslaved to God.

It doesn't matter what you say but rather it matters how you live
Notice the wording in Romans 6:16

Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?

The first half is easy to understand and straightforward which says if a person is a slave to sin that results in death but in the second half he says that if a person is a slave to obedience you might think he would say that results in life.
Now why doesn't Paul keep the parallel consistent?

Because he knows that if he says obedience leads to life that would be salvation by works.

It is not our obedience that causes our eternal life.

And we are going to see this at the conclusion of Romans 6:23, that eternal life is a gift of God.
So he says that as we bring our lives into conformity to God's word and obey we are becoming more and more righteous.

This has to do with an *imparting of righteous* which we call sanctification, not a declaration of the righteousness of a Christian which occurs when we are justified by faith.
Paul starts Romans 6:17 with the word "But" because he knows that these he writing to in Romans have now become Christians and are no longer a slave to sin. Notice and this is very important for all Christians slavery to sin is a thing of the past.

Jesus Himself said in
John 8:34 ¶ Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin.
John 8:35 “The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son does remain forever.

And then Jesus goes on to say
John 8:36 “So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.
Martyn Lloyd Jones starts to talk here about the great change of which Christians have undergone, passing from the realm of slavery to one master now to slavery of another master.

These masters are totally different and when a person moves from one master to the other one you can tell a difference in their life. This is a real change.

To become a Christian is nothing less than the old man or the person that you were in Adam actually died and was buried.

To become a Christian is nothing less than to be raised from the dead as a totally new creature and it is a new birth.
In Romans 6:17 when Paul talks about obedient from the heart he is talking about mind, will and emotions.

Paul is dealing with true conversion:
➢ The mind is constantly being taught the truth of God's word
➢ The emotions are constantly being affected for the things of God
➢ The will conforms itself in obedience to the very word of God

True teaching and true conversion deals with the whole man

But false teaching and false conversion deals with one or two aspects of conversion but not all of them.
Illustration of the mind, the emotion and the will
There is an intellectual interest in the doctrines of Christianity but it can be void of the emotion and passion for the things of Christ and no obedience via the will to the word of Christ (Matthew 7:21)
When there is all truth and no emotion people just show up.

On the other hand you can have whole churches built around the emotions and having a spiritual rush every time the people get together. (Romans 10:1-2)

And the people say we don't want any of that doctrine stuff. When there is emotion and no truth people tend to blow up.
Then you can have churches that are involved in feeding the poor, going to take care of the homeless, ministering to the shut ins, helping all those who are widows by painting the houses and mowing the lawns.

In these cases there is call to obey but no truth or emotion. This is called the social gospel.
When a person becomes a Christian then the whole person is renewed which includes:

- the mind (Ephesians 4:17-18, John 8:31-32, John 6:45)
- the emotions (1 Peter 1:8)
- the will - (Luke 15:18) I will get up and go to my father, and will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight; (the prodigal son)

A person can not understand the truth of God’s word and feel affection for Christ and stay where they are.

If the truth of the gospel is not changing your life then though you know the facts to be true, this is not true for you.

Parable in Matthew 7:24-27
Matthew 21:28-31 Parable of the two sons - one says I will go but doesn't and one who says I will not go but does, which one did the will of the father? It doesn't matter how much you say things like I went forward, or I signed the card, I raised my hand, I joined the church, I got baptized

It is the fruit that bears evidence of the root.

Is there evidence?
Is there obedience?
Is there transformation?

The imperatives are the results of our salvation not the means of our salvation.