

# Romans 6

*In the last three chapters we have seen the righteousness of God that comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. Paul focused on our crucial need for and God's provision of justification by faith through grace. And now in Romans 6, the apostle Paul helps us compare our former condition with our present condition. He encourages us to continue being set apart for God's service. This is known as sanctification of the believer.*

## Observation

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1. In Romans 5 Paul ended by stating that as sin increased more and more, God's grace also increased even more. Which led some to ask an unusual question. What was the question posed in Romans 6:1?
2. Very quickly Paul answers this question with a hearty, "by no means!" What does Paul state is the truth of our condition as a true follower of Christ?
3. In verses 3-7 the condition of a true follower of Christ is clearly laid out. As a believer we have been changed. What does Paul want us to know about the change that occurs at salvation?

Dig Deeper: Look up the word "baptized" from verse 3 and "crucified" from verse 6, and write out their definition.

4. Verses 3-7 declared such truly good news, but verses 8-11 point us to even better news. There is a difference between possessing eternal life, which all Christians have, and possessing the abundant life the Lord longs for us to experience. What is the truth about us if we are a true follower of Christ?

Would you say you view yourself in this light?

5. Romans 6:12-14 begins with the word "therefore." Anytime we see that word, we should look back to see what the author was talking about previously. Briefly sum up the truth we have seen and the effect this should have on every believer.

Dig Deeper: Define the word "offer" seen in verse 13. Rewrite the verse by inserting the definition in place of the word.

6. Paul states that we were slaves to sin, captives under the power of sin—born sinners. But now we have a choice. What are the two choices faced by believers every day?
7. How does Paul describe us in verse 18, after salvation? This truth must become crystal clear if we are going to live the abundant life God has planned for his children.

8. Fill in the chart below.

	Romans 6:19-21	Romans 6:22
Previous condition		
Believer's condition		
Result/Benefit		

9. Romans 6:23 is one of those verses that we would do well to memorize. Work on it this week in order to be able to quote it in your small group time.

10. Paul speaks of "wages." Why and when does a person receive wages?

Dig Deeper: Define the word "wages."

11. Paul talks about the "gift of God" in Romans 6:23. What is the gift Paul is referring to here?

## Application

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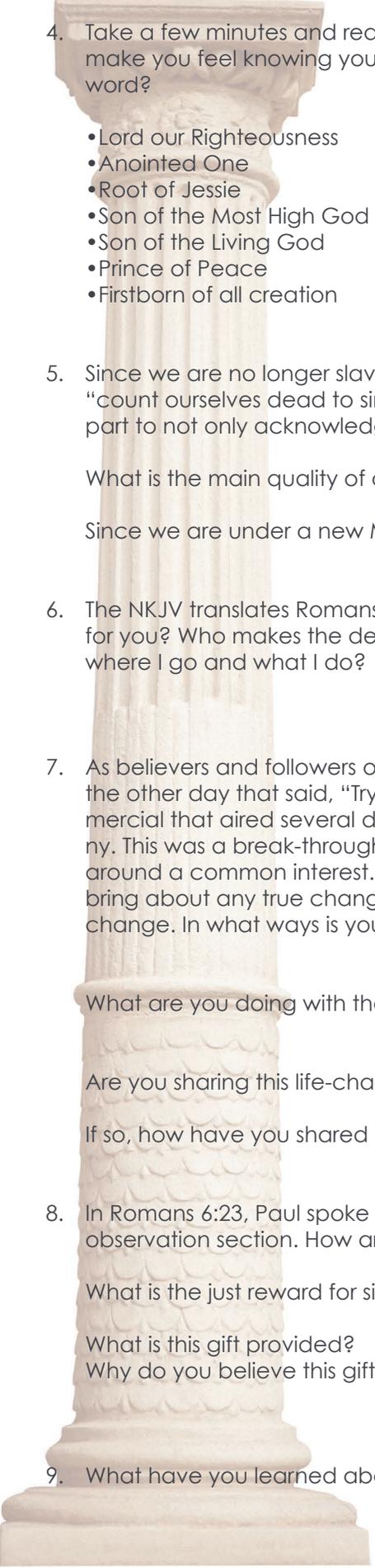
1. In verse 2 we read that if we are a believer, we have died to sin. The reasoning would be that if we are dead, we can no longer respond as we did before. I certainly don't want to sound crass or unfeeling, but even if you cooked a person's favorite food and brought it to the funeral home, would a corpse be tempted to get up? What if they were a music lover and you had their favorite song playing, would they sing along? What entices a dead person?

As a follower of Christ is this your response to sin?

Are you living in such a way that displays this freedom to others?

2. Paul talked about those of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus. You may have looked up the word "baptized" in Observation question 3. This baptism produces a change. We are not only dead to our old way of life, living under the power of sin, but we are changed to live a new life in Christ. The King James Version translates this as, "walk in newness of life." What are some changes you have seen in your life since becoming a Christ follower?

3. The phrase "united with him" is translated from the Greek word "sumphutos." Depending upon the Bible version you are using "sumphutos" may be translated as grafted into, planted together, united with, grown in union, to become one with. It is a word that only appears one time in the New Testament. In what way does knowing the promise in Romans 6:5 enable us to grow in grace?



4. Take a few minutes and read the list of names given to Jesus in the New Testament. How does this make you feel knowing you are planted together with Christ? Can you summarize your feeling in one word?

- Lord our Righteousness
- Anointed One
- Root of Jesse
- Son of the Most High God
- Son of the Living God
- Prince of Peace
- Firstborn of all creation

- Good Shepherd
- Immanuel
- Lamb of God
- Word of Life
- Faithful and True
- Image of the invisible God
- Firstborn from the dead

- Overseer
- Lion of the Tribe of Judah
- Head of the Church
- Savior of the world
- Author and Perfecter of our Faith

5. Since we are no longer slaves to sin, and sin no longer has mastery over us, believers are instructed to “count ourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.” This will take a conscious effort on our part to not only acknowledge this but to respond accordingly. Who is our new master?

What is the main quality of a good servant?

Since we are under a new Master, what will living for him look like?

6. The NKJV translates Romans 6:12-14 as, “do not let sin reign in your mortal body.” What does this mean for you? Who makes the decisions concerning what you think, do and say as a believer? Who decides where I go and what I do?

7. As believers and followers of Christ, our lives have been dramatically altered. I read an advertisement the other day that said, “Try this, and it will change your life.” It reminded me of the Coca Cola commercial that aired several decades ago, that wanted to teach the world to sing in perfect harmony. This was a break-through commercial because of the cultural diversity and the feeling of uniting around a common interest. It is laughable to think that a caramel-flavored, sugar water could really bring about any true change. But the gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ, offers just that—true life change. In what ways is your faith affecting those around you?

What are you doing with the gift of forgiveness and redemption that has been given to you?

Are you sharing this life-changing, good news with others?

If so, how have you shared it lately?

8. In Romans 6:23, Paul spoke of the wages of sin and the gift of God. We looked at these in detail in the observation section. How are these wages accrued?

What is the just reward for sin?

What is this gift provided?

Why do you believe this gift is considered amazing?

9. What have you learned about God and his character in this chapter?

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10. How might you title or summarize Romans chapter 6 in order to remember it better?
  11. In your own words, how do you define God's grace to us?
  12. The life of faith we have been called to as a believer comes with an inescapable tension. Read 1 John 2:15-17 and how the world around us tries to awaken the sinful cravings of the flesh. Paul has spent a great amount of time trying to warn the reader to not let this happen. Go back one more time and read Romans 6 and circle every encouragement to live with a fixed focus on things of eternal value. If our sin nature will never go away this side of heaven, what can be done to restrain it?

## Extra Verses

◆ 1 John 2:15-17

*Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. 16 For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. 17 The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.*