

A Word from Kathy

These chapters deal with sanctification. This is a big word which simply means: consecrated, holy or set apart from what is common, to be used for God. Salvation is immediate and complete, but sanctification will take a lifetime. Choosing whom we will obey takes a conscious effort on our part. Our flesh cannot be trusted. If we want to be made over into the image of Christ, we must walk in the light of his word. Know truth and walk in it. In John 8:31-32, Jesus said, *"If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."*

Observation

1. Read Romans 6:1-14; fill in the blanks below. What does Paul want to tell us?
Know _____ Rom. 6:6
Consider _____ Rom. 6:11
Present _____ Rom. 6:13
2. Romans 6:7 declares that we have been _____ from sin's power over us.
3. According to Romans 6:9, 14, in the life of a believer, what no longer has dominion, mastery or control over us?
4. Romans 6:15-16 gives us a very clear mirror to gaze into. Even though we may say that Jesus is the Lord of our life, how do we know who our master is?
5. Write out Romans 6:23 in your own words; make it personal for you.

6. In Romans 7:2-3, the apostle Paul realizes that many of his Jewish readers are going to have some struggles with questions concerning the law and how it relates to faith. He attempts to clarify the purpose and the power of the law. Paul uses marriage to illustrate our relationship to the law. What point does Paul make concerning a married woman?

7. Romans 7:21-25 describes a struggle any believer can easily relate to their own life. What is the struggle Paul is describing?

Application

8. We are to consider ourselves dead to sin (Romans 6:11). What can provoke a response from a corpse? What choices do dead bodies make? Can anyone offend a corpse with words or deeds? Can a dead body be tempted in any way? If we are to live the abundant life that God has planned for us, then we must live in the truth he has provided. We are no longer slaves to sin. How will you apply this truth today in order to enjoy all God has for you?

9. When I was much younger, I had a boss who told me what time to arrive at work, what to wear, and what my specific job would be for that day. On any given day he might change his mind and put me to a different task, and I did not question it. He was my boss, he signed my paycheck. But if I went into that business today, I would not have to wear the uniform or do any work at all because he no longer has authority over me. Do you view your sin as an old boss with no authority over you, or are you still jumping when he calls your name?

10. Whose slave are you?

It should not be too hard to answer this; just look back over your checkbook and your calendar for the past month. Like I said at the start of this study guide, salvation is complete the moment we ask Christ into our heart to forgive our sins and make us his own. But sanctification is a lifelong process of turning over complete control of our heart and lives.

11. If you are a child of God, then you did at one time present yourself to him to be the Lord and Master of your life. Just as we were born only once physically, we need to be born spiritually only once. But we must grow up and gain strength spiritually, just as we do physically. In what areas can you look back to this time last year and see real growth in your spiritual life? It may seem like we are going over the same thing over and over, but it is because of the importance of this truth and the freedom it can bring.

Matthew 6:24 "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other."

12. Because of the gift of salvation and the grace extended daily, our life should not be merely adherence to rules, but obedience out of a heart overflowing with gratitude. Our life should be one big thank you for all Christ has done. Would you say that describes your life? In what way does your walk of faith reflect a thankful heart?