

November 1, 2025

The Way

The West Valley End-Time Ministries Newsletter

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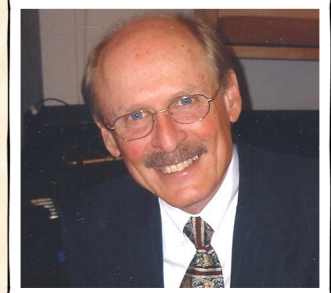
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Romans Chapter 6



Darrell Chilson, Pastor



Jessica Lindsey, Bible Instructor

Join Our Weekly Virtual Bible Study

1 & 2 Peter

Every Saturday 2 PM MST

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The mission of West Valley Ministries is to help Christ's followers recognize the signs of His approaching return and be prepared for that Great Day

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"We are living in the season of Christ's return."



Bible Study

1 Peter 1

Greetings to the Elect Pilgrims

1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To God's elect, exiles scattered throughout the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, **2** who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance.

A Heavenly Inheritance

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **4** and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, **5** who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. **6** In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. **7** These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith--of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire--may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. **8** Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, **9** for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls. **10** Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, **11** trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of the Messiah and the glories that would follow. **12** It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.

Living Before God Our Father

13 Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming. **14** As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. **15** But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; **16** for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy." **17** Since you call on a Father who judges each person's work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear. **18** For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, **19** but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. **20** He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. **21** Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

The Enduring Word

22 Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart. **23** For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. **24** For, "All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, **25** but the word of the Lord endures forever." And this is the word that was preached to you.



Honest Questions

Honest Question #1: Is this true or false: Christ's second coming is not literal but spiritual? Doesn't He come to the Christian at baptism or death? How do you support your answer?

Bible Answer:

"For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. ... Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other." Matthew 24:27, 29-31.

"For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord." 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17.

Comments: Do these texts of Scripture suggest a literal, visible, audible return of Christ, or do they tell of a spectacular return of a Redeemer King who is serious about fulfilling His promise to rescue His followers from a world without order and justice – a world controlled by evil?

The second part of the question above suggests that perhaps instead of Jesus "coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory," He comes to people at "baptism" or "death." The Bible does teach the importance of baptism for those who come to Christ in faith, but it nowhere suggests that Jesus come to anyone at the time of baptism or death! According to Scripture, death is an unconscious state in which the dead "sleep in the dust of the earth" until Jesus returns in glory and raised the dead to life to see Him for the first time since death!

"Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth – who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation." John 5:28, 29.

And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt." Daniel 12:2.

Honest Question #2: How does freewill/power of choice help a Christian?

Bible Answer:

"See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore, **choose life**, that both you and your descendants may live." Deuteronomy 30:15, 19.



Honest Questions

Comments: When Joshua replaced Moses after his death as the leader of the children of Israel, He called upon Israel to “choose” who they would serve – the God who brought them out of Egyptian bondage to the promised land of Canaan, or the gods of their fathers, or those of the people whose lands they had taken in conquest. Joshua gave them a choice, just as God has always given His creation the power of choice as to whom they would serve – since the days of Eden!

"And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that [were] on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." Joshua 24:15.

The power of choice is inherent in the very fabric of humanity, created in Eden. It was God’s intention – part of the “image of God” in man. When the freedom of choice is removed by God or man, we become less than human – slaves to others’ choices, robots, without any hope of being more, doing more, creating a future for ourselves – on this earth or in the life to come – for anyone, Christians and non-Christians alike.

But the question asked is, “How does ‘freewill/freedom to choose’ help Christians?” And to the above we must add that “freewill/freedom of choice” precludes the possibility of “predestination” as taught by John Calvin and others. **No one** is predestined to be saved or lost **apart from their own choice!** The Bible says in four New Testament verses that we as followers of Christ have been “**predestined**” to be the recipients of all the blessings of our salvation, granted us in exchange for our faith in Christ.

The Bible also speaks of individuals, like the Pharaoh of Egypt in Moses’ time, whose heart the Lord hardened in his rebellion against God by the pressure God put upon him to bow to His authority. This has been interpreted by some to say that Pharaoh had no choice but to resist God’s demands to let His people leave Egypt. That is not true and cannot be used to indicate that God took away Pharaoh’s “freewill/choice”. Nor can the verse in Malachi where God says, “Jacob I have loved and Esau I have hated” (Malachi 1:2, 3) suggest that Esau had no choice but to reject God’s authority in his life! God lives outside of time, and He experiences with us our lives and choices without sequence and in response to our choices makes His decisions regarding our destinies on the basis of those choices – always! No one has been or will be saved or lost apart from their own free choice – ever!

Honest Question #3 (a composite of two similar questions): How can we say we believe in a loving God and also believe that Christ will come again to punish, destroy and wreak vengeance?

Bible Answer:

"For God so **loved** the world that He **gave** His only begotten **Son**, that whoever believes in Him should not **perish** but have **everlasting life**. For God did not send His Son into the world to **condemn** the world, but that the world through Him might **be saved**." John 3:16, 17.



Honest Questions

Comments: God is a God of love, and the punishment and destruction of evil the Bible speaks of is itself an act of love toward a human race which has suffered torture, suffering, rape, plunder, and gross malignment and injustice for six thousand years at the hands of those who will “perish”! If God were not a God of love, evil would continue, and evil doers would continue to do what they do against the innocent! Further, if God were not a God of love, He would never have sent His Son to suffer and die at the hands of evil men that salvation, redemption, and escape might be bestowed upon the victims of evil.

And as we have seen in the response to “Honest Question #1” above, Jesus will return – and soon – to rescue all who have responded in faith to His love, to take them to a land where there is no more evil, death or suffering, and provide all the blessings of His love for them to enjoy for eternity!

As an aside, the word “wreak” found in the question above suggests that the punishment imposed upon evil doers will be careless, reckless, and without concern for justice. The Bible says, “For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and **WILL THEN REPAY EVERY MAN ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS.**” Matthew 16:27 NASB. These words of Jesus are not careless, reckless words of injustice. Every person “punished” in the judgment gets to determine their own sentence by what he has done in this life! Justice will be a sweet thing for all who have suffered at the hands of Satan and those who have chosen to believe his lies and make evil their master!

Studies In Romans

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO PAUL – A STUDY IN ROMANS

Text and Notes from Our Study of Romans 6

October 29, 2025

Review

In our previous four studies of Romans, chapters 1-5, we have attempted to remove the cloud of darkness that the enemy of our souls has attempted to use to hide the glory of the story of Jesus' saving work for us as presented in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Paul is **the** "apostle" of the Gospel – the one "set apart" by Christ Himself to explain how what Jesus did, as told by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, gives us eternal life the moment we "hear the Word of truth, the gospel of our salvation and place our faith in Christ." Ephesians 1:13. And so, we learned from Paul in the first five chapters of Romans that:

- 1) We are all desperately lost without Christ – condemned to eternal death, and he shows us why we need a Savior – our sin, and even our best attempts to keep the Law of God, condemn us.
- 2) Jesus **was** and **did** all that was necessary to reconcile us to God. We learned what Jesus did to reconcile us to God, offering us His righteousness, His satisfaction of all the demands of the Law upon us. Jesus became our satisfaction ("propitiation").
- 3) Our faith in Him claims what He **was** and **did** for us, and faith alone makes us right with God. Paul uses Abraham as an example of how Christ's righteousness is credited to us, apart from our works and through faith in Christ alone.
- 4) It is because of **our solidarity with Adam by birth** that we are credited with his sin. We were "in him" – "in his loins" when he ate the forbidden fruit, and because of that reality, we were credited, and condemned, for something we didn't do! Seems unfair, doesn't it! Yet this very "divine mechanism" is what justifies our salvation!
- 5) It is because of **our solidarity with Christ by faith** that we are credited with His righteousness – and His death – in all of which we had no part!
- 6) Further, and finally, it is because of **Christ's solidarity with me and you by birth** that He "who knew no sin was made to be sin for us" (2 Corinthians 5:21) – sin in which He had no part! As in Adam, so in Christ!

This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ! Nothing is to be added to this wonderful story to make it complete! **The Gospel is not a platform for anything else to be added!** It is not a gimmick to suggest that justification by faith is merely a starting point for something else more noble – sanctification, "good works", "becoming a portrait of Christ", or the basis upon which some religious organization can impose its idea of how a Christian should live! **The Gospel, justification by faith alone, stands alone as**

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the means by which God declares the sinner who places his faith in Jesus Christ, to be **righteous and “ready” to meet Jesus in the clouds of heaven!** Again, we must summarize The Gospel before proceeding:

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, He literally became a part of our human — my family — literally “flesh of my flesh, bone of my bone.” He became one with me, in the very same way in which I am one with Adam, reaping the consequences of his (Adam’s) sin in which I had no part. Jesus’ incarnation became the basis upon which His life, death, and resurrection would become my very own. Jesus became for us the “second Adam” — offering to us the credit for ALL He was and did!

For 33 years, Jesus lived a perfect life of obedience to all that God requires of humanity. He not only lived a perfect life, He was perfectly righteous in nature, without sin. Then, at the end of His life on earth as my Savior, Jesus endured Gethsemane and Calvary for MY sin/sins. Jesus’ solidarity with me enabled Him to bear my sin/sins, in which He had no part, on the cross AS ME, dying my eternal death, a death He didn’t deserve. He became me at Calvary, bearing my sin, dying my death.

And what follows is what is so amazing! My solidarity with Jesus, through faith alone, now enables me to claim AS MY OWN a righteousness that is not mine, and a perfect life AS MINE that is not mine but which meets every demand of the just Law of God — bringing for me a right standing with God, quite apart from my own efforts, which will withstand the scrutiny of the final judgment! When I, by faith alone, claimed all that Jesus was and did for me, I “passed from death to life”! Nothing can change that for me — not my fallen nature, not my faltering ways, not anything in me can ever separate me from the love and redemption that is in Christ Jesus alone!

All of this is yours too by simply claiming in faith that which Jesus did for you, **as you!** He lived **your life AS YOU**, died **your death AS YOU**, and came forth from the grave in victory over death **AS YOU**. When you claim it all in faith, it becomes yours as certainly as if you had done it! **PERIOD!**

What we have learned in the past four weeks is reiterated numerous times throughout Scripture, and especially in the New Testament. And while the Gospel stands **alone** as the means by which you and I are saved, the Bible also tells us there are **consequences** to such a faith in Jesus Christ. **We now have a new identity!**

Such a faith can be costly, it can be, and has been, opposed by religious organizations that deny the Gospel of Scripture and replace it with their own form of salvation — membership in a particular

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religious organization (Catholic, Adventist, Jehovah's Witness, Mormons, and ultimately all Evangelicals who have abandoned the authority of Scripture for ecumenical unity). During the Protestant Reformation, between 50 and 100 million followers of Christ were martyred by the Roman Catholic Church for their refusal to submit to the doctrines, dogma, and authority of the Church of Rome – doctrines which grossly deny the Gospel! The Bible says that will happen again before Jesus comes!

Such a faith as described above is also the inspiration for living and, if necessary, dying for Christ. Our solidarity with Christ through faith – **our identity with Him in death, burial and resurrection makes us a "new creation."** We are not what we once were any longer. We are Christians. We are followers of our Jesus Christ, and we identify now with that which is good and right. And in Romans chapters 6-8, Paul describes the **effects, the consequences**, of who we now are in Christ, on the lives which we live – not to gain His favor, for that we have "apart from anything that we are or do" – but because, as Paul says, how can we, who are one with Christ, live any longer as if we weren't?!

Romans 6-8 describes the consequences of our faith union/solidarity with Christ – all from the vantage point of a secure standing with God! What follows in the next three chapters of Romans is not part of the Gospel, but the fruit of the Gospel, heard and embraced!

Introduction to Romans 6

Below is the text of Romans 6 which I wish to consolidate into the following points:

- ◆ We were "in **Adam**" **by birth** when he sinned and were condemned because of our **solidarity** with him (and for **our** sins which are the fruit of our sin nature inherited from him).
- ◆ We were "in **Christ**" **by faith** when He lived and died as the second Adam, and are now stand acquitted of our sin and are righteous before God because of our **solidarity** with Him.
- ◆ Christ's **solidarity** with us, through His incarnation in Bethlehem, was that He might "taste death" for us, as us, on Calvary. It was not His sin that took His life, but ours! We were "in Him" on Calvary, and **as us** our sin and guilt were judged, condemned and paid for by His death.
- ◆ The very **solidarity** with Him that resulted in our death with Him, resulted also in our burial with Him and resurrection with Him, all symbolized by our baptism in Him.
 - ◇ "We were buried with Him through baptism into death, that **just as Christ was raised from the dead** by the glory of the Father, **even so we also should walk in newness of life.**" Romans 6:4.
- ◆ Now, because of His death, sin has lost its power over us! **Sin no longer has dominion over us!** Our union with Christ has freed us from the slavery of sin!
 - ◇ "How shall **we** who **died to sin** live any longer in it?" Romans 6:2.
 - ◇ "**Our old man was crucified with Him**, that the body of sin might be done away with, **that we should no longer be slaves of sin. For when we died with Christ, we were set free from the power of sin.**" Romans 6:6, 7.

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- ◇ **“Sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.”** Romans 6:14.
- ◆ And by virtue of our resurrection with Christ, our life in Him will reflect the newness of life we have in Him. Paul says,
 - ◇ **“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”** 2 Corinthians 5:17.
 - ◇ **“Just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection.** Romans 6:4, 5.
 - ◇ **“Likewise, you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Therefore, do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.”** Romans 6:11-13.
 - ◇ **“Having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness.”** Romans 6:22.
- ◆ The Gospel frees us to become more than we have been, to identify with good, to strive to live as the people we are in Christ – and without fear of rejection by God in our failings to do so – for we now live, and “fail” at times, under the canopy of His grace!

The Text of Romans 6

Romans 6

1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 Certainly not! **How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?** 3 Or do you not know that **as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?** 4 Therefore **we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.** 5 For if we have been **united together in the likeness of His death,** certainly **we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection,** 6 knowing this, that **our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.** 7 For he who has died has been freed from sin. 8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, 9 knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. 10 For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. 11 Likewise you also, **reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.** 12 Therefore **do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey its lusts.** 13 And **do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of**



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under grace. 15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not! **16** Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness? **17** But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. **18** And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. **19** I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness. **20** For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. **21** What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. **22** But now **having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness**, and the end, everlasting life. **23** For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Next: Romans 7 – The **implications** of our faith union/**solidarity** with Christ – all from the vantage point of a secure standing with God!