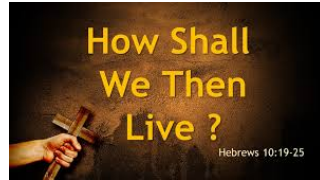


“How Shall We Then Live?”

Part 4: “Discovering FREEDOM in Becoming a ‘Slave’ of Righteousness”

Romans 6:1-23



Introduction: In Romans 1 Paul makes it clear that his authority to speak comes from God, and that Jesus is the fulfillment of the Old Testament Scriptures!

Romans 1:1-6:

The New Testament letters are written to believers.

II Peter 3:9 ... The “*YOU*” toward whom God is being patient are His elect ... ALL of THESE will not perish, but WILL be brought to repentance, for THAT is the Lord’s will!

Romans 6:1: “Are we to continue in sin, that grace may abound?”

Romans 6:2-4:

Paul is calling believers to “walk in newness of life” by the power of the Holy Spirit working within us. He is speaking here about the baptism of the Spirit.

Every true disciple of Jesus is united to Christ by His Spirit, and empowered to live a life of righteousness!

I. True disciples are united to Christ in His death AND in His life!

Romans 6:5-11:

Believers have died and have been raised to life ... spiritually!

The transformation that takes place in every true believer is a radical, inner, spiritual, heart change ... becoming a NEW creation.

II Corinthians 5:17:

No one becomes a new creation except for the work of the Spirit within them, giving them new life.

II Corinthians 13:5:

II Corinthians 10:3-6: “For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but have divine power to destroy strongholds!” (vs. 4).

Galatians 5:16:

II. Believers are no longer under the dominion of the law, but are under grace!

When the Spirit lives within you, your relationship to God’s Law is different because you are no longer under the dominion of the flesh.

Those who have never been born again by the Spirit will at some point fall away.

Matthew 13:18-23:

Romans 6:12-14: “For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law, but under grace” (vs. 14).

If Christ is IN you, sin is no longer your master so that you should obey the desires of the flesh.

Galatians 2:20:

You are no longer under the dominion of sin. The Law cannot condemn you. The guilt and power of sin has been removed from you by the blood of Jesus Christ!

III. Believers are free to pursue righteousness, leading to sanctification!

Romans 6:15-23:

Paul presents the stark contrast between spiritual death and true spiritual life ... produced by the Spirit in true believers (6:4).

“Sanctification” is the progressive working out of becoming more like Christ.

Hebrews 10:14; Philippians 1:6:

Romans 8:23: “We ... who have the first fruits of the Spirit ... wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.”

If you have trusted in Jesus Christ for forgiveness and life, you are set free from the dominion of sin, and are now free to be a “slave” of righteousness!!