

Study in Romans

Doctrine > Good News > Temporal Blessings > Sin Pays with Death, God with Life
Romans 6:15-23

In the first half of chapter six, Paul answers the question of, “Should I sin without restraint so that God’s grace can abound even more?” His emphatic answer—repeated three times—is that if we are indeed in Jesus Christ by faith, then our sinful nature has been crucified with Him and we have died to sin’s reign over us. By association also, we have been raised with Him to live unto God’s reign. However, unlike Jesus, we have not yet received our new bodies. We are to offer the parts of our bodies to God as instruments of righteousness, living no longer to serve the desires of our flesh, but of God.

This second half of chapter six starts with another question, “Well, okay, I don’t live under the rule of sin anymore, but what about occasional sins? Are those still alright?” Paul’s response to that is again strong: No way! His argument here takes a different approach by emphasizing not the death to sin and resurrection to God by association with Jesus, but rather the fruits of obedience to sin or to God as slaves. He appeals to the desire for good results by reminding us of the alternative to obeying God. It wasn’t so good in the old days of living under the control of sin; why would you go back to those things that brought only shame and destruction?

1. Next question: What about the occasional sin? (v. 15a)
2. The principle of slavery: Choose your master by obedience (vv. 15b-19)
3. Why would you choose the results of sin instead of the gift of God? (vv. 20-23)