

In step with Jesus 171

September 28, 2025

Key Text: “And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, (Philippians 2: 8-10)

Introduction

Last week we started reading Romans chapter 6. As a continuation of Paul’s repetitive explanation of the science of Salvation, Paul draws our attention to the true meaning of baptism. He reminds us that our baptism signifies our death to sin, burial with Christ and resurrection into a new life of freedom from sin. As those who have been buried with Jesus Christ in Baptism, we are counted as newborn babies, under the training of the Holy Spirit. We are called to let go of the past sins and habits and embrace our new nature, which allows us to grow in Jesus Christ. Our reading for last week ended with Paul’s charge for us not to allow sin to reign in our bodies, and not to offer ourselves as instruments of sin but to present ourselves to God as instruments of righteousness. Paul assures us that sin does not have any dominion, or authority, or power over us. What that means is that we do not have to yield to sin because God has given us the power to choose righteousness. The Holy Spirit’s continuous appeal to us is that we should take God by His words. He promised that we are no longer under law but under grace, and as such, have been transformed into new persons in Christ. We must believe Him.

Today’s reading is a continuation of Paul’s argument regarding our victory over sin. He continues to emphasize that we cannot continue in sin if truly we have accepted the grace of God. Let us read the remaining verses of Romans Chapter 6 and see if we can gain more insights into God’s plan for our victory over sin and disobedience.

Romans 6:15-23

¹⁵ What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! ¹⁶ Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷ But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the

heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, ¹⁸ and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. ¹⁹ I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.

²⁰ For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹ But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. ²² But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Reflections

As we continue reflecting on the book of Romans. I would like us to keep our minds on the crust of the message. Recall that in the first chapter, Paul had told us the pitiable human condition as a result of sin. Outside of God's grace, we were helplessly under the control of Satan, our enemy, whose intention was to lead us to destroy ourselves. But God commanded His love towards us, and while we were still sinners, under the control of Satan, Jesus Christ died for us. He paid the price for our freedom. Jesus' death delivered us from Satan's captivity and slavery.

In today's reading, Paul continues to call our attention to the freedom we have in Christ and encourages us not to yield ourselves as slaves to sin anymore. Now that we have been saved, we are to yield ourselves as slaves to righteousness. That is interesting because no matter what we do, we will be slaves to something. In everything we do, we are either yielding ourselves as slaves to sin or slaves to righteousness. There is no middle ground. But the good news is that we now have the capacity to choose who we will yield ourselves as slaves to. Paul encourages us to walk in our God-given freedom and yield ourselves as slaves to righteousness. The fruits of sin will only lead to pain, shame and guilt, but the fruit of righteousness will be joy, peace and eternal life. We can safely follow Jesus' example. He had a choice to remain in heaven, but he chose the life of humble obedience and yielded Himself as a servant, even to the point of death. Today He is highly exalted, and all flesh must bow before Him. If we chose obedience, we too would reign with Christ.