

The Sermon Connection

Connecting Sunday's Teaching to Everyday Living

Volume 4 Issue 3



The Sermon Connection is a weekly handout to help you apply Sunday's sermon content to your everyday life. It is designed to give you additional insights and practical tools for applying the teaching throughout the week.

The application, reflection and connection questions may also serve as a springboard for discussion in your small group, your family time, or in one-on-one conversations.

Romans: Be Done With Sin! Romans 6:15 – 7:6 Sermon by Calvin Lamar Brown, Sr. January 21, 2018

Pastor Calvin continued our series in Romans. The Apostle Paul has been describing the change that comes about when someone becomes born again. He continues the discussion that he started in chapter 5. The passage covered today basically teaches that as Christians, we have died to sin and its power or rule over us. It is fair to ask how many of us (Christians) really understand this part of our salvation. It has been said that there are three parts of salvation. The first is that we are saved from the *penalty* of sin (justification). The second is that we are *being* saved from the *power* of sin (sanctification). Finally, we will be saved from the *presence* of sin (glorification). It is the second part, or sanctification that Paul presenting. In the passage that Rick taught on last week, Paul says that we should “count ourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus” (Romans 6:11). Can we really do that?

Before Christ, we had no other choice, really, but to sin. We were bent toward sin and our default was to sin. However, now that we are in Christ, we have a bent toward righteousness and are enabled by the Holy Spirit to act righteously. This is not to say that we won't or can't sin; rather, our ability to live a new life is real and possible in a way that didn't exist when we were without Christ. Calvin's message today was that we have a choice about sin, the choice is clear, and we can make that right choice because we have been freed from sin's rule over us!

We have a choice whether to sin or not now. Previously, we were slaves to sin and were bond and prone to sin. Sin was our default, our obligation, one might say. But now, because we have believed the Gospel and been born again, we are slaves (bond servants) to righteousness. In Romans 12:1 Paul tells us to “offer” ourselves – there is the choice that we face every day regarding sin – are we offering ourselves as living sacrifices. How we do that is seen in Ephesians 5:18: through the power of God's Holy Spirit. We can't do this on our own, but because we have been made alive to God in Christ Jesus, we have His power in our war against sin.

Now, as we look back on our life before Christ, it is clear that sin leads to death. Because our minds are renewed (Romans 12:2), our spirits empowered (Ephesians 5:18), and perspectives more mature, we can clearly see that righteousness is more desirable than sinfulness. Why would we chose something that leads to death over something that leads to life? (6:23)

Finally, we have come to walk in the truth, which leads freedom (John 8:31-32). The truth is that we are free from the obligation of sin and the law. We now have a new master, a new obligation, which is to Christ, grace and righteousness. Sin, death and the law no longer have rule in our lives. We are free, forever (Galatians 5:1).

E-CHECK: Embracing Intimacy With God and Extending Your Grace Story

READING AND REFLECTION:

Read Romans 6. Note that Paul asks two questions and then answers them. What are the questions? Can you craft a concise answer based on the passage?

Read Romans 6:15-18. In his message, Calvin said that we have a choice. What is that choice, and why do we have it? Cross reference Romans 12:1 and Ephesians 5:18 as you consider your answer.

Read Romans 6:19-23. How much clearer could the choice we have be? What are the “benefits” of each choice? Check out Romans 12:2 as well.

Read Romans 7:1-6. Why do you think that Paul uses the example of the marriage relationship in this passage? What is the truth that he is trying to communicate? How does truth impact the believer (John 8:31-32; Galatians 5:1)?

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

Survey your life before becoming a Christian. Consider some of ways you responded to certain situations sinfully. Consider some the choices you made sinfully. Consider some of the sinful relationships you maintained. Consider the impact of those choices.

On the contrary, survey your life since becoming a Christian. Consider some of ways you respond to certain situations different from the past. Consider some the choices you make now. Consider some of the relationships you maintain. Again, consider the impact of those choices. Is there a difference between how you lived before you became a believer and after? Why or why not?

How can you use your past experience to help others? (Perhaps by sharing your grace story, serving others trapped in sin, etc.)

COMMUNITY CONNECTION:

When you meet with your small group, or as a family, read Romans 6:15 – 7:6 and take the time to discuss the following: In verses 18 and 22 Paul says we *have been* set free from sin. Notice the use of the past tense. If we have been set free from sin, why do we continue to sin? Do we have a choice?

KEY POINT:

Be done with sin! Help rescue others!

RESOURCES:

One Year New Testament Bible (available at the information table)

Romans 1-7 For You, Tim Keller (This is an excellent and easy to read commentary on Romans 1-7)

Transformed Into His Likeness, Armand Tiffe