

INTRODUCTION

Every time when we have baptism we will read this passage in Romans 6:1-14. Also, without exception we will reiterate an important truth that baptism does not confer salvation. This ceremony and the water do not have magical power to save a person. Salvation only comes from the cross. Jesus Christ died for our sins and rose again on the third day. Whoever put their trust in Jesus Christ and accept Him as their Savior and Lord will be saved. Therefore, the brothers and sisters who will be baptized today have become Christians the moment they made their decision to accept Christ, whether it happened a few weeks or a few months ago. In this Bible passage, Paul tells us that we are saved by Christ to become His slave. We are never free the way we think we are. The Bible says that before a person knows Christ he is a slave to sins. After a person accepted Christ he becomes a slave of Christ. Because of that Paul tells us that there should be a radical change for Christians as we look at sin.

Paul begins the passage with a rhetorical question in **verse 1**: What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? The logic goes like this: since Christians are now in God's grace, the more sins we commit the greater God's grace would amplify. It is like a young person swipes his credit card casually, thinking that his parents will pay for the balance anyway. The more he spends the richer his parents may look. Paul answers his own question in the **next verse**: By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Paul tells us that in our transition from sinners to righteous people we have died to sin and now alive in Christ. What follows in verse 3 to 14 Paul uses three verbs to further elaborate this important truth why Christians would not and should not continue to live in sins.

EXPLANATION

1. 知道我們在基督裡 Know That We are in Christ

The first verb is “know.” Paul says we have to know that those who have accepted Christ are already in Christ. **Verse 3** reads: Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? The mode of baptism of going into and coming out from the water symbolizes our identification with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection. Therefore, just like Christ rose from the dead and had a new life, Christians also have a new life because we are in Him. Because of our new life in Christ we are no longer slaves to sin. Paul continues in **verse 6**: For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin. Our old self who used to sin has died with Christ. In our spirit we are now a new person. Because of that, Paul tells us that “the body of sin might be done away with.” It means that the power of sin on us has been made ineffective.

2. 看我們是屬基督的 Count Ourselves as of Christ

We have to know that we are in Christ, Paul reminds us that we should also count ourselves as of Christ. He says in **verse 11**: In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in

Christ Jesus. In some English Bible translations the word “count” is rendered “consider.” Therefore, it refers to a sense of self-recognition. Before we know Christ we are slaves of sin. We commit sin uncontrollably. But now when we rely on God’s strength we can resist temptation and not fall in sin anymore. The key is that we have to count ourselves as different. An analogy I can think of is like when a baby learns to walk sometimes he “forgets” that he can stand up and walk because he is so used to crawling. Brothers and sisters we have to constantly remind ourselves that we now belong to Christ. Why keeps beaten up by sins and crawl on the ground when we have been given the strength to stand up and run with Christ?

3. 獻上自己為基督活 Offer Ourselves to Live for Christ

We have to know that we are in Christ, and we have to count ourselves as of Christ. Thirdly, Paul tells us that we should offer ourselves to live for Christ. He says in **verse 13**: Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. The word “offer” means presenting something or someone to be used at another person’s disposal. Before a person becomes a Christian he has no choice but to sin. Now Christ becomes his new Master. From now on, in every life decision a Christian has to make up his mind to serve his new Master. Paul makes it specific that we have to offer the parts of our body to God. For example, we have to offer our hands to God to do righteous things. We have to offer our eyes for righteous purpose. We have to offer our lips to say righteous words. We have to offer our legs to walk righteous paths.

CONCLUSION

Christians, we are now Christ’s slaves. We now live for the glory of God. In this passage Paul tells us that we have to know that we are in Christ. That is the knowledge aspect. We have to count ourselves as of Christ. That has to do with our will. We also have to offer ourselves for Christ. That is our actions. We can live differently because we are now different.