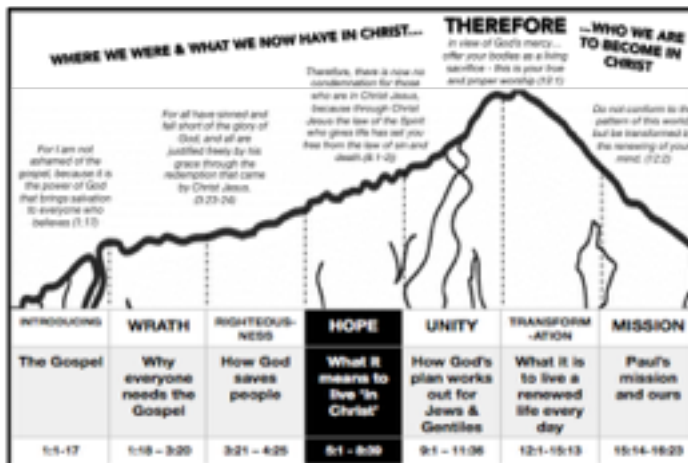


Romans Part 5: When Death Becomes Life

Previously in Romans:

- The gospel is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes
- Everyone needs the gospel - because all (whether Jew or Gentile, religious or rebellious!) have sinned & fallen short of God's standards.
- God's righteousness is available to all through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. His blood has paid the price for our sin.
- We are justified through our faith in Jesus and NOT through anything we do ourselves.



That Which Comes to Man by . . .

Adam	Christ
Sin	Righteousness
Death	Eternal Life
Condemnation	Justification
Disobedience	Obedience
Sin Increased	Grace Abounded
Sin Reigned	Grace Reigned
Death Reigned	Reigning in Life

Chapter 5: 12-21 Death through Adam, Life through Christ...

5:19 For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

Justification: A doctrine between 2 heresies

1. God is holy - so our sins require that we are punished. The gospel tells us that we are more sinful than we ever dared to believe. When we forget this it leads to permissiveness & liberalism.
2. God is love - he is so gracious and in Christ our sins are dealt with. The gospel tells us that we are more accepted in Christ than we ever dared to hope. When we forget this leads to legalism and moralism.

Legalism	Gospel	Liberalism
God is holy	God is holy and love	God is love
Earn your own righteousness	Receive God's perfect righteousness	You don't need perfect righteousness
Matter is bad and we are fallen—be suspicious of or reject physical pleasure (asceticism)	Matter is good yet we are fallen—physical enjoyment is good, but live wisely	Matter is good and we aren't fallen—satisfy your physical appetites
Sin only affects individuals—just do evangelism	Sin affects both individuals and social systems—do both evangelism and social action	Naïve about depth of human sin—just do social action
People can't change / change is easy	People can change, but there are no quick fixes	People don't need to change
Go into guilt—work it off	Go through guilt—rest in Christ	Go away from guilt—convince yourself you're OK
Repent of sins	Repent of sins and self-righteousness	Repent of neither

Romans 6: 1-14 Dead to Sin, Alive in Christ

A. No means no

- God's grace frees us from sin but it is not a license to sin.
- Woman caught in Adultery (John 8).
- Dietrich Bonhoeffer: The Cost of Discipleship 1937: Cheap grace vs Costly grace

"Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline. Communion without confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ."

VS

"Costly grace confronts us as a gracious call to follow Jesus, it comes as a word of forgiveness to the broken spirit and the contrite heart. It is costly because it compels a man to submit to the yoke of Christ and follow him; it is grace because Jesus says: "My yoke is easy and my burden is light.""

Q. SHALL WE CONTINUE IN SIN?
A. MAY IT NEVER BE!

B. Free means free

1. Dead men don't sin

v.2 We are those who have **died** to sin; how can we live in it any longer?

v.7 because anyone who has **died** has been set free from sin.

v.11 In the same way, count yourselves **dead** to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

- Sin still has power but it can no longer force itself on us. It can't dictate our behaviour to us.
- Keller: "While sin remains in me with a lot of strength, it no longer controls my personality and life. It is still able to lead me to disobey God, but now, sinful behaviour goes against my deepest self-understanding."

Distinguished New Testament professor, Charlie Cranfield, wrote:
*the death to sin which Christians are said to have died is, according to Paul, an event which has rendered their continuing in sin as something essentially absurd.*¹³⁹

2: Freed slaves don't take orders from old masters

v.6 For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should **no longer be slaves** to sin—

v.14 For **sin shall no longer be your master**, because you are not under the law, but under grace.

- The only authority our old slave master has is that which we give him...

Making Progress v.11-14

a. STOP (red)

v.12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires.

v.13a Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness

- offer / present = stand beside i.e. don't let any part of your body stand beside sin.
- Don't put on the gloves, don't get in the ring....
- Beware HALT. Hungry, Angry, Lonely, Tired



b. THINK (amber)

v.11 In the same way, **consider** yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

- Re-training our minds
- Loading the correct operating system

c. GO (green)

v.13b but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness.

- Offering ourselves to God means deliberately turning our back on sin.
- Standing beside God
- Practise the presence of God

Reflect:

Where do we need to stop offering ourselves / standing beside sin?

How does our thinking need to change regarding our position between sin & God

How is the Spirit leading us to get closer to God?

What does practising the presence of God mean for us?