

Romans Chapter 6 Preliminaries

This is an overview of Romans chapters 6-8. These chapters are Paul's opus magnum on spirituality, the Christian walk. My plan was to have a single lesson on the overview/introduction to chapter 6. Herman and I had a laugh over that. It is obvious that there will be at least one more lesson on the preparation to study chapters 6-8.

I. What is Spirituality?

Spirituality, the Christian life, is not a system of morality. It is not an "experience" like speaking in tongues. It is not an emotional high. It has to do with the Holy Spirit and what you think. Today's churches have a tendency to emphasize feel good emotion. There have been people put in jail unfairly, suffering, yet spiritual and praying for their captors. There are such stories that came out of the Soviet Union. Spirituality is not about how you "feel" but what you think.

Romans 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

Something we need to keep in mind when studying Romans chapters 6-8 is justification. That is the term Paul uses for what we call salvation. It is complete at the moment we believe. We don't have to prove we are saved by doing good works. We don't lose our salvation if we

Romans Chapter 6 Preliminaries

Romans 6

do something bad. This is eternal security. That is the result of grace, all that God can do on the basis of the cross. Grace.

Grace is not a license to sin. Paul makes that clear in chapter 6. But it is a license to SERVE. And to be blessed in that service.

II. Vocabulary

Before we get into the text of Romans chapter 6, there are some words, vocabulary that we need to review.

A. Sin

In the previous studies on Romans, I have covered Hebrew and Greek vocabulary for sin. Here I want to review the concepts and issues related to sin. Paul has a lot to say about sin.

Sin is anything that goes against the character of God. We see this starting in the Garden of Eden. Just after Adam had eaten of the “forbidden fruit” God approached them observing that they had violated His command. God doesn’t say, “You sinned!” The narrative describes the sin. Paul in Romans chapter 5 repeatedly calls this act sin. It becomes a paradigm for sin. We do something that violates God’s righteousness.

Genesis 3:8 They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves

Romans Chapter 6 Preliminaries
Romans 6

from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

Genesis 3:9 Then the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, “Where are you?”

Genesis 3:10 He said, “I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself.”

Genesis 3:11 And He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?”

Sin is against God. David made this clear.

Psalm 51:4 Against You, You only, I have sinned And done what is evil in Your sight, So that You are justified when You speak And blameless when You judge.

Evil is worship of “gods,” the creation of man and the Devil, which is lack of worship of God. From just a single Greek word we saw this concept: the Greek word *asebia* often translated “ungodly.” We saw this concept in the Hebrew repeatedly in the book of Judges.

Sin is the source of death. Adam’s sin is the first sin and the paradigm.

Romans 5:12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death

Romans Chapter 6 Preliminaries
Romans 6

**through sin, and so death spread to all men,
because all sinned—**

There are some unfortunate misunderstandings about sin. Different groups of Christians understand sin differently. Often this impacts a Biblical understanding of spirituality.

It is not sin that keeps a person out of heaven. Jesus Christ bore the punishment for sin. No person goes to the Lake of Fire because they are “too bad” to get to heaven. A person goes to the Lake of Fire because of lack of faith in Jesus Christ. Faith in Jesus Christ provides the necessary righteousness, God’s righteousness, and everlasting life. This is the issue of the barrier and Jesus’ work on the cross. This has been covered a couple of times this year.

The existence of sin in one’s life does not mean he/she has lost salvation. The issue is the doctrine of eternal security. It looks like I am reviewing this doctrine once a year. It is an important doctrine, essential for the believer to understand.

Some would say that the existence of certain kinds of sin indicates the person was never saved. These people insist on visible works to prove salvation. The Corinthians were called saints and brethren yet they are admonished for their sinfulness. Paul never said they were not saved. Paul never said they had lost their salvation.

Romans Chapter 6 Preliminaries
Romans 6

1 Corinthians 1:2 To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints by calling, with all who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours:

1 Corinthians 1:10 Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment.

1 Corinthians 3:1 And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to infants in Christ.

1 Corinthians 3:2 I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it. Indeed, even now you are not yet able,

1 Corinthians 3:3 for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men?

1 Corinthians 3:4 For when one says, “I am of Paul,” and another, “I am of Apollos,” are you not mere men?

Romans Chapter 6 Preliminaries
Romans 6

1 Corinthians 4:14 I do not write these things to shame you, but to admonish you as my beloved children.

It is obvious by simple observation that the Corinthians were into various kinds of sins. I only cited a couple. But at the same time, Paul calls them by various terms that indicate they are believers.

But be warned. Sin has consequences for the believer. God will discipline a believer that is out of fellowship. The intent is to have a sinner return to fellowship.

Hebrews 12:4 You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin;

Hebrews 12:5 and you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons, “My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, Nor faint when you are reproved by Him;

Hebrews 12:6 For those whom the Lord loves He disciplines, And He scourges every son whom He receives.”

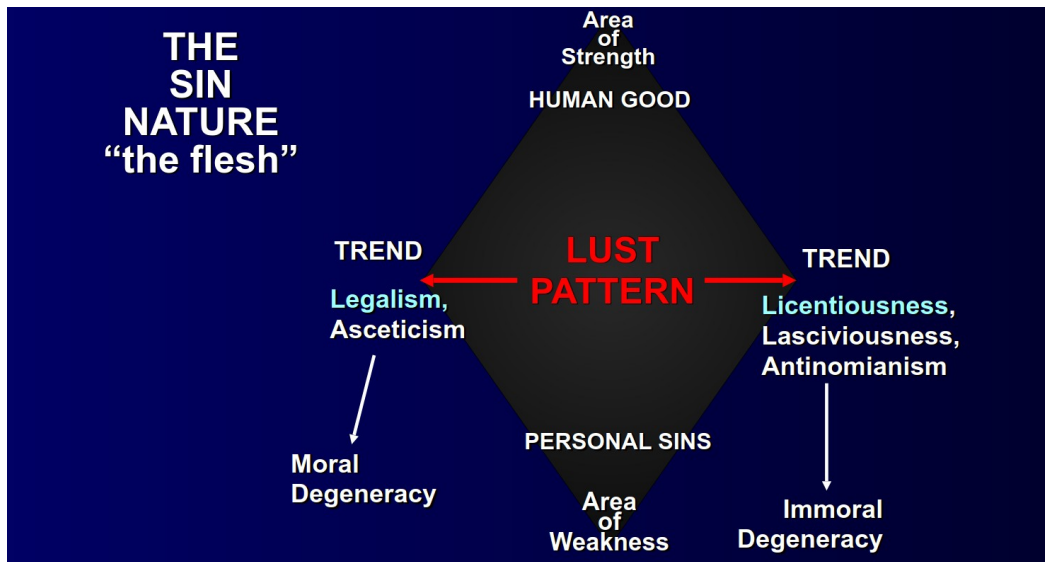
Sin breaks fellowship with God because it is incompatible with God's righteousness.

Some of the problems result because everyone has a different sin nature.

Romans Chapter 6 Preliminaries

Romans 6

We each have an area of strength that produces human good. That is not acceptable to God in the spiritual realm (see Isaiah 64:6). We each have an area of weakness which produces our personal sins. Now some have subtle sins. Those might be “invisible” to observers. Others are very visible. Those whose sins are subtle may judge those that have more visible sins. But all sins takes us out of fellowship with God. But that does not have anything to do with our eternal security, with our justification. At the point of salvation God imputes His righteousness to our account. He then declares us righteous. That is called justification. The chart below is from Robby Dean. His chart is like R. B. Thieme Jr.’s but prettier.



B. Death

Death is the result of sin. But we must understand there are different kinds of death. In Romans, Paul is

Romans Chapter 6 Preliminaries

Romans 6

talking about spiritual death primarily. But there are several other kinds of death.

Romans 5:12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned—

I am going over vocabulary to alert you to discern the meaning of individual words in context. Too many people have a narrow view of death and baptism and other words. You perhaps remember the parable of the three blind men and the elephant. The problem they have is they cannot see the context: the elephant. All they see is an individual piece of the elephant. So too often are Bible commentators. They see a word like baptism and say, “Water baptism!” In Romans chapter 6, it is not water baptism.

Below I have included a doctrine of death by Robby Dean. This is similar to R. B. Thieme Jr.’s teaching on the subject.

The Doctrine of Death (Robby Dean)¹

1. “Physical death is the separation of the immortal, immaterial soul from the mortal, material body (2 Cor. 5:8), which is a consequence of Adam’s original sin (Gen. 3:19). Believers spend eternity in Heaven (John 3:36). Unbelievers spend eternity in the lake of fire (Rev. 20:15).”

¹ <https://www.deanbible.org/dbmfiles/slides/2011-Colossians-053b.pdf>

Romans Chapter 6 Preliminaries

Romans 6

2. “Spiritual death describes the state of separation from God of all mankind at physical birth which is the penalty of Adam’s original sin (Gen. 2:17; Rom. 6:23a, Eph. 2:1). Man is born physically alive but spiritually dead, possessing a sin nature and the imputed sin of Adam (1 Cor. 5:22a; Rom. 5:12)”
3. “Positional death is the believer’s identification at the instant of justification with the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ separating the believer positionally forever from the old manner of life (Rom. 6:1–14; Col. 2:12).”
4. “Carnal or temporal death describes the believer’s temporary loss of fellowship with God which is the result of personal sin (Eph. 5:14) and the influence and control of his soul by the sin nature (Rom. 6:20–21).”
5. “Operational or sanctification death describes any form of Christian service apart from the filling of the Holy Spirit, not only are moral works produced that are “dead” spiritually, but the believer develops a “death-like” life, the opposite of the “abundant” or “eternal (quality, not quantity) life” promised for believers (John 10:10; Rom. 6:23; 1 Tim. 5:6; Heb. 6:1; James 2:26).”
6. “Sexual death describes the loss of sexual and procreational ability (Rom. 4:17, 21; Heb. 11:11, 12).”
7. “Second death is the perpetuation of spiritual death into eternity and eternal separation from God of the unbeliever in the lake of fire at the last judgment (Rev. 2:11).”

Romans Chapter 6 Preliminaries

Romans 6

C. Baptism

In chapter 6, Paul is going to mention baptism. Some, even people I would consider as conservative, see water baptism and not the baptism of the Holy Spirit. There are several kinds of baptism in the Bible. It is crucial that we identify which one Paul is using in his argument. Below is a doctrine of baptism which I have used information from both Robby Dean² and Herman Mattox³. Most of these points were also taught by R. B. Thieme Jr..

Ever since becoming a believer in college, teachers, perhaps influenced by R. B. Thieme Jr., taught that the Greek word *baptizo* literally means to dip or immerse. But the figurative meaning is that of identification. A warrior might dip his sword in blood physically, but he is identifying his sword with blood and death. Success in battle.

There are seven or eight different baptisms in the Bible. I was originally taught there were seven. Robby Dean adds an additional one⁴.

There are four/five real baptisms or identifications in the Bible. The fifth is added by Robby Dean. Real baptisms actually do something. Baptism of Moses involved the cloud and sea. The baptism of fire immerses unbelievers at the end of the Tribulation in fire in preparation for the Lake of Fire judgment. The

2 <https://deanbible.org/dbmfiles/slides/2010-Romans-068b.pdf>

3 <https://www.springvalleybiblechurch.org/Audio/Matthew/notes/2015-05-31-Sunday.pdf> & <https://www.springvalleybiblechurch.org/Audio/1stCorinthians/m3u/201506211stCorinthians160.m3u>

4 <https://deanbible.org/dbmfiles/slides/2010-Romans-068b.pdf>

Romans Chapter 6 Preliminaries
Romans 6

Baptism of the Holy Spirit places a believer in union with Jesus Christ. The water baptism of Jesus was not identifying Him with repentance, but identifying Him with God's plan.

1. Baptism of Moses 1 Corinthians 10:2//Exodus 14

1 Corinthians 10:1 For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea;

1 Corinthians 10:2 and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea;

1 Corinthians 10:3 and all ate the same spiritual food; 4 and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Christ.

1 Corinthians 10:5 Nevertheless, with most of them God was not well-pleased; for they were laid low in the wilderness.

1 Corinthians 10:6 Now these things happened as examples (or "type" from Greek) for us, so that we would not crave evil things as they also craved.

The Corinthians were familiar with the Old Testament Exodus narrative. Paul uses their familiarity with that

Romans Chapter 6 Preliminaries

Romans 6

narrative to draw a type between “baptism” into Moses with baptism into Christ.

Here is what Robby Dean says. “This is symbolic, a type, i.e. a picture in the Old Testament of a spiritual truth or reality, or perhaps a physical reality in the life of Christ, in the New Testament. It foreshadows something in the New Testament. And this is a picture of positional truth.”⁵

2. Baptism of fire. Matthew 3:13-17. This is the judgment of Gentiles and Jews at the end of the Tribulation. Herman covered this in his series on Matthew and again in 1 Corinthians chapter 10. I covered this in my series on Zephaniah.
3. Baptism of the Holy Spirit 1 Corinthians 12:13. Per Herman Mattox: “This is a real baptism, where everyone who believes in Jesus Christ as Savior is identified or put in union with Christ, at the point of faith in Christ. You can never lose the baptism of the HOLY SPIRIT.”⁶ Herman has covered this previously. I will review this at a later date while studying Romans chapter 6.
4. Baptism of the cross upon Jesus Christ was identified with the sins of the world. Matt. 20:22; Mark 10:38–39.
5. Baptism of Noah 1 Peter 3:20–21 (this one was added by Robby Dean).

There are also three ritual baptisms. These are symbolic.

1. Baptism of John with water identified with redemption and Jesus Christ. Matt. 3:1–11
2. Baptism of Jesus Identified Him with the Plan of God Matt. 3:13–17

⁵ <https://deanbibleministries.org/new-testament-menuitem/1-corinthians-menuitem/message/2002-1stcorinthians-051/read>

⁶

Romans Chapter 6 Preliminaries
Romans 6

3. Baptism of believers in Church Age Identified with Jesus Acts 2:38, 41; 8:36–38

Next week, my plan is to present the doctrine of Position in Christ. Paul repeatedly uses the phrase, “In Christ.” This is position in Christ. This is the result of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. This happens at the point of faith in Jesus Christ as savior. As a result of being in Christ, we have been blessed with many things. It is important for your Christian life to understand your position in Christ. Hence, there is a full lesson on just that.