

## Lesson 12 – 6:1-14

There are two parallel thoughts running through these verses simultaneously:

- 1) Our sin must be put to death

**We do not prey on the grace of God.**

We picture sins death. – 2-4a

Our Savior exemplified and commanded baptism. It is a symbolic act of obedience in pursuit of the life God has intended for you. For Christ there was no sinful life to leave, but an obedient life ahead. His baptism has been traditionally regarded as the official beginning of his public ministry. For us, when we are baptized, we are symbolically dying to the old life of sin and are made alive to the new life of obedience to Christ.

We are free because of sins death. – 6-7

Paul used this kind of terminology several times in his letters to the churches. The theology is clear, in our natural condition we are enslaved to sin, incapable of anything other than wickedness. Not that we can't be moral, kind, or even good in society as unregenerates, but as a means of atonement, sanctification, or pacification, we are unable to do anything but sin (Is. 64:6). However, when we become positionally sanctified we are liberated to act righteously. The bonds of sin are gone, and though we may go back to live in sin, it has no claim on us anymore.

We consider our sin to have been put to death. – 11a; 12-13a; 14a

This concept is a struggle for many believers. The fact that sin is slain in our lives, and we are a people of righteousness makes it possible for us to live apart from sin. It isn't easy, and the New Testament teaches that there is a battle that must be fought in order to live righteously, but we ought to live with great personal discipline as a means of demonstrating our faith in Christ.

- 2) Our salvation must be put to life

We live a new life. – 4b

The reality of a new life should be clearly understood. Not that we remember an emotionally charged conversion moment, but that we know our salvation has provided a new life in Christ alone. Here again, baptism is an active demonstration of our determination to live in righteousness, not die in sinfulness. We are a people who are committed to life.

We live with Christ, God's Son. – 5; 8-10

The new life we receive in salvation is based on Christ's atoning death on Calvary, but that isn't the last interaction we have with Him. Our whole salvation experience is progressive with eternal effects and has at its foundation Christ. Spiritual life begins the moment our faith meets God's grace. It builds and matures as we develop our relationship with Him. When we die physically, our souls move into the very presence of God where they await the eventual resurrection of our bodies into our eternal state. We are confident and assured of this because of the resurrection of Christ himself.

We live lives surrendered toward righteousness. – 11b; 13b-14

As people of God, having been freed from the chains that bound us to sin, we must be eager to live in righteousness. It is a life of discipline, self-control, Holy Spirit filling, and eternal perspective. While there is certainly sacrifice, our focus isn't on what we've left, but what we've gained. Our avoidance of sin becomes easier as we remember the blessing and glory of living righteously with Christ.

**We live in the light of the grace of God.**