

March 22-23, 2025

Title: Romans: The Free Gift, Pt 7: “Under the Freedom and Rule of Grace” – Romans 6:12-23

Big Idea: Live under the freedom and rule of grace by presenting yourself and your members to God.

Read Romans 6:12-23.

What in the message stood out to you?

What questions do you have?

1. Believers are under the RULE of GRACE – Romans 6:12-14

The theme of Romans 1-5 is that we are justified by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone and ends with the statement: “Where sin increased, grace increased all the more” (Rom. 5:20). In light of this, should believers “continue in sin that grace may abound?” (Rom. 6:1). Why or why not?

Read Romans 6:10-11. What do you think it means to consider yourself dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus?

Read Romans 6:12-14. What are the commands in these verses? What is the promise?

To be “under law” is to be ruled by commands that are outside of us. To be “under grace” is to be ruled by righteous desires that are inside of us. What is an example from everyday life of being ruled by commands that are outside of us? What is an example of being ruled by desires that are inside of us?

How does being under the rule of grace guarantee that sin will have no ultimate dominion over us? (see Romans 5:5 and Ezekiel 36:25-27 for help in answering).

2. Everyone is RULED by something – Romans 6:15-16

Read Romans 6:15-16. How is Paul’s use of the word “slave” in verse 16 different from how we normally think of slavery?

Paul seems to have in mind a “willing” slavery. In other words, we are slaves to our desires – whether for sin or for righteousness. At any given moment of our lives, we want what we want, and we are not free to want something else at that moment. If this is true, how can our desires be changed?

3. Believers are progressively set free from sin and ruled by righteousness – Romans 6:17-19

Read Romans 6:17-19. What does the phrase “Thanks be to God” tell you about God’s role in changing our desires?

In verse 17, Paul mentions the “standard” or “pattern” of teaching to which we were committed when we became believers. This carries the idea of being formed, molded, and changed. This change begins

right away but does not happen all at once. What are the things God uses to form, mold, and change us over time?

4. God teaches us that freedom from sin and slavery to Him is the gift of life – Romans 6:20-23

Read Romans 6:20-23. Why is the so-called “freedom” of unbelievers not really freedom at all? In what sense are they actually slaves to sin?

John Piper said: “Real freedom is making choices that you won’t regret in 25 years, 50 years, or even 10,000 years.” Do you think this true? Why or why not?

Why will we never regret obedience to God? Why will we always regret disobedience to God?

According to Romans 6:21, where does sin always lead? According to Romans 6:22, where does obedience to God always lead?

What is one area of your life where you are currently struggling to obey God? What is stopping you?

“Next Step” Takeaways – Discuss and pray through the following:

- With God:
 - Put your faith in Jesus and depend solely on His life, death, and resurrection for your salvation.
 - Get baptized as a public testimony of your faith in Jesus and your desire to follow Him.
 - Strive toward daily prayer and personal study of God’s Word to know Him better, trust Him more, and obey Him more fully.
- With Others:
 - Seek to lovingly encourage and spiritually strengthen your family and friends.
 - Seek to regularly participate in the weekend gathering of the body.
 - Seek to participate in smaller groups with fellow members of the body to take your next steps with God, with others, on mission together.
- On Mission:
 - Pursue your God-given role in the body of Christ at Good Shepherd by sacrificially and cheerfully serving with your time, talents, and money in dependence on God.
 - Pray for those God has placed in your life who don’t yet know Him and take the opportunity to share Jesus with them as the Holy Spirit prompts.
 - Seek to be engaged in the Great Commission by regularly praying for our Global Outreach Staff and supporting the work of making disciples of all nations by either going or sending.

Also, consider attending the Pure Desire Conference at Good Shepherd on May 9-10. The purpose of this conference is to equip us as the church of Jesus Christ to help people (both ourselves and others) in the battle for sexual freedom, purity, and healing.