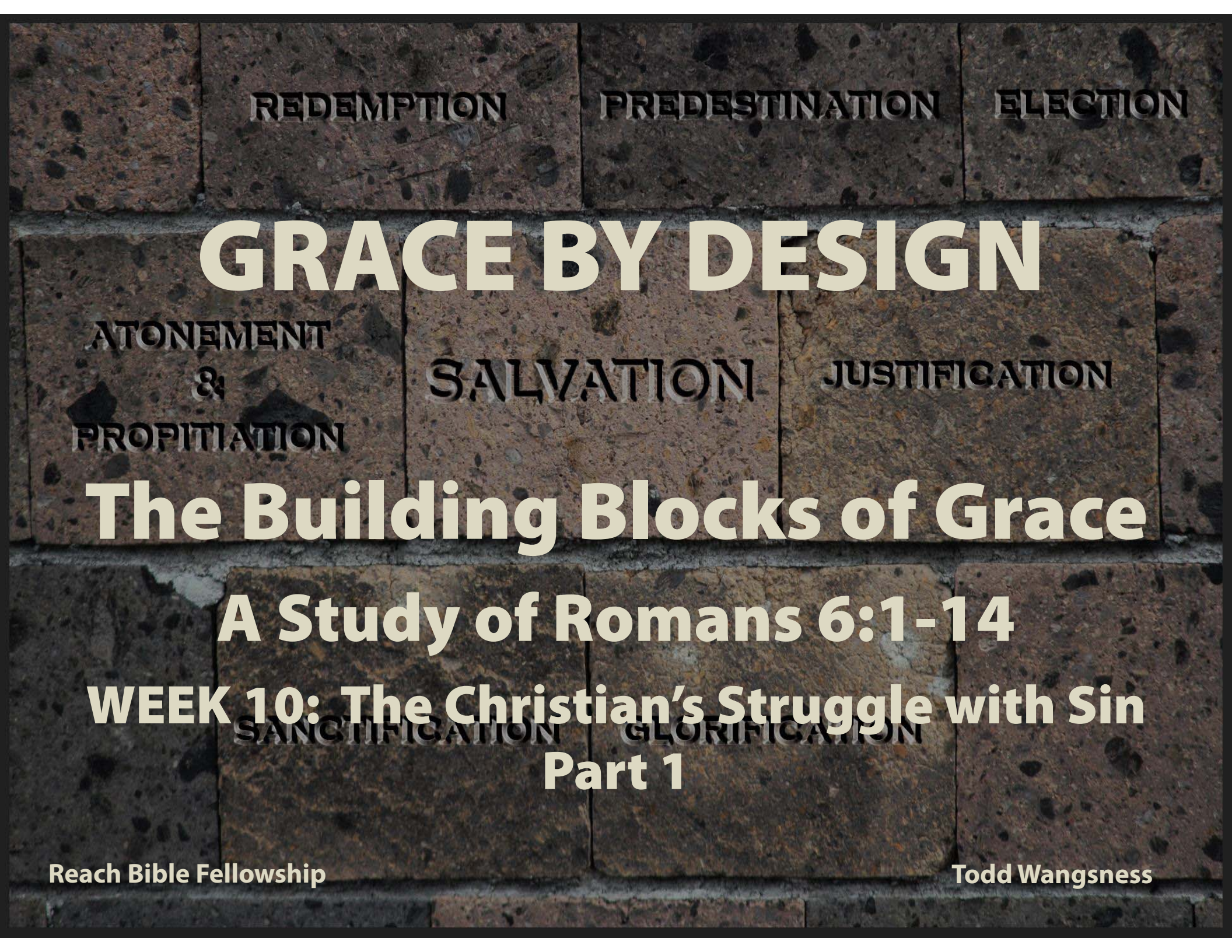


GRACE BY DESIGN

The Building Blocks of Grace

A Study of Romans 6:1-14

WEEK 10: The Christian's Struggle with Sin Part 1

Reach Bible Fellowship

Todd Wangsness

Grace By Design: Study Outline

Week 1:	Romans	Overview of Grace and Salvation
Week 2:	Rom 1:1 – 1:17	Introduction to Romans
Week 3:	Rom 1:18 – 2:16	Justification – Ignorance is not an Excuse
Week 4:	Rom 2:17 – 3:20	Justification – Knowledge isn't Good Enough
Week 5:	Rom. 3:21 – 3:24	Justification – Righteousness of God Revealed 1
Week 6:	Rom. 3:25 – 3:31	Justification – Righteousness of God Revealed 2
Week 7:	Rom. 4:1 – 4:25	Justification – Faith vs the Law
Week 8:	Rom. 5:1 – 5:11	Sanctification – Peace with God 1
Week 9:	Rom. 5:12 – 5:21	Sanctification – Peace with God 2
Week 10:	Rom. 6:1 – 6:14	Sanctification – The Christian's Struggle with Sin 1
Week 11:	Rom. 6:15 – 6:23	Sanctification – The Christian's Struggle with Sin 2
Week 12:	Rom. 7:1 – 7:25	Sanctification – The Law Can't Save (But the Spirit Can!)
Week 13:	Rom. 8:1 – 8:17	Sanctification – Life in the Spirit
Week 14:	Rom. 8:18 – 8:30	Glorification – From Suffering to Glory
Week 15:	Rom. 8:31 – 8:39	Glorification – God's Everlasting Love
Week 16:	Rom. 9:1 – 9:33	Israel's Rejection and God's Purpose
Week 17:	Rom. 10:1 – 10:13	Israel and the Mystery of the Church 1
Week 18:	Rom. 10:14 – 10:21	Israel and the Mystery of the Church 2
Week 19:	Rom. 11:1 – 11:36	The Salvation of the Jewish people
Week 20:	Rom. 12:1 – 12:2	Living the Transformed Life
Week 21:	Rom. 12:3– 12:8	Gifts of the Spirit
Week 22:	Rom. 12:9– 12:21	The Christian Walk
Week 23:	Rom. 13:1 – 13:14	Love Fulfills the Law
Week 24:	Rom. 14:1 – 14:21	Not Judging the Weak in Faith
Week 25:	Rom. 15:1 – 15:25	Bearing One Another's Burdens
Week 26:	Rom. 16:1 – 16:25	Conclusion and closing remarks

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- Theme phrases of Romans 6, 7 and 8
  - "Through Jesus Christ" and "in Jesus Christ"
  - Variations of the above phrases occur more than 10 times in these three chapters

- **KNOWING**: Romans 6:1-10 These verses cover the topic of '<u>knowing</u>' we are crucified with Christ
- **RECKONING**: Romans 6:10-11 These verses cover the topic of '<u>reckoning</u>' we are dead to sin, but alive to Christ Jesus
- **PRESENTING**: Romans 6:12-23 These verses cover the topic of '<u>presenting</u>' all that we are as 'instruments of righteousness' to God
- **WALKING**: Romans 8:1-17 These verses cover the topic of 'walking' in the Spirit to fulfill the will of God in our lives

- This is the progression of the 'Normal Christian Life'

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Notable quotes about Romans 6:1-13

- ***"Sin may live in us, but we do not live in sin; we are dead to it. The believer's life is not a continuation in sin, but a crucifixion of it with Christ. Oh, blessed freedom! The old tyrant may growl and threaten, but his power is gone, for we are dead to his dominion."***
  - **Charles Spurgeon**
- ***"Paul's argument is not that we should die to sin, but that we have died to sin. It is a fact accomplished in Christ, and our task is to reckon it so—to live out the reality of our new identity in Him."***
  - **John Stott**
- ***"Romans 6 is about a new exodus: Just as Israel passed through the Red Sea to escape slavery, so believers, through baptism, pass through death with Christ to escape the slavery of sin and enter the new life of the age to come."***
  - **N. T. Wright**
- ***"The death and resurrection of Christ are not merely historical events to be believed; they are realities in which believers participate through their union with Him. Baptism symbolizes this participation, marking the transition from the old life of sin to the new life of righteousness."***
  - **F. F. Bruce**

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Romans 6

:1-3 ***What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? 3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?***

- **Paul poses and answers the question about whether we can sin with abandon after claiming to be a Christian**
  - **The answer is an unequivocal NO! God forbid! (or perish the thought!)**
  - **We do NOT have license to sin after becoming a Believer**
- **He states the answer in the form of a counter-question … Since we died to sin, how could we possibly continue to live in it?**
- **Paul is teaching that – due to the Believer's union with the Messiah – that continuing in sin is an impossibility, if the Believer is truly saved.**
- **How could a person whose relationship to sin was broken by their dying still be living in (immersed) it?**
- **Three times Paul uses the phrase, "Do you not know" in Romans. The implication is the readers are ignorant, and they should not be!**

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Romans 6:4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

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- **Paul is not saying that water baptism is required. He is actually referring to a baptism by the Spirit that joins the Believer to Christ, separating him from his old life and joining him to the new**
  - ***1 Cor 12:13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.***
- **As we covered last week, we are no longer "in Adam", but are now "in Christ"!**
- **Water baptism is a symbolic portrayal of this truth**
- **Believers are now dead to sin because they are considered 'co-crucified' with Christ**
- **Jesus breaks the power of indwelling sin over us by our union with Him!**

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- When were we crucified with Jesus Christ?
  - At the time of receiving Jesus as your Savior?
  - According to scripture, no
  - If we were crucified with Him, then it happened when Jesus was crucified
  - It is just as grammatically correct to say that Jesus was crucified with us
  - The two robbers who were crucified beside Jesus were also crucified 'with' Him (at the same time)
- The reality of Jesus crucifixion has absolutely nothing to do with whether or not we feel it to be true
  - If you feel it to be true that Jesus died on the cross … Jesus died on the cross
  - If you don't feel it be true … Jesus still died on the cross
  - Likewise, once God declares us as identified with Jesus, we have died with Him on the cross, whether or not we feel it to be true

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:5-7 ***For if we have been <u>united together in the likeness of His death</u>, certainly we also shall be in the <u>likeness of His resurrection</u>, 6 <u>knowing this</u>, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be <u>done away with</u>, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. 7 For <u>he who has died has been freed from sin</u>.***

"For if we have been …" **is more worded more powerfully in the Greek. The Greek can be translated as** ***"In view of the fact we have been…"***

KNOWING

- **Greek: '*ginōskō*' - to learn to know, come to know, get a knowledge of, perceive, feel**
- **Just as we cannot have Justification unless we know that Jesus <u>bore our sins</u> on the cross, we cannot have Sanctification <u>unless/until we see Him bearing US</u> on the cross!**
- **Not only has He borne our sins, but we have been put into Him!**
- **Do you believe in the death of Jesus Christ? Of course you do!**
- **The same scripture that says He died, also says we died with Him!**
  - ***Rom 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, <u>Christ died for us</u>.***

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- **"*Done away with*" - A very key phrase!**
  - **Greek: '*katargeō*' - Unemployed; inoperative; deprived of force, influence and power**
  - **The bible says that our SIN NATURE no longer has command over us!**
  - **Its power over us through Adam's Fall has been broken through Jesus' sacrifice!**
  - **The same Greek word is also used with regards to the Law and its power**
    - ***Rom 7:6 But now we have been delivered from the law, having died to what we were held by, so that we should serve in the newness of the Spirit and not in the oldness of the letter.***
  - **Interestingly, the same word is used about Satan and his power and influence**
    - ***Heb 2:14 Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil***
  - **So … Jesus' sacrifice has put PAID to our Sin Nature, the Law, and Satan!**
    - **The bible states VERY CLEARLY, the authority these taskmasters had over us has been terminated!!!**
  - **Do we believe (have faith) that this is true?**

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:8-9 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, 9 knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. 10 For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.

- **Our Old Man has been crucified. He no longer lives!**
  - ***Gal 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.***
- **It comes down to KNOWING that Jesus died on the cross and that we died WITH HIM!**
- **And, that through His death, we are freed from sin because we are in HIM!**
- **Paul's point is clear…something tangible, dramatic and life-changing happens to the Believer when they are saved!**

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- **The Old Man is the self patterned after Adam, that part of us deeply ingrained with a desire to rebel against God and His commands**
- **God's way of delivering us from sin is entirely different than man's way**
  - **'Religion' teaches us that we should master sin by overcoming it, by becoming stronger and resisting sin more and more as time goes on!**
  - **God's way is to remove the sinner! And He does this by crucifying us with Christ!**
  - **The 'Old Man' cannot be reformed! He must be eradicated!**
- **God gives us a new mind and a new spirit, but we must choose to live in accordance with the Spirit by FAITH!**

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- **So, what is true of our <u>forgiveness from sin</u> is also true of our <u>deliverance from sin</u>!**
- **We must see in our spirit that not only did He forgive us … <u>He has also delivered us from sin</u>!**

- **The Old Man, the Flesh, and the New Man**
  - **The Old Man is crucified … He's gone! But the 'imprint' of the Old Man remains on our flesh, along with its fears, desires, and carnal appetites**
  - **In the place of the Old Man, God gives the believer a *new* man – a self that is pleasing to God, but we – by choice – must "put on the new man"**
    - ***Eph 4:24 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you <u>put on the new man</u> which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.***

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:10-11 For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. 11 Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

RECKONING

- **Greek: '*logizomai*' - to reckon, count, compute, calculate, count over**
- **Reckoning is an accounting term. We 'reconcile' debits/credits in our checking account and compute an exact amount for our account balance.**
  - **Reckoning is not wishful thinking. We can't reckon we have $100 in our pocket when we know that we only have $20**
  - **Our reckoning is based solely upon the revealed knowledge that God has identified us with the death of Jesus Christ, knowing we are crucified with Him and – consequently – have been freed from sin!**
  - ***Rom 6:6,11 knowing…that our old man was crucified with Him…reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin.***
- ***"once for all":* The Greek for this phrase can be translated, *"once for all and then some"!***
- **'Deliverance from sin' is more scriptural than the term 'victory over sin'**
  - **'freed from sin' (:7) and 'dead unto sin' (:11) imply deliverance from a power that is still very real**
- **There is a BIG difference between 'not being perfect' and 'letting sin rule'!**

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:12-13 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. 13 And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

PRESENT (YIELD)

- **Greek: *paristēmi* - place a person or thing at one's disposal, bring to, bring near, bring into one's fellowship or intimacy, yield oneself to another**
- **Last week we saw that Jesus' death ended the reign of sin through Adam**
  - **We're no longer bound to sin … we have been freed from it**
- ***"Do not let sin reign …":* But, we have a choice (freewill). Do we succumb to carnal desires or do we yield our mind and bodies to God?**
  - **"*members*" (Greek *melos* – body parts)**
  - **"*instruments*" (Greek *hoplon* - arms used in warfare, weapons)**
  - **In other words, we're not to yield our bodies and carnal appetites as weapons for the evil one, rather, we're to present our minds and bodies to God for His use and purposes**

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A promise and an <u>expectation!</u>

:14 "For <u>sin shall not have dominion over you</u>, for you are not under law but under grace."

- **Sin and our Sin Nature no longer have authority over us**
- **We ARE NOT subject to either our Sin Nature nor the Law**
  - **We are freed and forgiven!**
  - **We are empowered from on high with God's own nature!**
  - ***Eph 3:20 "Now to Him who is able to do <u>exceedingly abundantly</u> above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us …"***

- **Our challenge is to CHOOSE on a minute-by-minute basis to follow God instead of our carnal desires**

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- **Faith is emphasized in the first five chapters of Romans**
  - **Now in chapter 6, it isn't mentioned that much**
- **Has Faith become less important?**
- **Not at all … it has been replaced with the synonyms KNOWING and RECKONING!**
  - ***Heb 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.***
    - **The Greek is actually a verb. Can be rendered, "*Now faith is the SUBSTANTIATING of the things hoped for …*"**
    - **The emphasis is on an ongoing activity of living every moment 'substantiating' what we know/reckon to be factual and true!**

- **In Romans chapter 3, we see the Lord Jesus bearing our sins and dying as our Substitute that our sins may be forgiven (Justification)**
- **Now in chapter 6, the Holy Spirit (through Paul) is showing us that we are NOW DELIVERED FROM SIN through Jesus' death, burial and resurrection (Sanctification)**

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- He wants us to understand and comprehend that our identification and inclusion in Jesus is a DONE DEAL!
  - We are to KNOW and RECONCILE in our minds and spirits that His death and resurrection is a FACT
  - And that our 'inclusion' in Jesus is also just as much as a sure FACT!

- We DO NOT NEED to pray that God will place us in Jesus after we accept Him as Savior!
  - That would be like a coffee cup praying that God would turn it into a coffee cup!

- That we are "IN CHRIST" is an indisputable FACT once we're saved … whether or not we 'feel' it to be true

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OUR CHALLENGE

- **What is the thing that is holding us back from faith in – and fully trusting – God COMPLETELY?**
  - **In what area(s) of our lives are we holding out on God?**
  - **Is there still some secret sin we're still holding on to?**
  - ***"There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of each man which cannot be satisfied by any created thing but only by God the Creator, made known through Jesus Christ."*** **-- Pascal**
  - ***"If our deepest desires rest upon something on which time depends, we will be sorely disappointed."*** **-- T. Wangsness**
- **He wants ALL of our body, heart, soul, mind and spirit!!!**
- **Our deepest fears and our besetting sins are – at their core – deep-seated needs or desires that can only be satisfied by God**
- **There can be NOTHING in us that we are not willing to completely submit to Him**
- **Only then, will we have true peace, joy and freedom!**

- **Link to film clip of Indiana Jones "The Last Crusade"**

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Questions to ponder …

1. **Is it a sin to feel temptation?**
2. **What are some ways to avoid temptation – or at least – minimize its pull over us?**
   - **Provide some scripture references (e.g. Prov 5:8)**
3. **How do we combat our feelings when we are tempted?**
   - **Sometimes the desire to give into temptation can become overwhelming**
   - **Prayer**
   - **Accountability partners**
   - **Memorizing key verses**
   - **Avoiding wrong (leading) patterns of behavior**
   - **Recognizing the origin of our temptation likely is not from within us – rather – our spirits can be influenced (oppressed) from demons and evil spirits**
4. **How do we turn the temptation (or sin) over to God?**
   - **Corollary: How do we avoid battling besetting (habitual) sins in our own strength?**
5. **If we do sin, what should we do?**