

Dear Friend,

I wonder what modern Christians would think if they (somehow) received a letter in their mailbox today from the apostle Paul and in it he said, "*One of the purposes of me writing to you is that you never sin again.*" That would sound so strange to modern Christians because today's pulpits teach believers they are "just old sinners saved by grace." It is true all of us were old sinners ... and it is true that we were saved by grace. But if that was the end of the story, then we would be "forgiven, but not changed." Most people think it is impossible for them to stop sinning because they think they are still sinners by nature. But look at what the apostle Paul wrote to Christians:

Rom 6:1-2 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? (2) God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? TRUTH – WE ARE DEAD TO SIN AND DO NOT HAVE TO LIVE IN SIN ANYMORE.

Rom 6:12-14 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. (13) Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. (14) For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. TRUTH – SIN HAS NO DOMINION OVER US. WE ARE NOT UNDER THE LAW. WE ARE UNDER GRACE.

Rom 6:15-18 What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid. (16) Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? (17) But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. (18) Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness. TRUTH – WE HAVE BEEN MADE FREE FROM SIN.

Did you see verse eighteen? BEING THEN MADE FREE FROM SIN. This is the truth of the pure gospel that is seldom preached from pulpits in modern times. Most Christians would not dare to say about themselves. "I am free from sin." But that is what the bible teaches. The hard truth is ... as a Christian ... if you sin ... it is because you choose to sin. You do not have to. You are not a slave to sin anymore. The grace of God did not just make you free from the guilt of sin. The grace of God empowers you to be free from committing sin at all.

Titus 2:11-12 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, (12) Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

I say it again ... the grace of God is much more than removing the guilt of sin ... it empowers the believer to walk free from sin. Jesus prophesied about this after He refused to stone the woman who had been caught in the very act of adultery:

Joh 8:10-12 When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee? (11) She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more. (12) Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

Most people would agree that living in adultery is one form of "walking in darkness." But Jesus is saying, for that woman, and for everybody who would follow Jesus all the way into the new birth ... they would no longer

be slaves to the darkness of sin, but on the contrary ... they would be born again with the very life of Christ within them. That light of life would free them from being slaves walking in darkness, and they could walk in the light as He is in the light. [1 John 1:7]

Eph 5:8 For ye were sometimes darkness, but now *are ye* light in the Lord: walk as children of light:

A person might ask, how do I walk as a child of light? How do I live a life free from sin? It begins with the conscience. In last month's letter we saw how God writes His laws in our minds and in our hearts the moment we are born again. [Heb 8:10] From the day you are born again, you know right from wrong. Nobody has to tell you. Your own conscience tells you. If you listen to that inner voice of the conscience, and obey what it tells you, you will walk as a child of light. It is no more complicated than that. As you do that you will fulfill what grace teaches in Titus 2:11-12 ... you will deny ungodliness and worldly lusts, and you will live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world. Someone might ask, but what if I do sin after being born again? Never forget the words of the apostle John:

1Jn 2:1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

Your friend and co-laborer,

GARY