

## Exegetical Notes - Romans 6:1-14

### **“SIN”**

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## Romans 6:1-14

### Verses 1-4

***What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? <sup>2</sup> By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? <sup>3</sup> Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup> We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.***

- Paul has clearly stated (Romans 5:20) that “where sin increases grace abounds.” There is no limit to the grace of God. Therefore, someone might assume that people who understand this principle should sin as frequently as possible so that God’s grace may abound. While this may seem absurd to us, some Christians did assume this to be reasonable. Gnostics taught that Christians should willingly sin as often as possible so that they could be forgiven under God’s grace as often as possible. Paul screams a resounding “NO” to such faulty thinking.
- Baptism (when done by immersion) symbolizes death. In baptism, we are laid backwards under the water just as we are buried on our backs. The water covers us as the soil covers us in burial. Baptism proclaims that we have died to the old way of sin. We are symbolically buried with Christ. But when we are lifted out of the waters of baptism, we are declaring that we are resurrected, new creatures in Christ. We, like Christ, seek to honor God above all else. We are no longer slaves to sin. We are bound to Jesus.

### Verses 5-11

***<sup>5</sup> For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. <sup>6</sup> For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that***

***we should no longer be slaves to sin—<sup>7</sup> because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.***

***<sup>8</sup> Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup> For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. <sup>10</sup> The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. <sup>11</sup> In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.***

- By God's grace, we have been united, joined, with Jesus in his death and in his victory over death. Our old "self" which was ruled by sin is dead. By Christ's death, we are set free from sin.
- Since we have died to sin, it no longer controls our destiny. Death was our reward because we were sinners. But now, death is dead. Because we have received this great gift and have been set free from the consequences of sin, death, we seek to honor God.

#### **Verse 12-14**

***Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. <sup>13</sup> Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness. <sup>14</sup> For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace.***

- Since we have died with Christ and have been raised with Christ, we resolve not to let sin reign in our lives. We seek not to obey its evil desires. That we know of sin's evil desires after we have given ourselves to Christ is clearly acknowledged in these verses. That we can still sin is acknowledged in verse 15. But we will not let it RULE us any longer. It will no longer be our "master."
- This is possible because of God's grace. In Him we are set free.

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