SERMON STUDY GUIDE

Part 9 // “Fruit that Lasts”



In the middle of the first century, in the heart of the Roman empire was a group of house churches that believed that Jesus of Nazareth, crucified and risen from the dead, was the true Lord of the world! The Romans had to be some of the bravest, most tested Christ-followers as they were heavily persecuted by the rulers of the day. Therefore, Paul writes a letter to them, expressing what he wishes he could say in person to them. The contents of this letter are so revolutionary that for 2,000 years churches all around the globe read it, reflect on it, and apply these truths to their lives. Join us as we venture through Romans and see how the gospel's message gives us a new identity and a new way to live!

ICE BREAKER QUESTIONS

- What is the wisest decision you have ever made?

- If you could be free from one responsibility for a day, what would it be?

GOING DEEPER INTO THE MESSAGE

Read Romans 6:15-19

15 What then? Should we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? Absolutely not! 16 Don't you know that if you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of that one you obey—either of sin leading to death or of obedience leading to righteousness? 17 But thank God that, although you used to be slaves of sin, you obeyed from the heart that pattern of teaching to which you were handed over, 18 and having been set free from sin, you became enslaved to righteousness. 19 I am using a human analogy because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you offered the parts of yourselves as slaves to impurity, and to greater and greater lawlessness, so now offer them as slaves to righteousness, which results in sanctification.

POINT 1 -My actions reveal my devotion.

In Romans 6:15-23, Paul continues discussing the freedom from sin that we now have, due to our union with Christ. In our culture, freedom is usually defined as being able to do whatever you want. In Jeremy Treat's book The Atonement: An Introduction, Treat provides a helpful definition of freedom: "True freedom is not being able to do whatever you want; it is being able to do that for which you were made."

While culture celebrates autonomy, it can become a life devoted to worshipping self, which is just a facade and trap that you end up serving sin, which leads to death! Paul refers to this as being slaves of sin (vs.16). When we make ourselves the end goal of what we worship, we destroy ourselves! When we make Christ the center of our lives and allow Him to lead us, we have been set free from sin (vs.18) and called to righteousness.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- In verse 15, Paul asks if we should sin because we are under grace instead of the law. How do you personally balance the freedom of God's grace with the call to live a life of obedience?

- After reading verse 16, What are some things in your life that compete for your obedience to God? How can you intentionally choose to obey Christ daily in those areas?

- What does it look like for you to offer, "every part of yourself" for God's purposes? Are there any areas of your life where you struggle to surrender fully?

Let's continue reading Romans 6:20-23

20 For when you were slaves of sin, you were free with regard to righteousness. 21 So what fruit was produced then from the things you are now ashamed of? The outcome of those things is death. 22 But now, since you have been set free from sin and have become enslaved to God, you have your fruit, which results in sanctification—and the outcome is eternal life! 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

POINT 2 -The Result of My Devotion is Lasting Fruit.

In verses 20-23, Paul highlights the stark contrast between a life enslaved to sin and a life devoted to God. Paul starts with the necessary reminder that we were all slaves to sin and free from any obligation to righteousness (vs.20). The results of this "so-called freedom" produced shame, guilt, and death in our lives (vs.23). The temporary pleasures of sin in our lives comes with devastating consequences.

The beauty of being set free from sin is found in being freely devoted to God. This new freedom found in Christ results in personal sanctification and the production of godly fruit (vs.22).

Paul concludes this chapter with a poignant summary: sin pays its wages in death, and God offers the gift of eternal life (vs.23). Paul reminds us that we are all serving one of two masters, either sin that leads to death or Christ, who leads to life.

The fruit of sin robs us of what the fruit of grace rewards us with.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- In verse 21, the question is asked, "What fruit was produced then from the things you are now ashamed of?" How have you seen sin bring shame in your life and how has God redeemed those areas?

- What does Godly fruit look like in our lives as Christ-followers? What part do we play in the production of godly fruit?

- What practical steps can you take to focus more on eternal rewards rather than temporary pleasures? What are some practical ways to refocus this week in those areas?

- Verse 23 contrasts the "wages of sin" (death) with the "gift of God" in eternal life. How does this truth impact your daily decisions to obey God or obey sin?