

ROMANS

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"the power of God to salvation"

Paul's Letter to the Romans

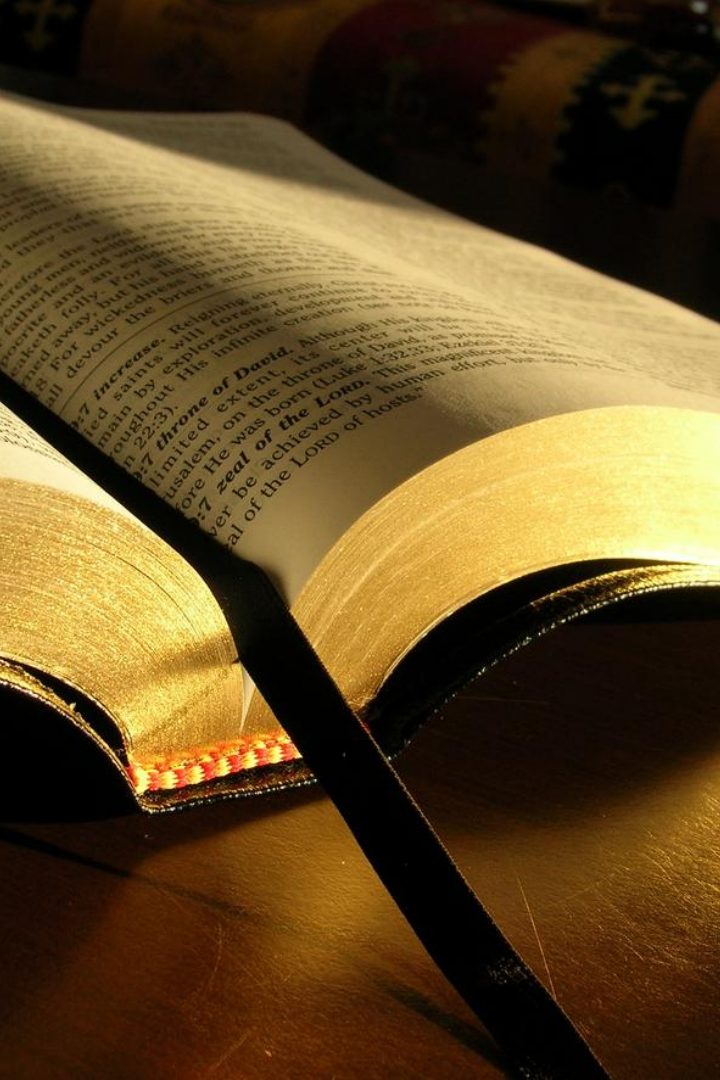
WINTER SESSION 2025

We will begin



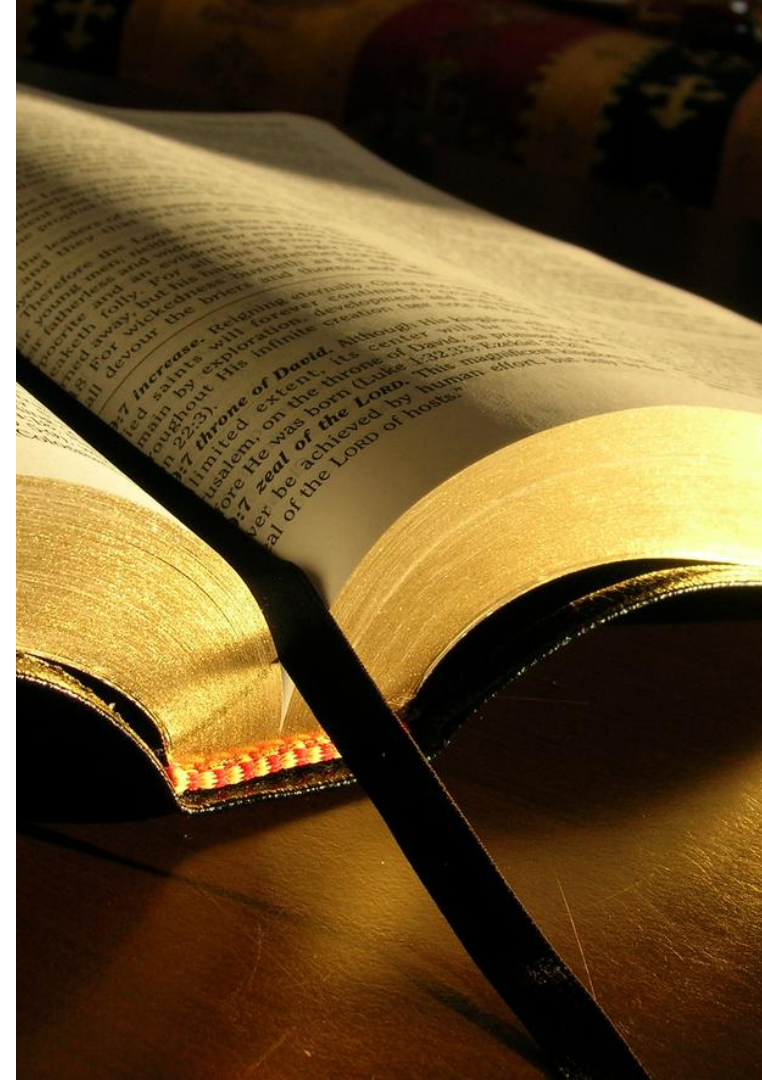
Romans 6

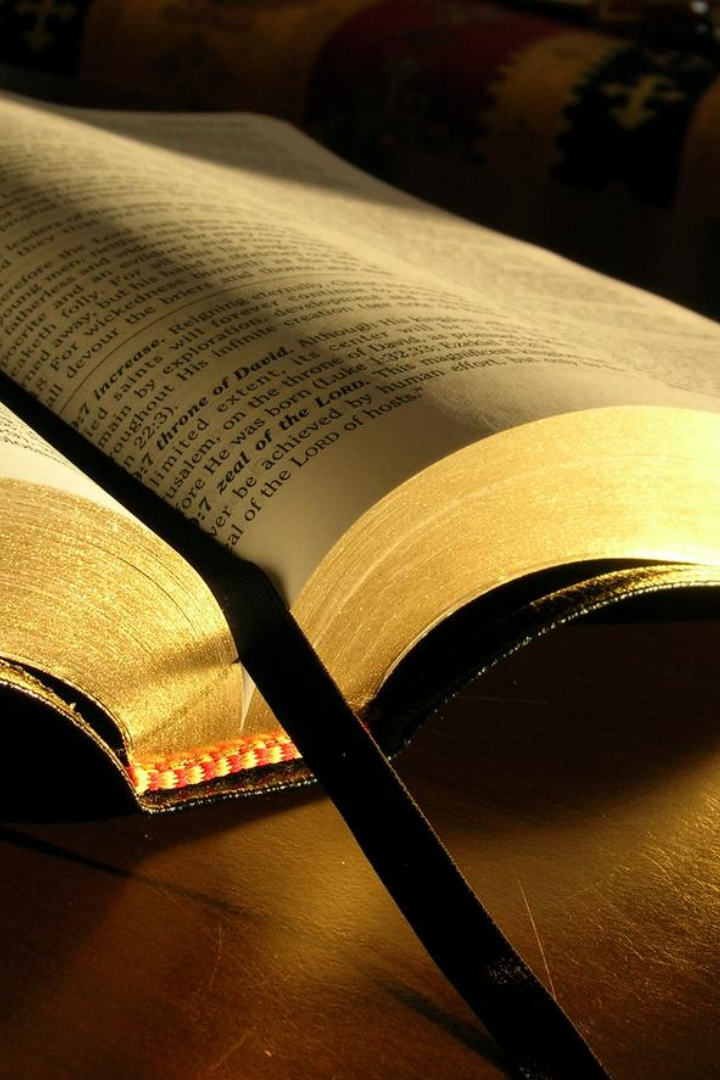




In Romans 6, Paul begins with his characteristic rhetorical questions and addresses an expected question to the gospel of grace: "Why not just sin all I want?" This question, posed by theologically challenged Christians, flows from the glorious truth that justification is by faith alone, apart from works. If our sins are freely forgiven in Christ, what compels the believer to pursue holiness?

Paul's response is both theological and pastoral. Having established in chapters 1–5 that Christ frees us from the *penalty* of sin, he now turns in chapter 6 to the believer's freedom from the *power* of sin. This is not a theoretical point, but a vital truth for Christian living. The believer is united to Christ in His death and resurrection - having been buried with Him through baptism into death, we are raised to walk in newness of life. This spiritual union means that the dominion of sin is broken. We are no longer slaves to sin, but servants of righteousness.

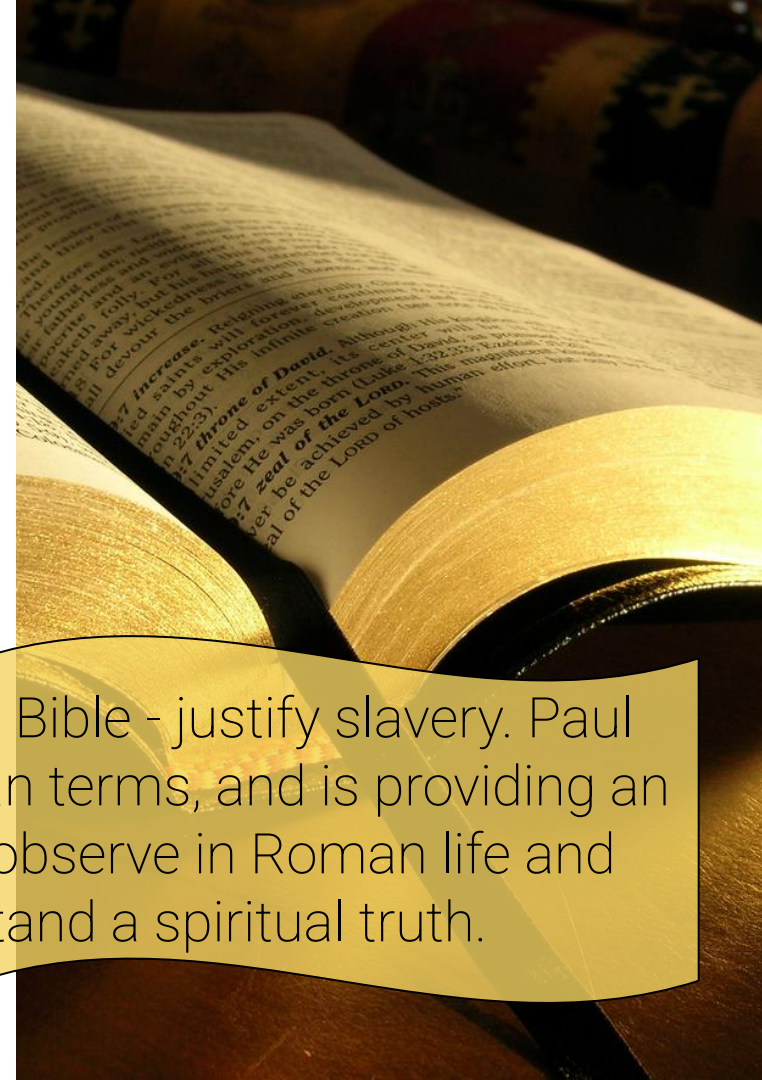


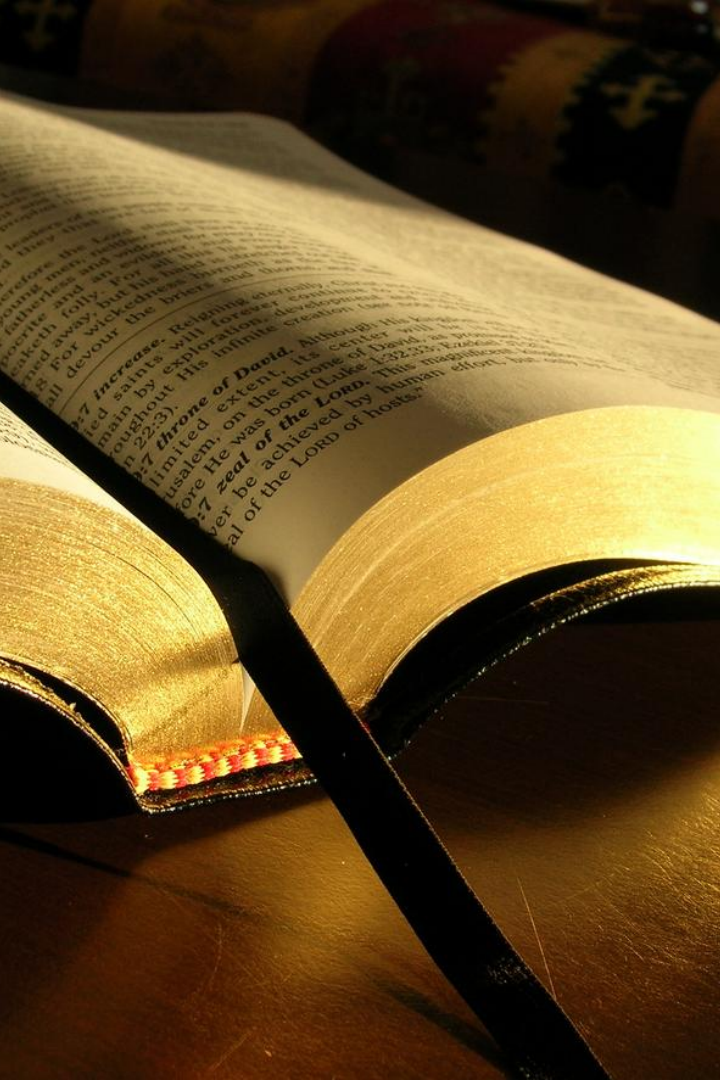


Paul insists that grace leads not to lawlessness, but to transformation. The indicative truth that "sin shall not have dominion over you" grounds the imperative command, "do not let sin reign in your mortal body."

In the latter half of the chapter, Paul illustrates the reality of this new servanthood. We once presented ourselves as slaves to sin, reaping shame and death - now, having been set free, we present ourselves as slaves to righteousness, leading to sanctification and eternal life.

Paul does not - nor does the Bible - justify slavery. Paul states he is speaking in human terms, and is providing an example his readers could observe in Roman life and thereby better understand a spiritual truth.





Romans 6 calls believers to live in the reality of what has already been accomplished in Christ. We are no longer under the tyranny of sin; we are no longer bound to obey its desires. This means that holiness is not a burden we carry to earn favour with God, but the outworking of a new identity we have received by grace. In the face of temptation, the Christian can say “no” not in their own strength, but because they are united to Christ, who conquered sin and death.

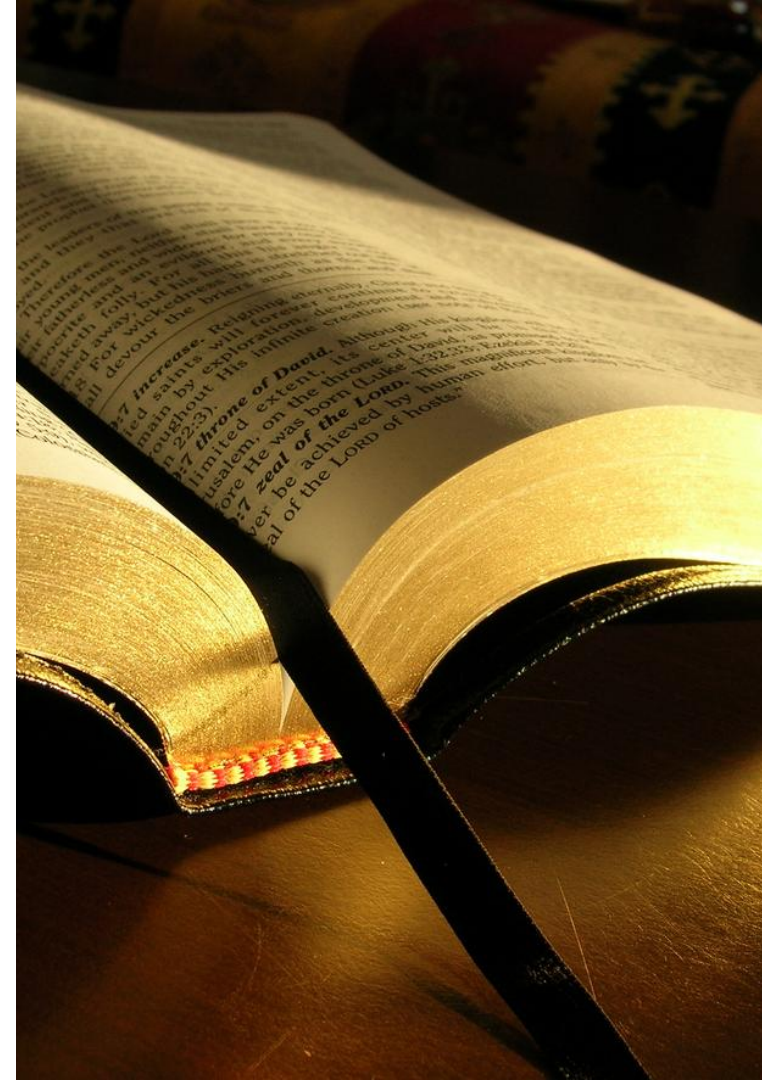
We are to present ourselves - our desires, our minds, our bodies - as instruments of righteousness, not as passive vessels but as those actively pursuing godliness in gratitude for mercy received. This should, and does, transforms how we think, speak, act, and relate to others.

Romans 6 declares that the gospel, which justifies, also sanctifies.
Grace not only pardons, it purifies.

The Christian is not free to sin, but free from sin.

Sin - Baptized - Dead - Resurrected - Present - Servants - Holiness

Holiness is no longer optional nor legalistic - it is the joyful
response of *a heart set free!*



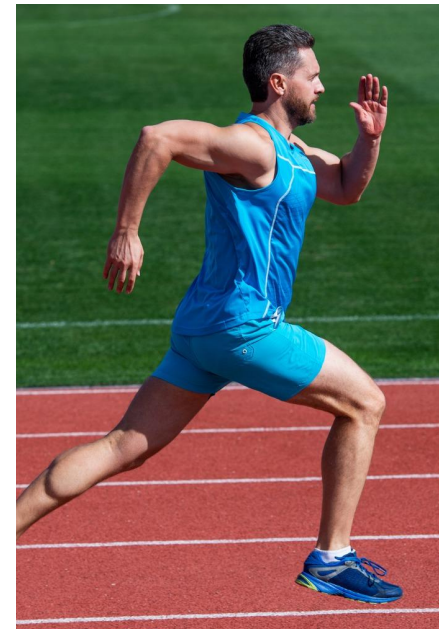


ALREADY ... BUT NOT YET!



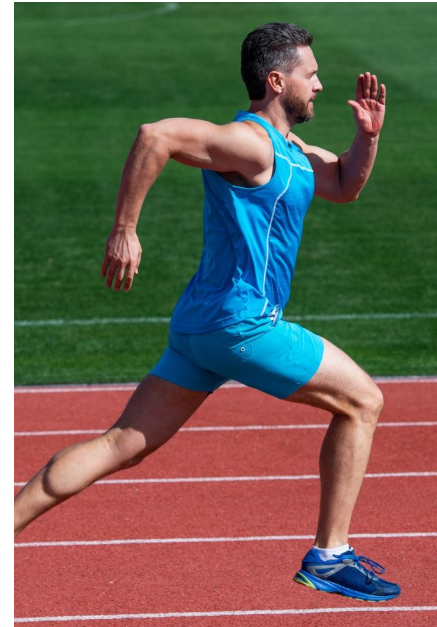


While believers are justified at conversion, many live beneath their spiritual privilege and inheritance due to a failure to fully surrender to Christ. Some (mistakenly) await a moment of crisis or consecration whereby they yield entirely to God and enter a higher plane of Christian living, often marked by the phrase, “let go and let God.”



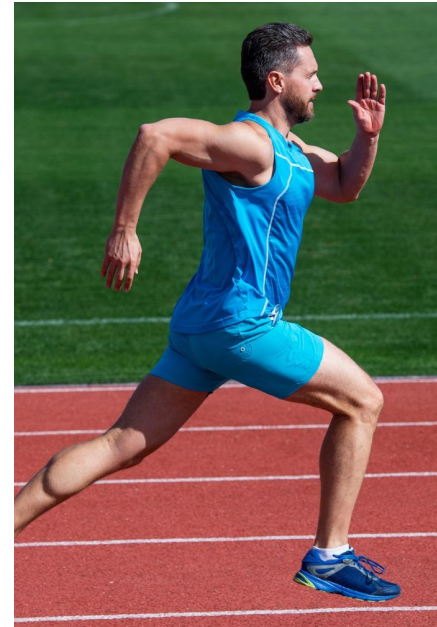


Believers, united to Christ, are already sanctified in principle/truth and are being sanctified in practice. Sanctification is the inevitable fruit of saving faith. It is both *definitive* and *progressive*: believers are fully redeemed in Christ, yet not fully perfected in holiness. This is the tension of the “already” and the “not yet.” Sin no longer reigns, yet it remains. Holiness is therefore pursued not through passivity but through Spirit-empowered effort, grounded in the gospel and dependent upon grace.





This pursuit of holiness unfolds through the means of grace: the Word of God, prayer, fellowship, fasting, tribulation, the Sacraments/Ordinances, and obedience. There is no hidden key to victorious Christian living, no mystical shortcut to spiritual maturity. The path of holiness is often humbling and filled with repentance - but it is also sure. For those in Christ, the battle against sin is not in vain, and the longing for and pursuit of holiness is itself a mark of grace.





Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ
Philippians 1:6

Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. Hebrews 12:1b-2a

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. Romans 12:1-2

For what does
the Scripture
say? Romans 4:3

