

Breaking Free from the Fear of Freedom

I. The **direction** of Paul's argument about living out our salvation.

We've been saved by God's **grace** from the penalty of sin!
(Romans 5:12-21)

But, grace does not mean we can live in sin- that would be living in **slavery**...again! (Romans 6:1-10)

Here's the deal - you are free from sin's **domination**, so consider yourselves dead to sin!! (Romans 6:11-23)

This freedom cannot be had by following the Law because sin co-opted the Law to **kill us** spiritually!! (Romans 7:1-6)

But, that doesn't mean that the Law is bad. It means it is **too weak** to combat our sinfulness on its own. (Romans 7:7-13)

In fact, watch how miserably a person "in the flesh" does when trying to obey God! They aren't **free** at all!! They are **utter slaves** bound to **death**!! (Romans 7:14-25)



Romans 7:5
"in the flesh" and under the Law
with the result of death

Romans 7:6
"in the Spirit" and free from Law
with the result of life

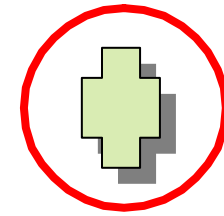
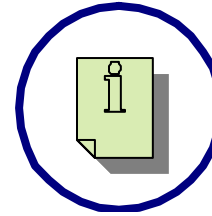
Romans 7:14-25
(Expansion of 7:5)

Romans 8:1-39
(Expansion of 7:6)

II. We need to **KNOW** something—Freedom from sin's domination comes from Christ and through the Spirit!

- A. It means that we no longer live in isolation, but are **rooted** in Christian **community**!!
- B. It means we live in obedience to **God's Word**!!
- C. It means that we let the Spirit form us from the **inside-out**!

III. We need to **DO** something—Freedom from sin's domination comes from cooperating with the Spirit to put sin's strongholds **to death**!!



A. So, where do I **start** mortifying sin?

- ⇒ Look for sins which seem to have a sense of **inevitability**.¹
- ⇒ Look for sins where you find yourself **making excuses** for and creating **tolerance** for in your own life.²
- ⇒ Look for sins that could potentially **harden** your heart and the hearts of **others** toward God.

B. So, how do I **go about** mortifying sin?

- ⇒ We shun **performance** in favor of **relationship**!!
- ⇒ We need to get sin **out in the open**!!
- ⇒ We need to counter sin with the practice of **virtue**!!

IV. We need to **LIVE** something—Freedom from sin's domination comes from living out our **relationship** to God!

¹Owen, John (ed. By James M. Houston), Triumph over Temptation, pub. by Victor Publishing, 2005, p. 211-12

²Ibid, p. 212

Study Questions for February 28

1. Read Romans 6-8 all the way through.
2. Read Romans 8:28. In light of what we have seen in Romans 6-8, what is the "all" in "God causes all things to work together for good...?"
3. Read Romans 8:29-30. To what extent has God gone to in order to free us from the condemnation of sin (see also Rom. 5:16; 8:1)? Why the order of these terms- foreknew, predestined, called, etc...?
4. Read Romans 8:31-39. What does this say about the secure state of a true follower of Christ? Why does Paul end this section with these assuring words? How does this make your walk with Christ stronger?