

Romans Lesson #7 “Overcoming Sin”

Memory Verse Get Scriptures to read

Romans 6:14 “Sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace”.

I remember staying in a hotel where I tossed and turned all night trying to get a good night’s sleep on this hotel bed. In the process of my thrashing, I managed to twist up the sheets exposing the company name on the mattress: **Serta “Perfect Sleeper.”** Tired though I was, I laughed thinking I hardly had a perfect night’s sleep.

A Christian is a follower of Jesus and He was perfect & sinless so ...?

Matthew 5:48 (KJV) *Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.* What does Jesus mean by “perfect”? Luke 6:36

Luke 6:36 *Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.*

Ephesians 5:1, 2 (NKJV) *Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us ...*

John 13:15 (NKJV) *For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.*

1 Peter 2:21 (NKJV) *For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:*

1 John 2:5–6 (NKJV) *But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.*

Where Sin Abounded

Romans 5:20. *Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more,*

Abraham, Manasseh, David, Prodigal son

None Good

Job 5:7 *Yet man is born to trouble, As the sparks fly upward.*

***Isaiah 53:6** *All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.*

Psalms 119:176 *I have gone astray like a lost sheep;*

1 Kings 8:46 (NKJV) *“When they sin against You (for there is no one who does not sin), and You become angry with them...”*

Psalms 14:2, 3 *The LORD looks down from heaven upon the children of men, To see if there are any who understand, who seek God. They have all turned aside, They have together become corrupt; There is none who does good, No, not one.*

Ecclesiastes 7:20 *For there is not a just man on earth who does good And does not sin.*

Romans 3:23 *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*
Jeremiah 13:23 *Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its spots? Then may you also do good who are accustomed to do evil.*

James 3:2 (NKJV) *For we all stumble in many things.*

1 John 1:8–10 *If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.*

When Sin Reigns

Romans 6:6 *knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.*

***Romans 6:12** *Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.*

Romans 6:14 *For sin shall not have dominion over you, ...*

“What you need to understand is the true force of the will. This is the governing power in the nature of man, the power of decision, or of choice. Everything depends on the right action of the will. The power of choice God has given to men; it is theirs to exercise. You cannot change your heart, you cannot of yourself give to God its affections; but you can choose to serve Him. You can give Him your will; He will then work in you to will and to do according to His good pleasure. Thus your whole nature will be brought under the control of the Spirit of Christ; your affections will be centered upon Him, your thoughts will be in harmony with Him.”— Steps to Christ, p. 47.

John 8:36 *Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.*

Not Under the Law but Under Grace

Romans 6:14 *For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.*

The person who supposedly lives “under grace” but disobeys God’s law will not find grace but condemnation. “Under grace” means that through the grace of God, as revealed in Jesus, the condemnation that the law inevitably brings to sinners has been removed. Thus, now free from this condemnation of death brought by the law, we live in “newness of life,” a life characterized by and made manifest through the fact that, being dead to self, we are no longer slaves to sin.

Sin or Obedience?

Examples of Godliness

Genesis 6:9 "Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God" **Genesis 5:24** And Enoch walked with God;

Genesis 17:1 God said to Abraham, "I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect".

Genesis 26:5 (NKJV) because Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws."

Deut 18:13 "Thou shalt be perfect with the LORD thy God"

***Job 2:3** (NKJV) Then the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?"

Luke 1:6 And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord **blameless**.

Philippians 3:15 Let us therefore, as many as be **perfect**, be thus minded.

James. 3:2 If any man offend not in word, the same is a **perfect** man.

- At first glance, we might assume that Jesus is asking us to be some sort of angelic androids, but perhaps a closer look at several samples provide a better picture. Let the Bible explain itself.

Perfect In English

1. conforming - absolutely to a definition of an ideal type:
2. excellent - or complete beyond practical or theoretical improvement:
3. exactly - fitting the need in a certain situation or for a certain purpose:
4. entirely - without any flaws, defects, or shortcomings:
5. accurate - exact, or correct in every detail:

Hebrew word "perfect" TAMIYM (taw-meem'), means "entire, integrity, truth, without blemish, complete, full, perfect, undefiled.

The New Testament, the word "perfect" appears 42 times and is usually translated from the **Greek** TELEIOS (tel'-i-os), meaning "complete in labor, growth, mental and moral character, of full age"

Free From Sin

Romans 6:16–18 Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness? ¹⁷ But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. ¹⁸ And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

"But Christ has given us no assurance that to attain perfection of character is an easy matter. A noble, all-round character is not inherited. It does not come to us by accident. A noble character is earned by individual effort through the merits and grace of Christ. God gives the talents, the powers of the mind; we form the character. It is formed by hard, stern battles with self. Conflict after conflict must be waged against hereditary tendencies. We shall have to criticize ourselves closely, and allow not one unfavorable trait to remain uncorrected." Let no one say, I cannot remedy my defects of character. If you come to this decision, you will certainly fail of obtaining everlasting life. The impossibility lies in your own will. If you will not, then you can not overcome. The real difficulty arises from the corruption of an unsanctified heart, and an unwillingness to submit to the control of God. Remember that you will never reach a higher standard than you yourself set. Then set your mark high, and step by step, even though it be by painful effort, by self-denial and sacrifice, ascend the whole length of the ladder of progress. Let nothing hinder you." COL 331

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

***Romans 8:2** For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

John 5:14 (NKJV) Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, "See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you."

On March 18, 1937, a spark ignited a cloud of natural gas that had accumulated in the basement of the London, Texas, school. The blast killed 293 people, most of them children.

The explosion happened because the local school board wanted to cut heating costs. Natural gas, was siphoned from a neighboring oil company's pipeline to fuel the building's furnace free of charge. The one positive effect of this disastrous event was government regulation requiring companies to add an odorant to natural gas. The distinctive aroma is now so familiar that we often forget natural gas is naturally odorless. **Natural Gas Smell**. There is a tendency these days to classify all feelings of guilt as hazardous to our self-esteem. In reality, guilt can be valuable, an "odorant" that warns us of danger.

Romans 7:13 (NKJV) ... so that sin through the commandment might become exceedingly sinful.

Hebrews 12:4 (NKJV) You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin.

James 1:12 (NKJV) *Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.*

John Bevere's book, 'Driven by Eternity.' He said:

"We've taught grace as God's blanket of protection for disobedient lifestyles. You can hear this mindset often by many in the church with common statements such as, 'I know I'm not living the way I should, but thank God for his grace.' This is serious deception. Scripture doesn't teach grace as the big Band-Aid, but rather: *God's empowering presence within to do what truth demands of us.*" (90)

Dr. A.J. Gordon said; "We gravely fear that many Christians make the Apostle's word, 'If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves,' the unconscious justification for a low standard of Christian living. It were almost better for one to overstate the possibilities of sanctification in his eager grasp after holiness, than to understate them in his complacent satisfaction with a traditional unholiness.... If we regard the doctrine of sinless perfection as a heresy, we regard contentment with sinful imperfection as a greater heresy."

Benediction

Jude 24–25 *Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, Be glory and majesty, Dominion and power, Both now and forever. Amen.*

Christian Perfection "If men would but spend as much time in fervently calling upon God (i.e. to fully sanctify them) as they spend in decrying this doctrine, what a glorious state of the church should we soon witness!... This moment we may be emptied of sin, filled with holiness and become truly happy.... The perfection of the gospel system is not that it makes allowance for sin, but that it makes an atonement for it, not that it tolerates sin, but that it destroys it.... Let all those who retain the apostolic doctrine... press every believer to go on to perfection, and expect to be saved, while here below, into the fullness of the blessing of the Gospel of Jesus.... Art thou weary of that carnal mind which is enmity to God? Canst thou be happy whilst thou art unholy? Arise, then, and be baptized with a greater effusion of the Holy Ghost.... Reader, it is the birthright of every child of God to be cleansed from all sin, to keep himself unspotted from the world, and so to live as never more to offend his Maker. All things are possible to him that believeth, because all things are possible to the infinitely meritorious blood and energetic Spirit of the Lord Jesus." -Adam Clark

"Before the believer is held out the wonderful possibility of being like Christ, obedient to all the principles of the law. But of himself man is utterly unable to reach this condition. The holiness that God's word declares he must have before he can be saved is the result of the working of divine grace as he bows in submission to the discipline and restraining influences of the Spirit of truth. Man's obedience can be made perfect only by the incense of Christ's righteousness, which fills with divine fragrance every act of obedience. The part of the Christian is to persevere in overcoming every fault. Constantly he is to pray to the Saviour to heal the disorders of his sin-sick soul. He has not the wisdom or the strength to overcome; these belong to the Lord, and He bestows them on those who in humiliation and contrition seek Him for help." {AA 532.1}

Matthew 1:21 *Thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.*

John 8:34, 36 *Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin...If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.*

I John 5:4 *For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world.*

I John 3:6 *Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.*

I John 5:18 *And we know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.*

I John 3:9 *Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.*

John 8:11 (NKJV) *She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more."*