Great Truths from the Epistles

Lesson #5 – Shall We Continue in Sin?
Study Notes

Read Romans 5:12 – 6:23

An Explanation of the Romans 5:12 – 6:23
Romans 5:12 Through one man (Adam) sin came into the world, and that sin brought death into the world. So death spread to everyone, because everyone sinned.
13 Even before God gave His Law through Moses, sin was in the world; but before the Law was given, there was no written law that held people accountable for sin.
14 People after Adam’s time did not commit the same sin he was guilty of, but they still sinned and death continued to rule from the time of Adam to the time of Moses.
In some ways, Adam shows us something about the One who was to come, Jesus Christ.
15 Think of how we can contrast Adam with Jesus: From one came the fall and from the other came grace. From the fall of one man (Adam) many died. But in a much better way, the gracious gift of one man (Jesus Christ) has caused the grace of God to increase to many.
16 The gift Christ brought is very different from what came from Adam’s sin. The one sin of one man (Adam) brought a judgment of condemnation. But even though many people had fallen into sin, Christ’s gift brought their justification (God would remove their condemnation).
17 Because one man (Adam) transgressed, death has reigned as king. In an even greater way those who received so much grace and righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.
18 The fall of one man has caused all to be condemned (it introduced sin into the world and brought death to all because it shut man away from the Tree of Life). But the righteousness of One (Jesus Christ) has given all men the opportunity to be righteous and have eternal life.
19 Just as one man’s disobedience (Adam’s) led to many others becoming sinners, the obedience of the One (Jesus) will make many people righteous.
20 When the Law of Moses came it showed that there was much sin. But where sin increased, God’s willingness to show grace increased even more.
21 Just as sin reigned in death, grace can also reign through righteousness with eternal life.

Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. (Romans 6:4)
6:1 Now if God is willing to show a lot of grace in our many sins, should we keep on sinning so that God’s grace can be shown even more?
2 Absolutely not! We have already died to sin; how could it be right for us to live in it any longer?
3 Don’t you know that all of us who have been baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death?
4 That would mean that as we are being buried in the water of baptism we are being buried with Christ into death. Then, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we also rise to walk in a new life.
5 In baptism you not only become joined with Christ in the likeness of His death, but also should be joined with Him in the likeness of His resurrection.
6 We need to realize that the old person we were was crucified with Christ so that the body of sin would be done away with and we would no longer be slaves of sin.
7 The person who has died has been set free from sin.
8 Now if we have died with Christ, we believe we also shall live with Him.
9 We know that once Christ was raised from the dead, He would never die again – death would no longer rule over Him.
10 When Christ died on the cross for our sins, He died once for all times, but when He came to life, He would always live for God.
11 In a similar way, you should think of yourself as truly dead to sin, but alive to God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
12 So don’t let sin rule over your physical body as if it were your king and you had to obey whatever it wants.
13 And don’t hand over the members of your body to sin as if they were tools it could use for unrighteousness. Instead, present the members of your body to God as tools to be used for righteousness -- we should be dead to the old ways and alive to righteousness.

14 God does not mean for sin to rule over us. You are to be under His grace, not under the Law of Moses.
15 Now is it alright to sin because we are no longer under the Law, but under grace? Absolutely not!
16 Don’t you realize that if you become someone’s slave, you have to obey them? That’s also true of sin – if you become a slave to sin, you will always obey it and that will lead you to eternal death. But if you become a slave to righteousness, you will obey it and that will lead you to eternal life.
17 Thank God that even though you once were slaves of sin, that you obeyed from the heart the type of teaching that was given to you.
18 Now you’ve been set free from sin and have become slaves of righteousness.
19 I am trying to explain this in a way that everyone can understand. Sometimes our human weaknesses can keep us from understanding. Before you started serving God, you used to present the members of your body as slaves to unclean behavior. You lived as if God had no law at all, and that led you to do even more lawless things. But now that you serve God present the members of your body as slaves to righteousness, so that you can be holy, set apart for God’s service.
20 Back when you were slaves to sin, you felt free from any need to serve God by living right.
21 But what good did you get from living that way? Now that you know the truth you are ashamed of those sinful things and you know that they only led to your being dead spiritually.

22 Now that you’ve been set free from sin, and have become servants of God, it is producing a fruit of holiness (a life set apart to serve God), which in the end will give you eternal life.

23 Remember this: sin pays the wages of death. But God offers the gift of everlasting life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

LOOKING AT OUR LESSON

Adam and Jesus
- In the first part of this lesson Paul compares Adam with Jesus.
- Who was Adam? He was the first man God created. He and Eve were in the Garden of Eden where the Tree of Life was. The Tree of Life would have kept them alive forever.
- We also remember how Adam and Eve were the first to ever sin. God told them they could not eat of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. They listened to the serpent and ate of it. Because of this God sent them out of the Garden of Eden and they could not eat from the Tree of Life. Now they would start to die. Because they sinned, all mankind was kept from the Tree of Life.
- After the fall of Adam and Eve, all their descendants also sinned. They didn’t sin the same sin that Adam and Eve did. They went away from God in other ways. Everyone since that time has sinned.
- Who was Jesus? Jesus was God’s Son who He sent into this world. Jesus was deity like God, but He also took on a human body like man. But Jesus lived very differently from men. He was the One that never sinned. God had sent Him to the earth to die, not because He had sinned, but so that He could pay the price for our sins.

- Think about how these things are different about Adam and Jesus
  - Adam chose to disobey God.
  - Jesus always obeyed God.
  - Adam’s one sin brought much sin into the world.
  - Jesus’ one act of righteousness (His death on the cross) led many to become righteous.
  - Adam’s fall caused all to face death.
  - Jesus’ willingness to die for us brought us hope of eternal life.

Living a New Life With God
- Because Jesus has made a way for us to live better, be right with God and have eternal life, we need to choose His way.
Paul talks about baptism. Do you know what baptism is? When people are ready to become Christians, they believe that Jesus is the Son of God, repent of their sins, confess their faith in Christ and then are baptized so that their sins can be forgiven.

Our word Baptism comes from the Greek word "baptizo". That word means 1) to dip, to immerse, to submerge, 2) to cleanse by dipping or submerging, to wash, to make clean with water, 3) to overwhelm. To truly baptize someone you need “much water” (John 3:23), obviously enough to cover them in water.

The main point to see is that Paul says that in baptism we are “buried”. When baptized, a person is buried under the water and raised back up. That reminds us of Christ dying, being buried and coming up out of the tomb.

When we are baptized we should think of it as showing we are willing to die to a sinful life; our sins are being put to death on a cross. As we go into the water we are being buried with Christ. Then as we come up out of the water we are raised, like Christ was raised from the dead. Since we have died to our old ways, we now have to start living a new life in Christ.

No Longer Living For Sin

When you are properly baptized, you become a Christian and are ready to live your life for God.

We must remember that sin is breaking God’s laws. Before we became Christians we sinned. That made God unhappy and our lives unhappy.

But now that we are Christians we don’t want those sinful things ruling over our lives. We don’t want sinful ways to be like a king that tells us what to do or how to act. Some people let sin rule over their lives and it causes them to take drugs or get drunk. Or sin causes them to steal from other people, or say mean things about them or tell lies.

We want good and righteous things (God’s ways) to rule over our lives. We want loving homes, we want to go to church, we want to tell the truth, we want to be kind to people. We want to follow God’s rules. His righteous ways need to rule over us.

God gave us our bodies. He doesn’t want us to give them to Satan and have him tell us how to act. God wants us to use our bodies in a way that pleases Him and will make us happier, too.

A sinful life will only make us ashamed and will make God ashamed of us.

Sin will pay us the wages of eternal death. If we will obey God, He will give us eternal life.

Note to Teachers: Many young people are coming to an age where they are thinking about being baptized. Using the information provided in the lesson
and other sources, try to make clear the meaning and purpose of the baptism Jesus commanded.

**Bible Quiz**

1. Who was the “one man” that sin came into the world through? (Rom. 5:12,14)

2. What came into the world because man sinned? (Rom. 5:12)

3. Who is the “one Man” who caused God’s grace to abound to many? (Rom. 5:15)

4. What should a Christian never continue in? (Rom. 6:1,2)

5. When a person is baptized as the Bible teaches, they are put into _____________ and into His _______________. (Rom. 6:3)

6. After a burial in baptism a person should walk in _________________ of life. (Rom. 6:4)

7. We should be a slave to _________________ rather than a slave to ________. (Rom. 6:17,18)

8. In Romans 6:23 what wage does sin pay?

What gift is God willing to give?