

## Give Yourself to God

Romans 6:12-14 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. <sup>13</sup> Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. <sup>14</sup> For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

### ❖ Introduction –

#### ➤ How are these verses Practical for you?

- They help you understand what is going on in you more clearly
- They will help you so much in your battle against sin
- They will help you fight... they will help you get up when your knocked down
- They will help you flourish in your relationship with Jesus
- They bring such clarity!

### ❖ The Tale of One City (an Analogy to Help you Understand)

- Going to give you a sort of analogy to help you understand what Paul is teaching.
  - I want to give you a mental picture this morning.
  - So... Picture this in your mind
- There was a great kingdom with lands and waters and many wonderful resources. And in this great kingdom there were many many cities. I want you to consider the story of just one city among cities. These cities have a true, rightful, and very powerful King. But one of these cities, as well as many others, was not under The King's rule. As a matter of fact, since the day this city began, it was under the rule of a tyrant. This tyrant began rule of this city before it was even built. There was a first city that fell to this tyrant, and ever since, the tyrant had enslaved all cities before they were even started. He has not been able to hold all of them. But he has many cities. So, for as long as the people could remember, they were under the rule of this tyrant.
- The Tyrant used many terrible tactics to keep the people enslaved to his rule. The first thing he did was to blind the people. Since they were all blind, even from birth, they had no idea what it meant to see. He also attacked their minds. He hid many important truths. He did not tell them about the true king. If any of them began to snoop around and found out about the king, he would make up a lie to fool them. He also gave them many yummy foods to eat. They were laced with very addictive drugs. The foods were so yummy and addictive that the people couldn't get enough of them. The foods had very dangerous side effects. They made the people sick and weak. There was no nutritional value with these foods. But, the people could not seem to get enough of them. The tyrant would not tell them that the king forbade the eating of these foods and that they were against His laws.
- He also used gifts to keep the people enslaved. The tyrant was not powerful enough to make gifts of his own, so he stole many gifts from the king. He used them to have the people fall in love with the gifts. He would never tell them where the gifts came from. He would encourage the people to love the gifts. Even to trust the gifts. The gifts would be used to bring them more happiness or increase their power within the city. Many people began to even worship the gifts. They thought it would help them grow stronger within the city. But the tyrant would not tell the people that the King had forbid them from using the gifts in this manner. He did not tell them that the food and misuse of the gifts would lead to the destruction of their city. Because the tyrant had an evil agenda. He hated them. He was not so concerned with them following him, he was concerned with destroying them.
- He had power over them because they were weak. He held them because they had not lived up to the laws of the king. This gave the tyrant power over them. He used the laws of the king against the people. And no matter how hard they tried, they were never able to live up to them. So they spent their days in bondage.

- So, they lived in a city filled with shame and guilt. They were bitter and rude. They would experience some happiness, but it was never anything close to real happiness. Deep down inside of them, they knew something was wrong. They considered their city and the cities around them. And although they were blind, they knew that there must be a different kind of ruler.
- What the people did not know was that there was a beautiful world outside of their city. They did not know that there was a true king that wanted to liberate them from the hell they did not even completely realize they were in. The people were stuck in a terrible endless cycle of death. They were slaves of the tyrant. And he did with them as he pleased. If he told them to do something; they had to follow his orders. He was their slave master.
- Some of them tried to free themselves from his rule. They tried to stop eating his food and using the gifts wrongly. They tried to do things to make the king happy. But, their hearts were not right. And they did not have a way to pay for their past mistakes. No matter how hard they tried, they failed. The tyrant had power over them even in this.
- But, there were rumors of other cities where the tyrant had been overthrown. Cities that had been liberated from his rule. There were rumors of the King's Son in other cities. They had heard the Son had defeated the power of the tyrant. They heard he was offering His own victory to other cities.
- He had been going from city to city to break the hold of the tyrant. And each city that was freed from the tyrant, brought more hope to the cities close by. The tyrant was afraid, because he knew if this city was liberated, it would make it harder to keep his other cities.
- After liberating one city, the king sent His Son to liberate this city. The Son came and He told them the truth about the King and about their tyrant. He told them about the King's laws and how they had broken them. He told them all about Himself and His Father. He showed them how He had defeated the power of the tyrant. He told them how He had followed the law of the King. He came and offered them peace. He told them they must turn away from their former ways and believe in the King and His Son. He told them that if they joined with Him, they would also be joined to the victory He had over the tyrant. If they joined with Him, His law keeping would be credited to them. His victory... theirs.
- So, as the Son offered them peace, they believed... And immediately their blindness was gone and they could see. They were able to taste the food for what it was and see the gifts as gifts from the King. They were able to see how they were to use His gifts. Their guilt and shame were removed. They were promised life and not destruction. They began to experience a joy that they were never allowed to have before. The tyrant had given them happiness, but it was always short lived and shallow. Now, there was a depth to their happiness and joy. The chains of their slavery were broken. They were no longer slaves to the tyrant because they had finally believed in the King. And when the Son left, He left a representative of Himself, a powerful agent of Himself to live in the city.
- But, the story does not end there. The city is still under attack. The tyrant had left secret agents throughout the city. Although he knew he would never win the city back, there was more at stake. He still hated the city and wanted to keep it from thriving. He also did not want this city to be strong enough to help the cities around it.
- So he did his best to re-establish as much dominion as he could. He left behind his secret agents. And they would prey on the desires of the people of the city. Their desires could be used for good, or for bad. The people still remembered how the food tasted so yummy, and how misusing the gifts made them feel. If the secret agents could gain control of the peoples desires, they could get the people to turn against the city, against the king. They could get them to use secret weapons to try to bring the city down from the inside. So, they used weapons that attacked the way people thought. They used weapons that attacked the way people spoke. They used weapons that attacked how people behaved. And they used weapons that attacked what people would listen to.
- So, they would start with the desires of the people. And they would then get the people to use a weapon to destroy parts of the city. Certain people of the city would fall victim to this betrayal. Before you knew it, there were parts of the city that had been retaken by the tyrant. Not all of them, but

there were some. So, the joy and peace and fellowship with the king were being hindered. The city was also not as productive. The city did not get to enjoy all the things the King offered His people. Because they were going back to tyrant's ways that always left them unfulfilled.

- But... The City is the King's City... it can never be given back to the Tyrant...
  - There remains in the city... places that need to heed control to the King
- But, the King had not left the people empty handed. He had freed them from the slavery of the tyrant. They were no longer under his control. He had given them the victory of His Son. The king had opened their eyes to His beauty and how He was better than what the tyrant offered. He left His power with them. And He left them weapons as well. The king had given them weapons to think with. Weapons to speak with. Weapons to act with, and weapons to listen with. And with these weapons, they could break any threats against their city. With these weapons they could keep the tyrant from having any dominion over their city. They could use these weapons to increase their joy... joy that would last. They could increase their peace... peace that would last. And they could increase their hope, and their hope kept them unashamed and able to stand under any attack. They would help them grow in their Love of the King. And the more their love for the King grew, the more they hated the tyrant and his ways.
- They would also be able to take the story of the King and His Son to other cities and help liberate them. But, they had to be diligent. They had to be on guard. They had to remember the areas of the city that caused them the most trouble. And when they would have victory in those places, they had to never let up their guard. It was important to fight in those areas until achieving full victory. If they left behind one rebel spy, one rebel weapon; there would always be danger. But the king left them with all the weapons they needed for total victory. And He also left them His power to live by. He did not just liberate their city, He left His presence with them to offer guidance and direction. His presence would help them to continue growing as a city and fighting against the forces of the tyrant.
- **This is what is going on in these verses today.**
  - God Has Freed You... You are the City
  - Sin looks to have dominion over you... Satan hates you and wants to destroy you
  - Sin wants to distort your passions... It wants to have you use your body to sin
  - Your body parts can be used as weapons... for good or evil
  - Paul is encouraging you... Do not use the body God has given you for sin...
    - Rather, use it as a weapon of righteousness...

#### ❖ **How do We Progressively Continue to Take Control of the City?**

- Paul encourages us to get to work.
- Notice a few things He teaches us in the Text...

#### ➤ **1) We Must Not Let Sin Reign**

- **12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts**
- **He says... therefore... Therefore... since you have put this together in your mind...**
  - Since Jesus died for you... and ur death was represented
  - Since you have been joined with Jesus
  - Since your old self was crucified when Jesus was crucified
  - Since you consider yourselves dead to sin...
  - Since you are remembering who you are now in Christ...
  - Now... do not let sin reign...
- **You now have the mental reminder and knowledge of this truth...**
  - Now it is time to go to war against sin... Do not let it reign
- **What is at stake? What or Who Reigns over your Mortal Body:**

- **1) What does he mean by your Mortal Body...**
    - Well... it is your outer body... it is the part of you that is mortal... that is dying.
    - This is the battle ground... This is where wrong desires become reality
    - **2) Reign:** is simply the verb form of king...
      - ◆ So, Paul is saying... lets not let sin be the king of your body
      - ◆ Because it will give you orders... That is what kings do
        - And those orders are: **that we would: Obey its lusts**
  - **Its lusts: Is in reference to the Mortal Body...**
    - **It is not sin's lusts...**
      - ◆ Sin is trying to be the king... and Sin is giving your body orders to lust
      - ◆ So now, if sin is reigning over the body... Your body has lusts...
    - **Lust here means desires... or passions...**
      - ◆ But the sense of the word here is more than just a desire or passion...
      - ◆ Because we all know that desires and passions are not always bad...
        - And they do not have to be... but here... they are
      - ◆ *Here the sense is: An evil craving... an inordinate self indulgent craving (that displaces proper affections for God*
  - **Let me Let you in on a Secret: These lusts of the body that sin is trying to give you orders to do**
    - **They are deceitful...** They promise delight and exhilaration
      - But they leave you hollow, with nothing...
      - They leave you with less than you had before...
      - **They are like a drug that you take to help with your nerves...**
        - ◆ Yet, it makes your nerves worse...
        - ◆ And when you try to leave it behind it grabs a hold so painfully
        - ◆ You are afraid to let go
      - You end up being more enslaved and feel more guilt
    - **The are trying to destroy you...**
      - **1 Peter 2:11 says, "Abstain from fleshly desires which wage war against the soul."**
  - **Summary: Paul says... Get it straight in your mind what is true of you...**
    - And now... Do not let sin win... do not let it reign... in your mortal bodies
    - Now He gives you some practical ways to keep this from happening...
- **2) Do Not Give Your Bodies to Sin**
  - **13 and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness;**
  - **Presenting:**
    - This word means: To make accessible... to make available
      - To stand near...
    - **Consider this for a moment...**
      - Here is an active verb being used by Paul...
      - **And the sense of what He is saying is:**
        - ◆ Presenting means that you have offered yourself up to sin
        - ◆ You have come and stood by sin...
        - ◆ And you have made yourself available to it...
    - **If I understand this correctly... I see presenting the members of your body**
      - As something you make a conscious effort to do...
      - There is no accident involved here... no oops... didn't see that coming

- **Remember: You know who you are... and what Christ has done...**
  - Now, do not use your body parts for sin. Do not present them for sin...
  - You have all you need to keep this from happening...
  - **We have been granted all we need to live godly**
    - ◆ 2 Peter 1:3<sup>3</sup> His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness,
      - ◆ God is at work in you, living within you, He has accomplished victory for you...
- **Therefore... do not use or present your body for sin...**
  - **Paul, I believe, has in mind a number of things here...**
    - ◆ Do not use your hands to bring harm to someone else
    - ◆ Do not let your stomach control you into gluttony or drunkenness
    - ◆ Do not let your sexual organs control you toward evil cravings
    - ◆ Do not let your tongue have its way in how you speak ...
      - ◆ Romans 6:21 "The outcome of those things is death."
- So, that is the negative... what not to do... look at the positive...

### ➤ 3) Rather Give Yourselves to God

- **but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.**
- **Present yourselves to God**
  - Consider the ramifications of this verse...
  - Remember... this is an active verb... to present... to bring near...
  - **Come and present yourselves to God... this brings to mind**
    - Romans 12:1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.
      - ◆ Give yourself to God first and foremost...
    - **This is our problem: Many of us go weeks before coming before God**
      - ◆ This verse could be applied to many different areas of your life... but I see a primary way
      - ◆ **Come and bow before God every single day...**
        - Not with simple bible reading a chapter a day to keep the devil away
        - Or quick prayers...
      - ◆ **Rather... Come thoughtfully and humbly and with the idea of doing business with God**
        - Where you are devoting yourself completely to God at some point every day
        - Free from all outside distractions...
  - So... **Present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead...** and also...
- **Lets use our body as weapons for God...**
  - **Weapons are very interesting things...**
    - They can be used to senselessly take life
    - They can be used to save life
  - **This word is translated often times as instruments...**
    - Because it means a piece of equipment... but the word is usually translated as weapons
- **Our body is a weapon... it is a piece of equipment that should be used in the proper way...**
  - Men can use their hands to feed the hungry and help the needy
    - ◆ Or use their hands to take life from another person
  - Men can use their tongues to praise and bring to God and encourage other people
    - ◆ Or use their tongues to bring men down and as a result dishonor God
  - Men can use their body in a loving relationship with their mate
    - ◆ Or pervert God's plan for intimacy with pornography or sexual immorality
- **Paul encourages us to use our bodies as Righteous weapons...**

- To do things that are right before God...

#### ❖ 4) Remember: Grace Reigns in You

- <sup>14</sup> For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.
- **Sin will have no dominion over you...**
  - Paul ends his thoughts here with a statement...
  - He is saying... Sin will not reign...
- **I believe He is referring to your final state before God...**
  - Sin reigned until Christ came and set you free
  - Sin used the law to condemn you
  - Sin wants to continue its rule over you...
- **So... the exhortation by Paul... to not let sin reign... is not just something he says**
  - And then contradicts here in verse 14 when he says...
  - Sin will have no dominion over you...
- **He says this to assure you of your final victory...**
  - He says this to help you fight NOW!
  - He says this to give you a **Mark** to know you are His...
    - Those that belong to the king... will fight sin
    - And sin will ultimately have no dominion over them
  - **He also says this because Jesus has broken sins power over you**
    - And this is where the last phrase comes in
- **Since you are not under law but under grace...**
  - Jesus fulfilled the law...
  - The law left you exceedingly sinful... the law left you condemned
  - The law showed you your sin, it left you standing there imperfect
  - Unable to live up to God's Holy Standard...
- **But here comes Grace:**
  - Grace appears in Jesus Christ... and He fulfills the laws of God...
  - And by Faith He gives you access to Grace...
  - He gives you access to His victory...
  - And if you are joined with Him... you also are given Grace
  - And grace keeps sin from having dominion over you

#### ❖ Remember: God has Taken the City

- You are free from sin...
  - But... Your body is not yet done with it.
- **Consider Paul's Teachings in Galatians (Flesh vs Spirit)**
  - **Galatians 5:16-17 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.**
  - **You... have been set free... if you are in Christ... But your body is still at war...**
    - Do You Understand? You are the City... and the City is His...
      - ◆ Although the City is His and will certainly be His
      - ◆ There are more fronts to fight... more place to be victorious...
  - **The Flesh... it attacks your... Your Mortal Body**
    - The desires of the flesh are those inordinate desires
    - They are in contrast to the desires of the Spirit of God...
    - There is a war going on within the Christian.

## ❖ Remember: It is War

- No such thing as a sudden experience of deliverance from sin once and for all
  - Sin will remain in the body until we leave this body
  - Do not live in misery... do not believe the lie.
    - Sin remains in the mortal body as long as it is mortal

## ❖ We Have a Great Weapon: Our Greatest Weapon: Treasuring God

- Let me step aside for just a minute... yet, not exactly aside...
  - This parallels what we see here in the text...
- In verse 12 Paul writes **do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts,**
  - We said that lusts are cravings that displace proper affections for God
- Our Greatest Active Weapon in our fight against sin
  - Is that we treasure God...
  - That we are able to say with the Psalmist:
    - Psalm 16:11 in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.
    - When the city was freed... we began to see and hear and taste and touch more clearly
      - ◆ We saw the greatness of the King and how utterly good He is for us
- We Must Set God and His Ways before us as more preferable...
  - Like the man in Matt 13:44 "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.
  - God is worthy of our desires and affections:
    - Romans 11:33,36<sup>33</sup> Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!...<sup>36</sup> For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.
- How do we do this?
  - Same way you would find the worthiness of anyone or anything
  - By spending time with that person or thing... Learning of it and experiencing it
  - We must spend quality time with God...
    - Remember Colossians 3:16 Let the Word of Christ dwell in you Richly
    - Not distracted time... We must get to know Him through His word
    - Psalm 34:8 Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!

## ❖ What if you just do not care?

- Chastisement for his children
- Condemnation to those who hear but have never surrendered to God
- There is another Scenario:
  - A city thinks they have been freed. They love the idea of being liberated by the king. They do not want the destruction of their city. But... they failed to truly trust Him... they never wanted to let go of the tyrant's food and gifts. They thought they could have the best of both worlds. So... the city is never taken over by the king... and they continue to be blind... even more blind than they were before. So... they are unconcerned with fighting... and unconcerned with bringing the whole city under the King's control.

## ❖ Invitation

- Come and Be Freed... or Pray for power in the fight!