Digging Deep - into Romans

WEEK 7 – chapter 6: 1-23

How can I get sin finally sorted out in my life?

(What it really means to be dead to sin)

• Chapters 1-5. Justification

Chapter 6. Sanctification/Holiness

- The crucial questions
- How can we live a new life?
- How can we reap its benefits?

1) Die to live v. 1-11

An illustration from Baptism

- Old life ended
- Raised to new life
- Identified with Christ = freedom from sin's enslavement
- United with Christ = participation in Christ's resurrection life

2) Become what you already are v. 11-14

Count yourselves dead to sin..... but alive in Christ Jesus.

- A living, spiritual relationship
- Sin will not be your lord and master
- a) One Lord, the Lord Jesus Christ
- b) "You are not under law, but under grace."

- v. 1-14 summed up in Titus 2: 11-14
- Death of Christ the basis of salvation.
- God's grace motivating and empowering the Christian's life
- Mastery over sin; eagerness to serve and please the Lord
- The evidence for new life; self-controlled and upright living
- Becoming what we already are in God's sight; his own people

3) Who is our Master? Who do we serve? v. 15-23

The choice illustrated:

- A slave to sin
- Shame here and now ultimately death and separation from God
- Slaves to God
- Free <u>from</u> sin free <u>to</u> live holy and upright lives a future of eternal life

"What benefit did you reap?" = "What fruit did you have?" v. 21

- "The <u>fruit</u> of the <u>Spirit."</u>
- "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." v. 23
- Wages = a soldier's pay. Earned and due
- Gift = a bonus. Gracious generosity. Unearned
- Our "earnings" death/separation from God
- The gift God graciously gives us life instead

- Conclusion/Application
- The experience of salvation and of sanctification:
- NOT fantasy; imagination; promising to try harder
- BUT a life changing/enhancing experience
- A <u>living</u> relationship. The Spirit produces faith, fruits of repentance and freedom from sin
- B. Christian allegiance & commitment to be wholehearted and all-consuming
- More serious than life and death!