

Time Audit Chronicles: Freedom from Sin (Romans 6:1-23)

Prologue: A New Life in Christ

The Presswood family gathered around the dining table, the Bible open to **Romans 6**, where Paul explains the incredible reality of being **freed from sin** through Jesus Christ. Ariel, curious as always, had been thinking about what it meant to live a life “dead to sin.” Alice, holding Mr. Fluffernutter tightly, wondered what a world without bad choices might look like.

“Daddy,” Ariel asked, “Paul says that believers are **dead to sin**. Does that mean we’ll never sin again?”

Ryan leaned forward, smiling gently. “That’s a great question, Ariel. Paul isn’t saying that believers will never sin, but that we are no longer **slaves** to sin. Before Jesus, sin ruled over us—it controlled our thoughts, actions, and choices. But because of Jesus’ death and resurrection, we’re set **free** from sin’s power. Now, instead of being ruled by sin, we’re ruled by God’s **grace**. We have the power to say no to sin and to live a life that honors Him.”

“So,” Ariel asked, “it’s like we’ve been given a **new life**, and we don’t have to follow the old way anymore?”

“Exactly,” Ryan said. “Let’s use the **Time Audit Machine** to see how Paul explained this to the Roman believers, and how it applies to us today.”

The Journey Begins: Dead to Sin, Alive in Christ (Romans 6:1-14)

The **Time Audit Machine** hummed to life, and the family found themselves in the bustling city of **Rome**. In a quiet house, a group of believers was gathered, listening intently as Paul’s letter was read aloud. The passage focused on a profound truth: through Jesus’ death and resurrection, believers are united with Him, not just in His death, but in His new life as well.

Ryan pointed to the gathering. “Paul starts by asking a big question: **‘What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?’** (Romans 6:1). He’s addressing an idea some people might have—thinking that since God’s grace forgives all sin, it’s okay to keep sinning. But Paul strongly rejects that idea.”

Ariel nodded. “He says, **‘God forbid,’** right? That means, ‘Absolutely not!’”

“Yes,” Ryan said, “Paul makes it clear that believers are no longer slaves to sin. He explains that when we were **baptized** into Christ, we were united with Him in His **death**, which means our old, sinful selves were crucified with Him. That’s why he says, **‘How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?’** (Romans 6:2).”

The family watched as Paul’s words were read aloud to the Roman believers: **“Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?”** (Romans 6:3). Ariel listened closely as the meaning became clear.

Ryan added, “Paul is saying that through baptism, believers symbolically die with Christ and are raised to **new life**. This new life means we are no longer under sin’s control—we’re free to live for God.”

Sin’s Power is Broken (*Romans 6:6-7*)

Paul’s words continued: **“Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin.”** (Romans 6:6-7).

Ariel turned to her father. “So, Paul is saying that when we’re united with Jesus, our ‘old self’—the part of us ruled by sin—is put to death. That’s why sin doesn’t have power over us anymore.”

“Exactly,” Ryan said. “Paul is teaching that Jesus’ death didn’t just take the punishment for sin—it broke the **power** of sin. When we accept Jesus, we’re no longer under sin’s authority. Instead, we’re alive to **God’s grace**.”

Living for God: Instruments of Righteousness (*Romans 6:12-14*)

As Paul’s letter continued, he urged the believers to live in the freedom Christ had given them. **“Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead.”** (Romans 6:12-13).

Ariel watched the believers nod as they heard these words. “So, Paul is telling them to make a choice—to **offer** themselves to God instead of letting sin control them.”

“Yes,” Ryan said. “He’s using the image of our bodies as **instruments** or tools. We can either let sin use us for evil, or we can offer ourselves to God to be used for His purposes. It’s a daily decision to live for Him.”

“Paul even promises that sin will no longer be their master,” Ryan continued, pointing to the next verse. **“For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.”** (Romans 6:14).

Slaves to Righteousness (*Romans 6:15-22*)

Paul then addressed another question: If believers are under grace, does that mean they can sin freely? **“What then? Shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.”** (Romans 6:15).

Ariel turned to Ryan, puzzled. “Why does Paul keep asking if grace means it’s okay to sin? Isn’t it obvious that it doesn’t?”

Ryan smiled. “It might seem obvious to us, but Paul wanted to be crystal clear. Some people misunderstood grace, thinking it gave them permission to live however they wanted. But Paul explains that believers are now **slaves to righteousness**, not sin.”

The family listened as the letter continued: “**Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?**” (Romans 6:16).

Ryan explained, “Paul is saying that everyone serves something. Before Jesus, we were slaves to sin, which leads to **death**. But now, we’re free to serve God, which leads to **righteousness** and **eternal life**.”

Ariel smiled. “So, being a slave to righteousness means choosing to live in a way that honors God, instead of being controlled by sin.”

“Yes,” Ryan said. “It’s about living for God out of love and gratitude for what He’s done for us. It’s not about earning salvation—it’s about living in the **freedom** Jesus has already given us.”

The Gift of Eternal Life (*Romans 6:23*)

Paul’s conclusion was powerful: “**For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.**” (Romans 6:23).

Ariel repeated the verse softly. “The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life...” She looked up at Ryan. “That’s such a clear contrast. Sin leads to death, but God’s gift is **eternal life** through Jesus.”

“That’s exactly it,” Ryan said. “Paul is reminding us that sin always has consequences—**death**. But through Jesus, God offers us the **gift** of eternal life. It’s not something we can earn—it’s a gift we receive by faith.”

Takeaway: Living in Freedom

Back in the garage, the **Time Audit Machine** powered down, and the family sat quietly, reflecting on what they had just witnessed. Ariel turned to her father, her expression thoughtful.

“Daddy,” she said, “I understand now. Jesus didn’t just save us from the **penalty** of sin—He also freed us from its **power**. That means we don’t have to let sin control us anymore. We can live for God instead.”

“That’s right,” Ryan said, smiling. “When we’re united with Jesus, we’re no longer slaves to sin. Instead, we’re free to live the life God created us for—a life of **righteousness**, joy, and eternal hope.”

Ariel nodded, her heart filled with gratitude. “I want to live that kind of life—to use my freedom to honor Jesus and to help others see His love.”

“And that’s exactly what Paul is calling us to do,” Ryan said. “It’s a life of **freedom**, but it’s also a life of **purpose**—a life where we choose to live for God and reflect His love to the world.”

Takeaway: Freedom from Sin, Life in Christ

In **Romans 6:1-23**, Paul explains the profound truth that believers are no longer slaves to sin. Through Jesus’ death and resurrection, we have been set free from sin’s power and given the gift of eternal life. Paul reminds us that while sin leads to death, God’s grace gives us **new life** in Christ—a life that is free to serve God and to live in righteousness. This passage calls us to remember that our freedom is not a license to sin, but an opportunity