



Doggy Bag: *Something to Chew On and Ponder Throughout the Week*

1. **Read Romans 6:1 – 23.** What does it mean to be baptized into Christ Jesus (6:4)? When you become a Christian, what happens to your old self?
2. What does it mean to be a slave of sin? What about a slave of righteousness? Can there be a neutral? Read Romans 6:6. How can Christians be dead to sin, but still have a daily struggle with sin?
3. Can someone be saved if they aren't willing to make Christ the Lord and master of their lives?
4. What benefit do we get from sin? What benefit do we get from righteousness? What else do you learn about sin from the following verses? Genesis 4:4-7 - Proverbs 28:13 - James 4:17 - 1 John 1:7-9
5. Paul uses several word pictures to describe the relationship between a Christian and sin. He uses: death, baptism, slave, and master. In your own words how would you describe the relationship between a Christian and sin?
6. Victory over sin has been won. Battles with sin still continue. How might you encourage someone who is constantly losing the battle with sin? Especially if someone starts to feel "not good enough" to receive God's grace? How can you remind yourself daily of the victory over sin?



Does God Grade on a Curve?

Romans 6:12 – 23, Matthew 7:21 (NIV)

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Have you ever failed a test? How did you handle the news?

Consider: If our salvation is assured by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ, do our actions or "works" really matter all that much? What's the problem if we keep on sinning?

*¹ What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? ...¹⁵ What then? Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? **By no means!** (Romans 6:1, 15)*

1. God's grace and forgiveness doesn't make _____ less serious; Jesus Christ's death on the cross shows us how dreadful _____ really is in the eyes of God.

²¹ "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 7:21)

➤ Apparently, our ACTIONS do matter!

ASK YOURSELF THEN: To what end will my life here on earth serve God and God's purposes? Do my thoughts and actions lead me closer to God or further away from God?

2. We are set free from the grip of death to _____ God.

¹⁶ Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? (Romans 6:16)

➤ The truth is that we are most _____ when we are most bound to Christ.



Bob Dylan understands this, do you?

²⁰⁻²¹ *As long as you did what you felt like doing, ignoring God, you didn't have to bother with right thinking or right living, or right anything for that matter. But do you call that a free life? What did you get out of it? Nothing you're proud of now. Where did it get you? A dead end. (Romans 6:20 – 21, Message)*

➤ Our _____ response to God's love and grace is faith lived out with whole-hearted obedience, gratitude and joy.

So, what are the immediate implications for non-Christians?

A. Commit to Christ

²² *But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

B. Get Baptized

Implications for Christians?

A. Recommit to Christ

B. Become a Member of STUMC

C. Expect that your life will be radically transformed for the good