

ROMANS

6:12-14



Resisting Sin...

**“in Christ Jesus
Our Lord!”**

**Part 1:
Let the Struggle
Begin!**

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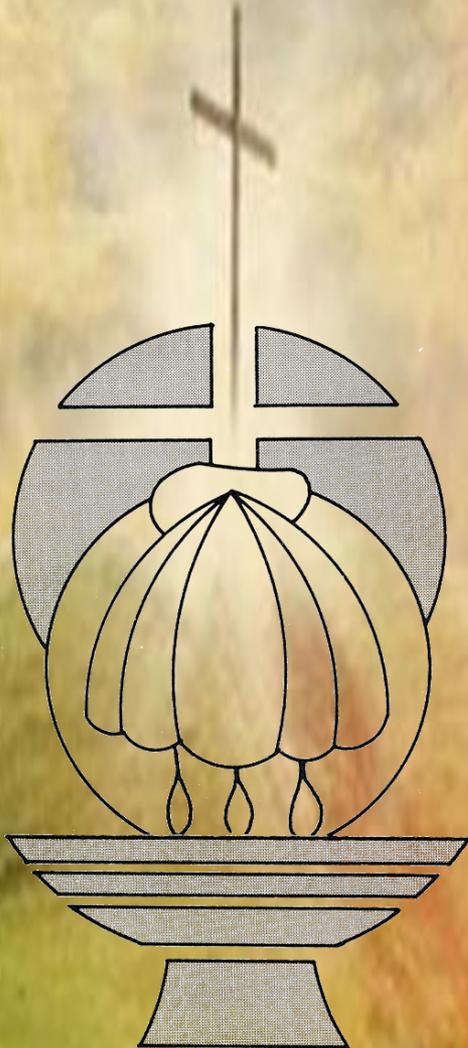
6:12-14



¹²Therefore continually resist the reign of sin in your mortal body which results in being responsive to its desires. ¹³And do not continue to present your bodily members to sin [as] instruments of unrighteousness; instead, present yourselves to God as living from [the] dead and your bodily members to God [as] instruments of righteousness. ¹⁴Indeed, sin will not be lord of you; for you are not under Law but under grace.

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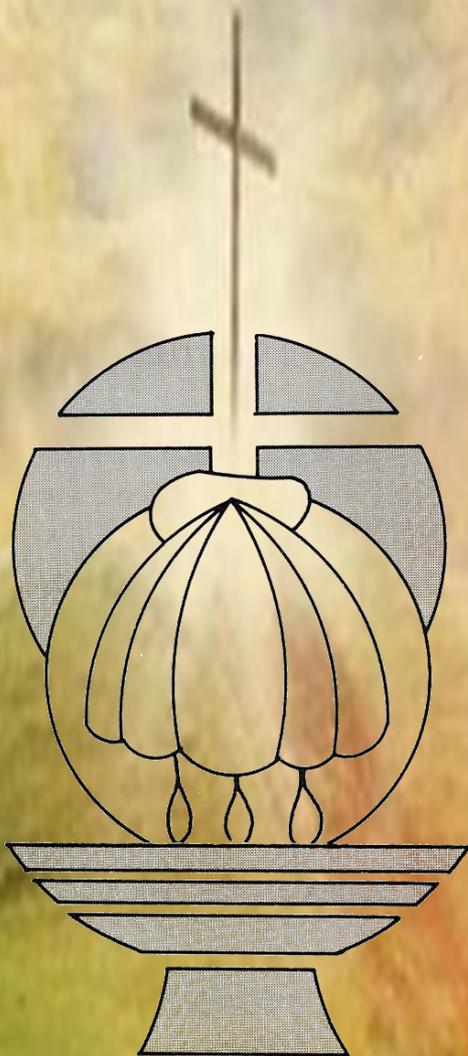


In the rest of Romans 6, St. Paul uses a surprising paradox to describe the Christian life: *freed slaves going on to a new slavery!*

He explains the new life that is lived to God as a life in which we are free to be enslaved to righteousness.

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To understand Paul's argument, let's read Exodus 21:2-6.

Under what conditions might a slave return to slavery?

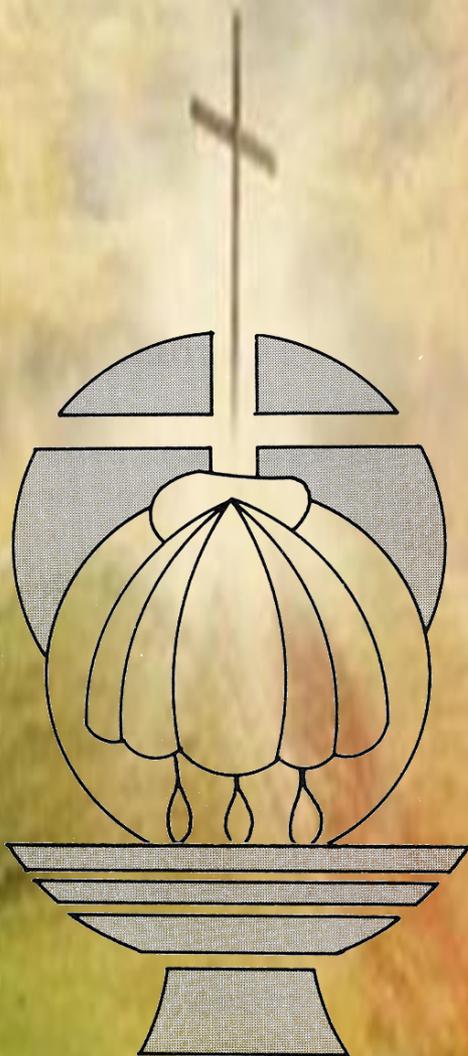
Now Jeremiah 34:8-17.

What is God saying about those He sets free?

Finally, St. John 8:36.

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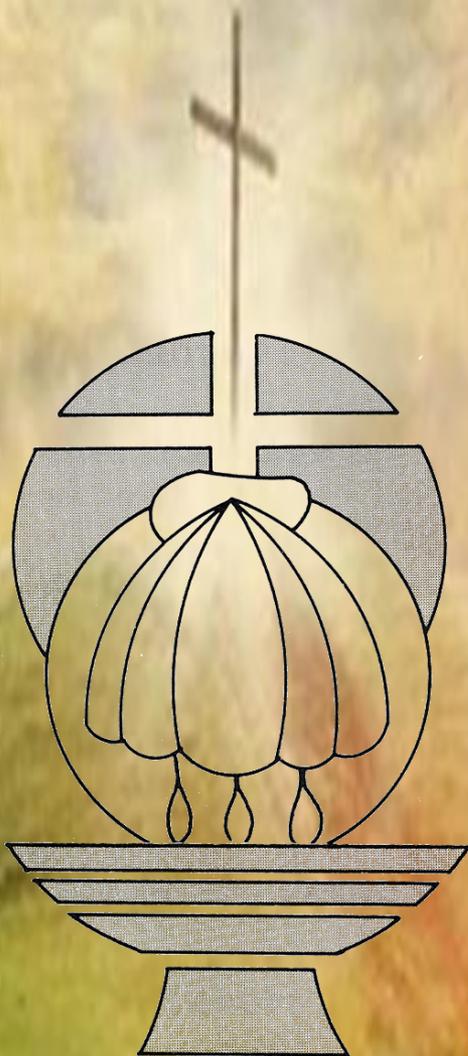
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All too often, present circumstances may appear to contradict the Divinely declared reality of Baptism. While our slavery to sin has ended (v.6), sin still seeks to gain control and its former dominion...to lord over you! As a result, the present situation of the believer who is *“living to God”* (v.11) involves an ongoing struggle against sin.

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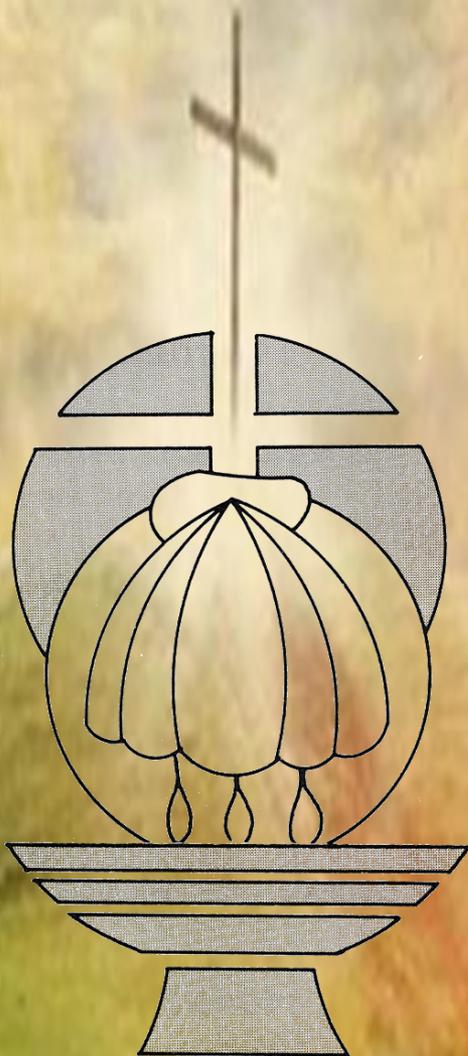
So it's clear: Baptism does not end the struggle; the internal "civil war" within the saint of God (*Simul Iustus et Peccator*). Yet, what has ended within you and over you is sin's unopposed, unchallenged reign.

So....,

Let the Struggle Begin!

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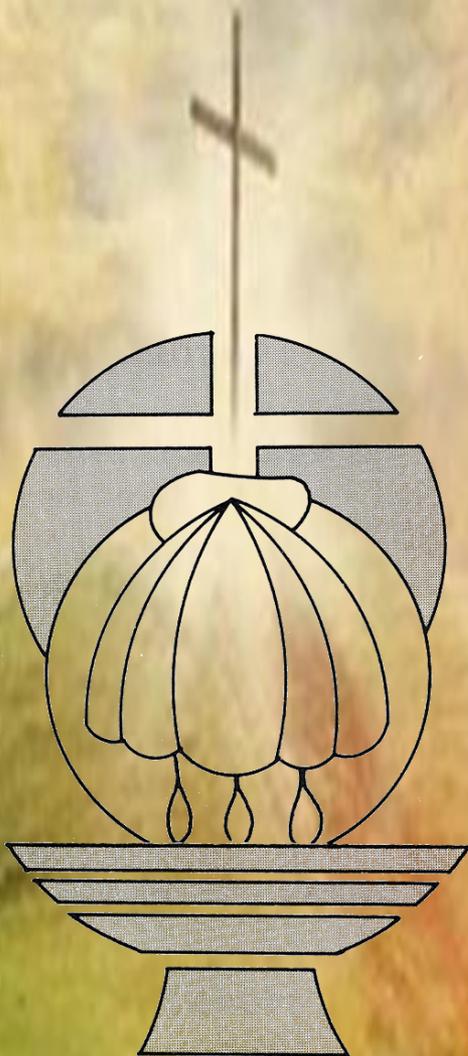


¹²Therefore continually resist the reign of sin in your mortal body which results in being responsive to its desires.

Paul begins by exhorting you, as a baptized child of God, to engage in an ongoing refusal to allow sin to reign, to regain its dominance! Sin, Old Adam, desires to do this; to reign supreme in your life. When Paul is addressing the “*moral body*” he is discussing that body which is subject to physical death; the physical body in this fallen world. And it is within the physical body that Paul describes as the arena of your battle in the world.

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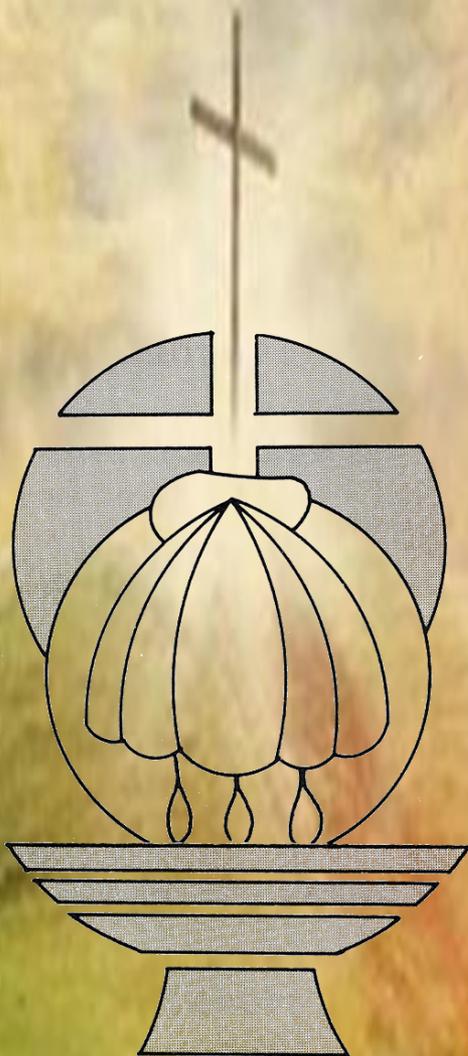


¹²Therefore continually resist the reign of sin in your mortal body which results in being responsive to its desires.

Sin wins the battle and regains its foothold when, instead of living for God, believers respond or as Paul intends with the Greek verb “to hearken; to be fully compliant” to the mortal body’s desires (the desires of Old Adam!).

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¹²Therefore continually resist the reign of sin in your mortal body which results in being responsive to its desires.

Even Baptized believers have these desires to listen to and then to act upon the temptation; to be “*fully compliant*” to sin. Thus, the constant battle is that sin is always endeavoring to regain its reign by tempting you to listen to and then act upon those desires!

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¹³And do not continue to present your bodily members to sin [as] instruments of unrighteousness; instead, present yourselves to God as living from [the] dead and your bodily members to God [as] instruments of righteousness.

Paul, in the first half of verse 13, uses a parallel expression, as he use a negated present tense imperative. As in v.12, you, as a Baptized believer, face an ongoing battle, which St. Paul urges you to actively and continually oppose! “[D]o not continue to present...” has a military, legal, royal, and sacrificial context.

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¹³And do not continue to present your bodily members to sin [as] instruments of unrighteousness; instead, present yourselves to God as living from [the] dead and your bodily members to God [as] instruments of righteousness.

The bottom line is this: a Baptized Christian must never reduce your “*resistance*” to just an hour on Sunday morning; rather, you have joined the battle in your Baptism and therefore your whole life, all of your life is involved!

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Paul's KEY POINT

You have died to sin in your Baptism (cf. vv. 2-8) and you are no longer enslaved to sin and its constant tyranny.

Thus, you are now able to place your bodily members *either* at the disposal of sin *or* employ them in living “to God!”

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Paul's KEY POINT

Your bodily members can be presented to sin with the result that they become “*instruments of unrighteousness.*” This recalls the earlier uses of unrighteousness where Paul clearly tells the Romans (and all Christians) what these “*unrighteous*” acts are in 1:18 and 1:29. Therefore, God, via Paul, is calling upon you to resist acts of unrighteousness and the behaviors manifested by them as reflected in Rom 1:18-32 (so let’s review them!).

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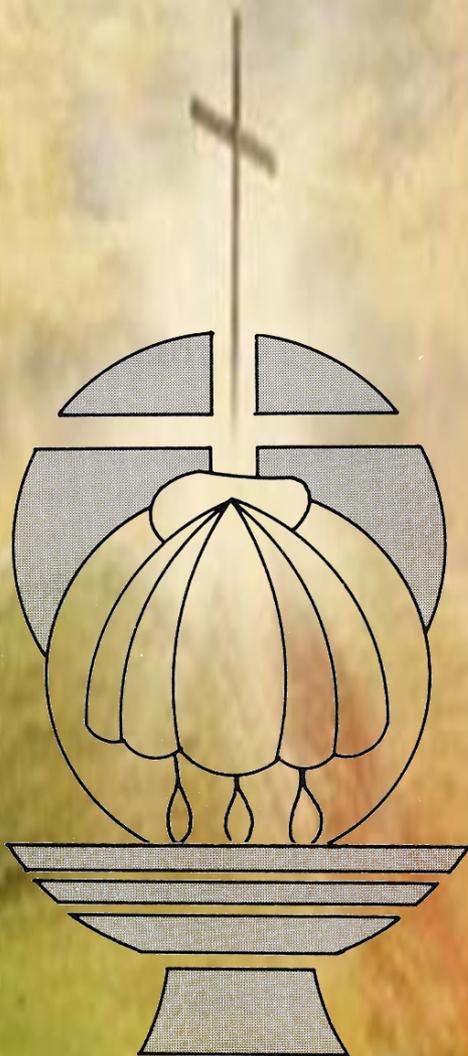


¹³⁶ “...instead, present yourselves to God as living from [the] dead and your bodily members to God [as] instruments of righteousness.”

Here’s the alternative, the better option, for you! This option is comparable to the alternatives of death in Adam and life in Christ Jesus (5:12-21). The concept that two alternative realms now exist forms the dominant structure of this section of Romans 6.

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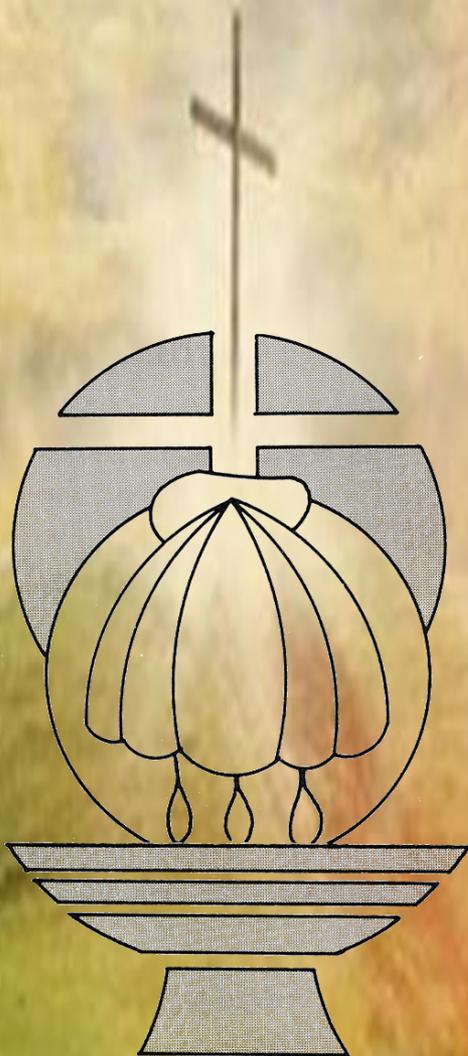


¹³⁶ “...instead, present yourselves to God as living from [the] dead and your bodily members to God [as] instruments of righteousness.”

Your former situation: *entrapment to sin and a slave to sin!* Then the alternative: in **Baptism you have been freed from sin and have become a slave to Christ! This freedom from sin and slavery to Jesus Christ actually empowers you to resist sin and all acts of unrighteousness. How so? Because in God’s work in Holy **Baptism** you are now “...*living from [the] dead....*”**

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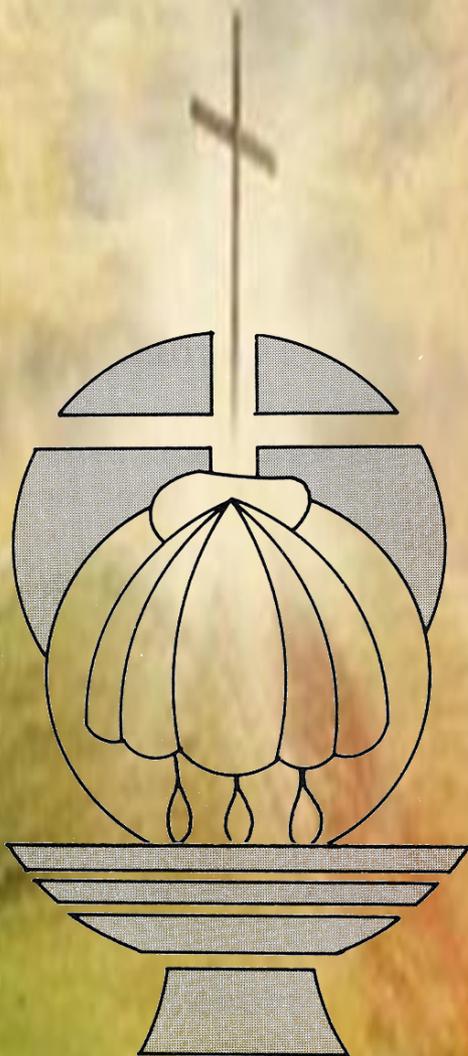
¹³⁶“... instead, present yourselves to God as living from [the] dead and your bodily members to God [as] instruments of righteousness.”

God counts you as dead to sin! Therefore, you should count yourself dead to sin. This is the great grace and Gospel in which God works in your life via Holy Baptism:

- 1. Your death to sin has happened through your Baptism into your Lord's death (6:2-3);**
- 2. You can now count yourself “living to God in Christ Jesus” (6:11);**
- 3. His resurrection enables you the opportunity of “walking in life's renewal” (6:4); and,**
- 4. The realities of your Baptism exist as expressed in 6:1-11, and are applied to your daily life.**

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¹³⁶“... instead, present yourselves to God as living from [the] dead and your bodily members to God [as] instruments of righteousness.”

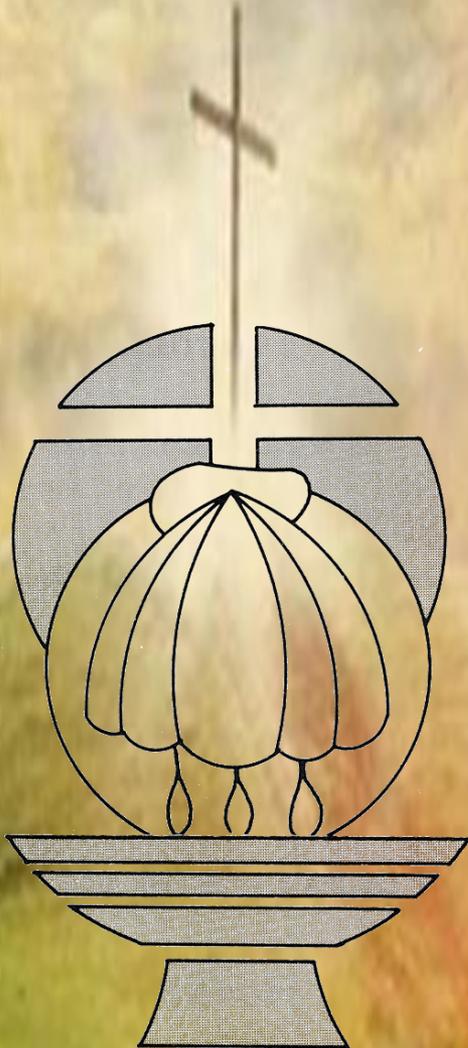
We must discuss “instruments of righteousness” so that you will fully understand Paul’s meaning here.

This term “instruments of righteousness” is antonymous with “instruments of unrighteousness.”

The latter is using your body (bodily members) to do unrighteous acts (cf., again, 1:18-32).

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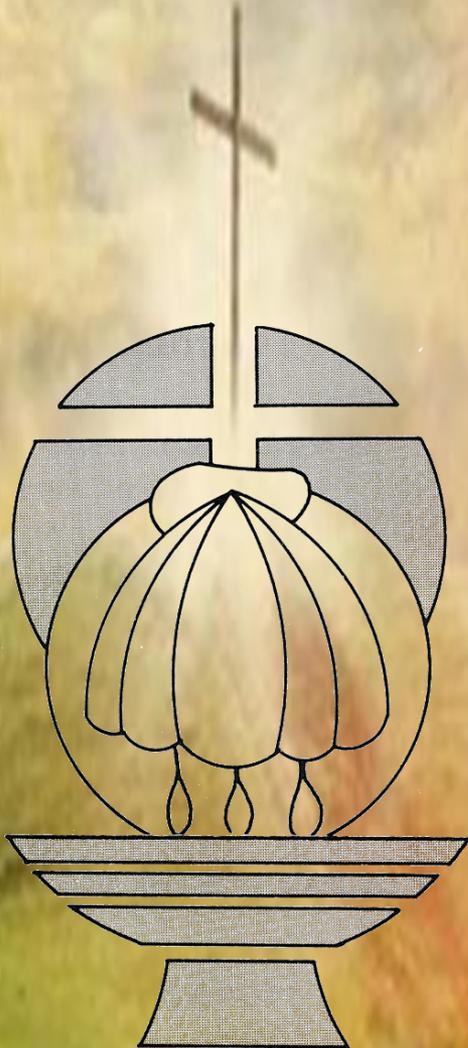


¹³⁶ “... instead, present yourselves to God as living from [the] dead and your bodily members to God [as] instruments of righteousness.”

Lastly, Jesus clearly teaches us of both how and how not to do “*your righteousness*” in St. Matthew 6:1: “*Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.*”

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¹⁴Indeed, sin will not be lord of you; for you are not under Law but under grace.

St. Paul now expresses the foundational work of God! First, “...*sin will not be lord of you...*;” since Jesus is now your Lord. You have been set free from sins “lordship” and from eternal death. Sin could, however, once again be allowed to regain its reign, but, such a thing must never happen!

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¹⁴Indeed, sin will not be lord of you; for you are not under Law but under grace.

Secondly, and most strikingly, “...you are not under Law but under grace.”

Once again, the sense of under is that you are under the control of, under obligation to! Here is the great Good News for each of you! God’s salvific work in Christ Jesus, your Lord, not only releases you, His baptized child, from the lordship of sin and the Law, but places you “under” His grace!

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6:15-19



**Next
Week**

Resisting Sin...

**“in Christ Jesus
Our Lord!”**

**Part 2:
The Analogy and
Reality of Slavery!**