

EVER NEEDING A SAVIOR

I. Romans 6:1-8

A. How many of you here can affirm the fact that Jesus is your Savior and Lord? A savior is one who saves someone from some sort of trouble, from a predicament, from harm, woe, pearl or death. Our Savior Jesus, by His grace, saved us from sin and death and hell. That or He wants to! But Jesus is not just our one time Savior, He's ever our Savior. We've been saved from sin's penalty; are being saved from sin's power; and we'll one day be saved from sin's presence altogether. He was and is and is to come, and likewise--He has saved us; is saving us; and will save us!

B. Romans 6:1-8 (ESV) is our main text and is written to saved people:

1) **V1-2: 1** *What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? 2* *By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? (To place Paul's rhetorical question into context, let's slip back to the last two verses of the previous chapter. Romans 5:20-21 (NLT) reminds us: 20 *God's law was given so that all people could see how sinful they were. But as people sinned more and more, God's wonderful grace became more abundant. 21* *So just as sin ruled over all people and brought them to death, now God's wonderful grace rules instead, giving us right standing with God and resulting in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.)* **Back to Romans 6:1-2 this time from the NASB:** "*What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?*" **(Jesus loves you just as He found you but He doesn't want to leave you that way!)***

2) **V3-4: 3** *Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 4* *We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. (While it doesn't save us, Baptism is an act of obedience that dramatizes our salvation, it depicts our regeneration.)*

3) **V5: 5** *For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His. (What an awesome promise! This is our "**sure and certain hope of resurrection unto eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord!**")*

4) **V6-8: 6** *We know that our old self was crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. 7* *For one who has died has been set free from sin. 8* *Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him. So shall we keep on sinning that grace may increase? May it never be! That's totally antithetical to our text!*

C. As we prepare to take the Bread & Cup, I want us to celebrate the fact that Jesus has saved us by grace but also that our Savior's grace should indeed have an effect on how we now live. We might ask: *Are our sins that put Jesus on the cross in the first place continuing or being dispensed with by the same grace that saved us in the first place? Or "shall we keep on sinning that grace may increase?"* Should not His grace-filled kindness that led us to our initial repentance be the same grace-filled kindness that leads us in daily, on-going, repentance? The Savior we needed for our salvation is the

same Savior necessary for our sanctification while preparing us for glorification come one Day...

D. Let's consider some NT encounters with Jesus that should help us understand.

* A woman, caught in the act of adultery, is drug before Jesus. "*Poor woman you say!*" But what if she were caught with your husband?! The religious rulers test Jesus. *What does the law say?* Jesus writes in the dirt. Is He just doodling to collect His thoughts? Some think He writes the names of women these accusers have been with. (*A stretch perhaps.*) Others posit He's writing out specific sins these men are guilty of. Yet others believe He's writing out the law itself, after all He's the Author of it! Pressed further, Jesus finally says, "*He who is without sin, cast the first stone.*" One by one they drop their stones and leave. But then He asks her where her accusers are, she replies that none remain, just Him. And He says to her: "*Neither do I condemn you, ('go and sin some more, so My grace may increase?')* No! He says, "*Neither do I condemn you, go and sin no more!*" Know this, she walked away alive that day but still needed a Savior! Jesus saved her and He'll save her better yet when He soon dies for her on the cross. Would Jesus say to an addict, "*Go and shoot up some more?*" To a thief, "*Go and steal some more?*" To a self-righteous person, "*Go and keep trusting in yourself to save yourself?*" **Never!**

* A rich, young, law-abiding ruler comes to Jesus seeking to know how to obtain eternal life. He's kept the law stringently. (*Probably as stringently as a Pharisee named Saul who we'd later know as Paul.*) Jesus knows he's seeking to earn a salvation that can't be earned. Jesus says to him: "*You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, you shall not defraud, honor your father and mother.'*" **Young man:** "*Teacher,*" he declared, "*all these I have kept since I was a boy.*" **Jesus looked at him and loved him but saw a different treasure in his heart, a different god before him.** "*One thing you lack,*" Jesus said. "*Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow Me.*" **THE Savior was right before Him but he didn't recognize Him. He went away sad. All who try to earn their right-standing by keeping the law rather than thru the Law-Keeping Savior will always lack something. Paul knew this and wrote about his Savior-imputed righteousness in Philippians 3:8-9 (NIV):** **8** *What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ* **9** *and be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ--the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.*

* **Listen to Jesus in Luke 18:9-14 (NIV):** **9** *To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable:* **10** *"Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people--robbers, evildoers, adulterers--or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' (He's his own savior!) 13 "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.' 14 "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."* **(The tax collector knew he needed a Savior!)**

* The name, *Jesus, Joshua* in the OT, means: *Yahweh saves* i.e. *Savior*. In **Matthew 13:16-18 & 21-23** (ESV) we have a twofold Jesus/Peter encounter: **13** Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" **14** And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." **15** He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" **16** Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." **17** And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. **18** And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it... (No doubt Peter was beaming. Skip down to V21): **21** From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. **22** And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord! This shall never happen to You." **23** But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are a hindrance (**stumbling block**) to Me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man." (Answer me this: Did Peter who knew the Savior, walked with the Savior, ever stop needing the Savior? No! He went on to deny Jesus 3 times as predicted. But Jesus died for his sins. After the resurrection, on a Galilean beach, Jesus restored Peter. Peter never stopped needing a Savior and the same is true for all of us!)

* So we come to the cross where Jewish leaders, Roman soldiers, and two thieves relentlessly mock our dying Savior. But something happens to one of those thieves in the midst of the darkness and quaking earth. He turns to Jesus. With his life slipping away, He recognizes Him as a King! One who can save! How'd that happen? The thief: "Remember me when You come into Your Kingdom." Jesus replies: "Today You will be with Me in Paradise!" If not for Jesus taking Him to Paradise, where would this man go? Do you see what this is? Our Savior's Grace! And this is the same Grace offered to us by the same Savior! This Grace is represented in the Bread & Cup. Perhaps we should sing, "Amazing grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me, and is saving a wretch like me!"

E. D.C. Talk sang: "What's going on inside of me? I despise my own behavior! This only serves to confirm my suspicions that I'm still a man in need of a Savior!" Lyrics borrowed from Paul who wrote about the sin he still wrestled with in **Romans 7:24-25a** (NCV): **24** What a miserable (**wretched**) man I am! Who will save me from this body that brings me death? **25** I thank God for saving me through Jesus Christ our Lord!

* Pray & Officiate Communion...

* **Psalm 18:16-19** (NLT) takes us home: **16** He reached down from heaven and rescued me; He drew me out of deep waters. **17** He rescued me from my powerful enemies, from those who hated me and were too strong for me. **18** They attacked me at a moment when I was in distress, but the LORD supported me. **19** He led me to a place of safety; He rescued me because He delights in me.

[Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff](#)

[Romans 6:1-8 \(ESV\)](#)

1 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? **2** By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? **3** Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? **4** We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. **5** For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His. **6** We know that our old self was crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. **7** For one who has died has been set free from sin. **8** Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him.

Romans 5:20-21 (NLT)

20 God's law was given so that all people could see how sinful they were. But as people sinned more and more, God's wonderful grace became more abundant. **21** So just as sin ruled over all people and brought them to death, now God's wonderful grace rules instead, giving us right standing with God and resulting in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Philippians 3:8-9 (NIV)

8 What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ **9** and be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ--the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.

Luke 18:9-14 (NIV)

9 To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: **10** "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. **11** The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people--robbers, evildoers, adulterers--or even like this tax collector. **12** I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' **13** "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.' **14** "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

Matthew 16:13-18 & 21-23 (ESV)

13 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" **14** And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." **15** He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" **16** Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." **17** And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. **18** And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it... **21** From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief

priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. **22** And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord! This shall never happen to You." **23** But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are a hindrance to Me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

Romans 7:24-25a (NCV)

24 What a miserable man I am! Who will save me from this body that brings me death?

25 I thank God for saving me through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Psalm 18:16-19 (NLT)

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17 He rescued me from my powerful enemies, from those who hated me and were too strong for me. **18** They attacked me at a moment when I was in distress, but the LORD supported me. **19** He led me to a place of safety; He rescued me because He delights in me.

Bonus Goodies

"My Savior My God" - Aaron Shust

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7UnyaQt9Dt4>

"Wonderful Merciful Savior" - Selah

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fK6sYVQCqhs>

"Saved" by Bob Dylan

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vRTF_MbsAjk

Why We Follow Some OT Laws But Not Others - Greg Koukl (Stand to Reason)

<https://www.str.org/w/why-we-follow-some-old-testament-laws-but-not-others>

The Gospel Never Does Nothing - David McLemore (For the Church)

<https://ftc.co/resource-library/articles/the-gospel-never-does-nothing/>

Beware of the Birds - Greg Morse (Desiring God)

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/beware-of-the-birds>

More Verses, Quotes, Excerpts, & Extras

Romans 6:1-18 (NLT)

1 Well then, should we keep on sinning so that God can show us more and more of His wonderful grace? **2** Of course not! Since we have died to sin, how can we continue to live in it? **3** Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined Him in His death? **4** For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the

Father, now we also may live new lives. **5** Since we have been united with Him in His death, we will also be raised to life as He was. **6** We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin. **7** For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin. **8** And since we died with Christ, we know we will also live with Him. **9** We are sure of this because Christ was raised from the dead, and He will never die again. Death no longer has any power over Him. **10** When He died, He died once to break the power of sin. But now that He lives, He lives for the glory of God. **11** So you also should consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus. **12** Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires. **13** Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God. **14** Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God's grace. **15** Well then, since God's grace has set us free from the law, does that mean we can go on sinning? Of course not! **16** Don't you realize that you become the slave of whatever you choose to obey? You can be a slave to sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God, which leads to righteous living. **17** Thank God! Once you were slaves of sin, but now you wholeheartedly obey this teaching we have given you. **18** Now you are free from your slavery to sin, and you have become slaves to righteous living.

Romans 8:1-4 (NLT)

8 So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. **2** And because you belong to Him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death. **3** The law of Moses was unable to save us because of the weakness of our sinful nature. So God did what the law could not do. He sent His own Son in a body like the bodies we sinners have. And in that body God declared an end to sin's control over us by giving His Son as a sacrifice for our sins. **4** He did this so that the just requirement of the law would be fully satisfied for us, who no longer follow our sinful nature but instead follow the Spirit.

Philippians 3:3-9 (NLT)

2 Watch out for those dogs, those people who do evil, those mutilators who say you must be circumcised to be saved. **3** For we who worship by the Spirit of God are the ones who are truly circumcised. We rely on what Christ Jesus has done for us. We put no confidence in human effort, **4** though I could have confidence in my own effort if anyone could. Indeed, if others have reason for confidence in their own efforts, I have even more! **5** I was circumcised when I was eight days old. I am a pure-blooded citizen of Israel and a member of the tribe of Benjamin--a real Hebrew if there ever was one! I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law. **6** I was so zealous that I harshly persecuted the church. And as for righteousness, I obeyed the law without fault. **7** I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. **8** Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For His sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could

gain Christ **9** and become one with Him. I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ. For God's way of making us right with Himself depends on faith.

Mark 10:17-27 (NIV)

17 As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to Him and fell on his knees before Him. "Good teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" **18** "Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good--except God alone. **19** You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, you shall not defraud, honor your father and mother.'" **20** "Teacher," he declared, "all these I have kept since I was a boy." **21** Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow Me." **22** At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth. **23** Jesus looked around and said to His disciples, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!" **24** The disciples were amazed at His words. But Jesus said again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! **25** It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." **26** The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, "Who then can be saved?" **27** Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God."

How Salvation Brings Freedom

By Jen Wilkin - The Gospel Coalition

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/how-salvation-brings-freedom/>

I grew up in the Bible Belt where, by mid-elementary, most of my peers could point proudly to a note written in the front of their Bibles announcing the exact date they Got Saved. At junior high youth rallies the Rededications began, along with a smattering of I-Thought-I-Was-Saved-But-I-Really-Wasn'ts (scribble over that first date and write in the new one). Through all seven verses of "Just As I Am," and all four years of high school, we children of the Bible Belt battled our doubts and hustled our backslidden selves down aisles to altar rails.

Maybe, we thought, this time just maybe the Saving will stick.

Where's the Freedom?

Our problem was this: our sinning had not ceased with our professions of faith. The salvation that had promised us new life in Christ had by all appearances failed to deliver. We still made all the same mistakes, and along the thorny path of adolescence we added fresh failures to the list. Damning evidence, or so we thought, that when we Prayed The Prayer we had somehow not done it right. Where was the freedom from sin we had been promised?

Looking back I wonder if, for many of us, our problem was not with salvation itself, but with our understanding of how salvation brings freedom. Not until my early 20s did I gain any clarity on this issue. I knew I served a God who was and is and is to come, but I had yet to learn that I possessed from Him a salvation of which the same could be said. Salvation from sin can be broken down into three categories: justification, sanctification, and glorification. For the believer, our justification *was*, our sanctification *is*, and our glorification *is to come*. We were saved, we are being saved, we will be saved. I've found the easiest way to understand these three forms of freedom is to remember the three P's: penalty, power, and presence.

Justification: Freedom from Sin's Penalty

When we came to saving faith in Christ, confessing our great need of Him and asking for forgiveness from the punishment we deserved, we were met with God's unequivocal "yes." Since Christ bore the penalty for our sins, we received freedom from that penalty for all sins past, present, and future. We were justified before God our judge because our penalty had been paid. Those who have been justified never need re-justifying. We can look back to the time of our justification (perhaps written in the front of our Bible?) and know that there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus ([Rom. 8:1–2](#)).

Our justification is behind us. It is a past occurrence. We were saved from sin's penalty.

Sanctification: Freedom from Sin's Power

Now that the grace of God has been set upon us as a permanent seal ([2 Cor. 1:20–22](#)), we are being made new. We are being set free from the power of sin by the power of the Spirit. God's grace is restoring to us a will that wants what He wants. Before we were justified, our broken wills were utterly subject to the power of sin. We chose sin at every turn. Even when we made choices that appeared good from an external standpoint, because we had no higher internal purpose than to glorify self these choices were ultimately sinful as well. Now, the power of sin is broken. We have been given the deposit of the Holy Spirit. Though we once chose only to sin, now we have the power (and the growing desire) to choose righteousness. We who were once slaves to sin's power are now free to serve God. We don't always use our freedom. We still sin, but over time we learn increasingly to choose holiness. Our entire lives from that handwritten date in our Bibles onward are devoted to "working out our salvation" ([Phil. 2:12–13](#)) as we learn to choose righteousness instead of sin, to walk in obedience to God's commands.

Our sanctification is ongoing. It is a slow-moving growth in holiness. We are being saved from sin's power.

Glorification: Freedom from Sin's Presence

We will fight to grow in holiness our entire earthly lives. But when we have run the race and fought the good fight, we will enter into the presence of the Lord forever. We will be glorified. In His presence, our soul rest will at last be complete, as sin and its devastation will cease to assail us. There can be no evil in His presence. Though now we are surrounded on all sides by sinfulness, though now sin continues to cling to our

hearts, on a day not too distant we will go to a place where sin is no more. In our glorification we will at last be granted freedom from the very presence of sin.

Our glorification is coming. It is the day we trade the persistent presence of sin for the perfect presence of the Lord. We will be saved from sin's presence.

Rest, Labor, Hope

If my childhood peers and I had better understood these three aspects of salvation's freedom, we might have saved ourselves a great deal of anxiety and a few trips down the aisle. The knowledge that sin is gradually overcome across a lifetime would have been good news to the teenager who thought surely her ongoing sin invalidated her profession. The knowledge that sanctification is hard work would have helped her topple the myth of the effortless stock-photo Christian life. The knowledge that total freedom from sin is a future certainty would have helped her ask in faith for grace for her current failures.

Maybe you, too, have found salvation mystifying. Maybe you've wondered, *If I'm really saved, why don't I feel fully free?* Well, you're not free yet, but you will be. Our complete freedom from sin is certain, but it is not sudden. So we rest confidently in our justification, we labor diligently in our sanctification, and we hope expectantly in our glorification.

Be assured of your justification. It *was*. One day, you were freed fully from the penalty of sin.

Be patient with your sanctification. It *is*. Each day, you are being freed increasingly from the power of sin.

Be eager for your glorification. It *is to come*. One day, you will be freed finally from the presence of sin.

- Jen Wilkin is a wife, mom to four great kids, and an advocate for women to love God with their minds through the faithful study of his Word. She writes, speaks, and teaches women the Bible. She lives in Flower Mound, Texas, and her family calls The Village Church home. Jen is the author of [None Like Him: 10 Ways God Is Different from Us \(and Why That's a Good Thing\)](#) (Crossway, 2016) and [Women of the Word: How to Study the Bible with Both Our Hearts and Our Minds](#) (Crossway, 2014). You can find her at jenwilkin.net and [follow her on Twitter](#).

Saved

by: Bob Dylan and Tim Drummond

I was blinded by the devil,
Born already ruined,
Stone-cold dead
As I stepped out of the womb.
By His grace I have been touched,
By His word I have been healed,

By His hand I've been delivered,
By His Spirit I've been sealed.

Chorus: I've been saved
By the blood of the Lamb!
Saved!
By the blood of the Lamb!
Saved!
Saved!
And I'm so glad!
Yes, I'm so glad!
I'm so glad!
So glad!
I want to thank You, Lord,
I just want to thank You, Lord
Thank You, Lord!

By His truth I can be upright,
By His strength I do endure,
By His power I've been lifted,
In His love I am secure.
He bought me with a price,
Freed me from the pit,
Full of emptiness and wrath
And the fire that burns in it. (Repeat Chorus)

Bridge: Nobody to rescue me,
Nobody would dare,
I was going down for the last time
But by His mercy I've been spared,
Not by works,
But by faith in Him who called,
For so long I've been hindered,
For so long I've been stalled. (Repeat Chorus)

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