

Series on Romans for Airdrie Baptist Church, Autumn 2021

Session 4. False Implication: License Is Inevitable

Romans 6:1-7:6

Paul has stressed over and over again the principle that people are declared righteous through faith in Jesus Christ.

Jesus Himself told a parable about a man who was forgiven much, and therefore *should* love much (Luke 7:39-50). When turned on its head, this correspondence between gracious forgiveness and the magnitude of the debt forgiven brings to light a potential loophole in Paul's logic:

If God exercises grace to cleanse me of sin through faith, then in faith (so the logic goes) I could sin more and make God even more gracious, which is good for His reputation, and that is a good thing, right? Paul replies with a resounding *me genoito!* Let it never be so! The reasoning for this false implication is unsound. There is a fallacy in the logic. It assumes that the hypothetical believer remains *unchanged* by his faith, that his appetites and interests will be the same as when he was lost.

- A. To continue in sinful works is illogical 6:1-14
 - 1. Believers are associated with Christ's death to sin.
 - 2. Believers are associated with Christ's resurrection to new life
 - 3. To obey sin is to act as one dead, not alive
- B. To continue in sinful works is disobedient 6:15-23
 - 1. Before justification we were servants to sin
 - 2. Justification warrants new authority, a new master
 - 3. The new master anticipates new behaviour
- C. To continue in sinful works is to remain under the Law 7:1-6
 - 1. Any law pertains only to the living
 - 2. Having died, the subject is no longer bound by law
 - 3. Having died to sin with Christ, the believer is no longer under the law of sin