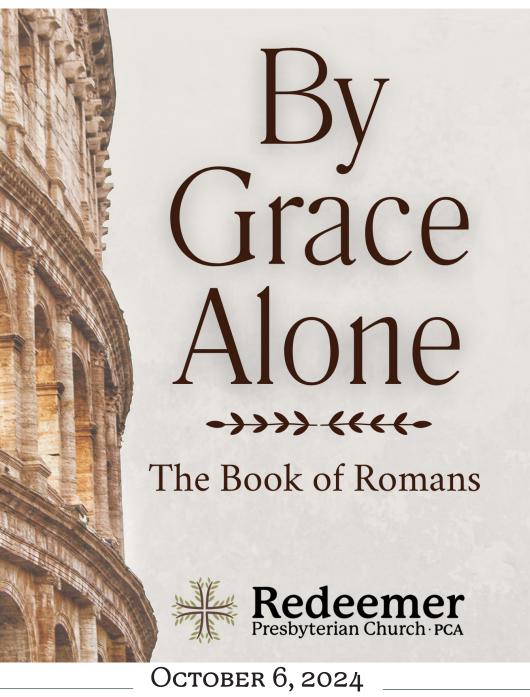
Sermon Text

"<u>Sold as a Slave to Sin?</u>" Romans 7:13–25

¹³ Did that which is good, then, bring death to me? By no means! It was sin, producing death in me through what is good, in order that sin might be shown to be sin, and through the commandment might become sinful beyond measure.¹⁴ For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin.¹⁵ For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. ¹⁷ So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.¹⁸ For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out.¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

²¹ So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. ²² For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, ²³ but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴ Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

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MEDITATION

Remorse for sin does have a place in the Christian life, but we should be very sure what function it serves. Guilt should drive us to the cross, but grace must lead us from it. Guilt makes us seek Christ, but gratitude should make us serve Him. Guilt should lead to confession, but without a response of love as the motive of renewed obedience, true repentance never matures.

– Bryan Chappell

There is no death of sin without the death of Christ.

– John Owen

OPENING SONG

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather to give thanks to You, O Lord, *With all our heart!* We will sing Your praises before all creation, *And rejoice in Your steadfast love!* You have created us O Lord, and made us for Yourself,

In You, we become everything You have made us to be!

From Psalm 138

PRAYER OF ADORATION

WORSHIP IN SONG

PRAYING THE SCRIPTURE

⁵ For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶ For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. ⁸Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹ You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. ¹² So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.

Romans 8:5–12

CONFESSION

Lord, I am worried. You have told me not to be, but I am. You have promised to provide for me, to care for me, to give me peace, and empower me to love and bless those around me. I want those things. But instead, I am worried about my future, about money, about my family, about time. I am worried that I will blow it, that people will find out that I have blown it, that your redemption might not reach my mistakes and difficulties. Lord, rescue me from my own refusal to trust you! Melt my heart and fill me with grace!

<u>Grace</u>

³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Matthew 6:33

⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, ⁷ casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

1 Peter 5:6–7

³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

Romans 8:31–32

Song of Grace

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Discipleship Cove kids (Little Cove: $Pre-K-1^{st}$ grade; Big Cove: $2^{nd}-5^{th}$ grade) are dismissed. Nursery is available on the second floor of the adjacent building.

Offering plates are available in the front lobby. We invite you to place your tithes and offerings as you exit the service.

<u>Sermon</u>

Sermon Series: By Grace Alone **"Sold as a Slave to Sin?"** Romans 7:13–25 Pastor Carlos Rodriguez

COMMUNION

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

CLOSING SONG

Benediction

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PRAYERS OF MEDITATION

Prayer for Those Searching for the Truth

Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent and convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise.

Prayer for Those Struggling with Sin

Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my need, and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking to you, the pioneer and perfecter of my faith.

STAFF & LEADERSHIP

PASTOR: Carlos Rodriguez carlos@redeemervb.com | 757-761-4024

ELDERS: Ken Dodl ken@redeemervb.com | 757-439-0001 Barry Durham barry@redeemervb.com | 757-407-5539 Craig Rohde craigrodhe@cox.net | 757-375-5046 Women's MINISTRY LEADER & LIAISON: Veronica St. Claire

veronica@redeemervb.com | 540-226-6882

Office Administrator: Charlynne Bowsher office@redeemervb.com | 847-387-2381

WORSHIP: livo Sitterding iivomac@gmail.com | 757-404-3071

Youth Director: Carolyn Weems carolyn@redeemervb.com | 757-343-5272

BOOKKEEPER: Elizabeth Moen bookkeeper@redeemervb.com