

Title: WHO'S IN CHARGE OF YOUR LIFE? ROMANS 6:12-23
(Chatham, NJ; 06/29/14, AM) [E – Exegesis]

Theme: The freedom we gain by our commitment to Christ is the freedom from the dominion of sin and the freedom to make the right choices.

Purpose: To persuade us that we must make choices that lead us to righteousness rather than those choices which lead us back into our sinful habits.

Introduction:

1. In baptism we have died and been resurrected to live a new life, 6:1-4.
2. This idea plays a major role not only in directing the rest of the Christian's life but also in offering a way out of the destructive behavior for people who see that their life has deteriorated into destructive behaviors.
3. This becomes a matter of thinking about who is really in charge of your life.

I. Don't Let Sin Rule Your Life, Romans 6:12-14

- A. Not reign
 1. The language here is significant
 2. Sin rules to "make you obey their passions"
 3. Sin dominates, but Paul implies that you can break its hold on you
- B. Hear his prescription for breaking sin's hold on you
 1. Don't present your members (body) to sin
 2. Present yourselves to God
 3. You have been brought from death to life (again, baptism and implications)
 4. You must become instruments of righteousness (good behavior)
- C. Sin's dominion has been broken
 1. Grace has freed you from the clutches of guilt, punishment, and reparations
 2. The Law's demands that held you in fear and slavery has been abolished
 3. A new kingdom has arrived and the old kingdom has been destroyed
 4. Sin no longer reigns

II. A New Purpose: Sanctification and Purification from Sins

- A. Shall we sin?
 1. Second time Paul raises this question: see 6:1
 2. He frames it also as a response to grace, 15.
 3. Could be addressing his critics, 3:8
 4. Could be just making it clear that change in behavior can and must happen
- B. Slaves of sin or righteousness
 1. Paul doesn't think the metaphor might be the best, verse 19
 2. But his point is clear: choice enters the equation
 3. We present ourselves to sin or righteousness
 4. The result is that we have enslaved ourselves to one or the other
 5. You Christians have become "obedient from the heart" (17)
- C. Present your members
 1. Same language as verse 13
 2. Slaves to righteousness
 3. You have a choice of masters
- D. Be careful of false masters

1. PCUSA has just legitimized homosexual marriages
2. Hananiah, the false prophet in Jeremiah 28, tried to lure people away

III. A Life or Death Choice

- A. The issues in Romans 6:20-23
 1. What did you get from a sinful life? Death
 2. What do you get from being a slave to God? Sanctification leading to eternal life
 3. The wages of sin verses the gift of God
 4. Yet it is a gift that you must choose
- B. Making the underclass similar to making the sinful class
 1. Adapted from *Imprimis*, May/June 2014
 2. "It wasn't me" – also from King Lear (p. 3)
 3. Heroin addiction – a brain disease? (note p. 4 in particular)
 4. Another change in locution, p. 6
 5. Genetically pre-disposed to a certain lifestyle?
 6. We no longer have these excuses for bad behavior

Conclusion:

1. You have a choice: life or death.
2. If you think sin has been a compelling passion, you can break its chains.
3. Sin will no longer have dominion over you.
4. Christ has destroyed the dominion of sin and established another reign: Kingdom of God.
5. But you must choose.
6. Is a life of sinful pleasure worth dying for?
7. You can choose, and you can change.
8. Make the life choice: give your life to Christ.