

**Word notes Sunday 11/05/08 Tony Hodge**  
**Romans 5&6 – Freedom from Sin**

**Summary**

**Key Text 1:**

Rom 6:8-11

“Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, **count yourselves** dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.”

Two types of people walk this earth – two ‘humanities’ epitomised by Adam and Christ. The “Adam” people live under the curse of sin and death, the ‘Christ’ people have been liberated from sin and have new life. Paul urges the church at Romans to understand that they have moved from one community to the other as – that they are free from sin and alive to God. NB that Paul is not saying “Christians no longer sin” but that sin no longer has a hold over them – they are not enslaved to it.

Paul illustrates this transition in two ways – one by describing the meaning of our baptism and secondly our conversion decision.

Paul’s conclusion is that rather than continue to sin (as his ‘rhetorical’ questions in 6:1 & 15 ask) we should now offer our bodies in slavery to righteousness (6:19).

**Application:**

1, In 6:11, 12, & 13 Paul exhorts us not to do some things but to do something else instead – what are these things? Who does Paul imply has control over those things, who is making the decisions? Is that our experience – of having complete control?

2, In 6:16-22 Paul talks about what we used to be slaves to and what we are now slaves to – but how does that change come about? Share when and how that happened for each person present and how real that change is to each today.

Paul is setting out the Christian manifesto – how things should be. If our experience doesn’t match up then we need to give ourselves a long hard look and determine to set things right – not by works, not in our own strength but by coming back to the place we started this walk with Jesus:

Read 1 John 1 through to 1 John 2:1-6, if anyone has something they want to put behind them encourage them to confess and affirm God’s forgiveness to them – you may want to split up for this in whatever way seems appropriate – eg men and women, prayer partners – whatever works in your group.

**Homework:**

There’s some good stuff to come as Pula brings his teaching to a crescendo in Chapters 7 and 8. Why not prepare your hearts for these next two sessions - read Romans Chapters 1-7 straight through in a modern English translation in preparation for the next “instalment”. Read on to 8 this week or do it all again next week up to chapter 8.