

Dr. Craig Keener, Romans, Session 7

Romans 5:12-6:23

Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Study Guide, 4) Briefing Document, and 5) FAQs

1. Abstract of Keener, Romans, Session 7, Romans 5:12-6:23, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

This lecture by Dr. Craig Keener **explains** Romans 5:12-6:23, focusing on **Paul's contrasting portrayal of Adam and Christ**. Keener **discusses** the implications of being "in Adam" versus "in Christ," emphasizing the **importance of grace and faith** in achieving righteousness. He **analyzes** Paul's rhetorical techniques and **examines** the significance of baptism as an act of conversion and solidarity with Christ. Finally, the lecture **explores** the concepts of slavery to sin versus slavery to righteousness and the tension between the "indicative" (what Christians are) and the "imperative" (how they should live).

2. 10 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Keener, Romans, Session 7 – Double click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (New Testament → Pauline Epistles → Romans).



Keener_Romans_Session07.mp3

3. Briefing Document

Briefing Doc: Romans 5:12-6:23, Life in Christ and the Spirit

Source: Dr. Craig Keener, Romans, Lecture 7, Romans 5:12-6:23

Main Themes:

- **Sin and Death through Adam:** Keener emphasizes how Paul connects the origin of sin and death to Adam, impacting all humanity. This isn't about inheriting guilt, but rather being born alienated from God. "Death entered the world through sin," and we replicate Adam's sin, highlighting our need for redemption (5:12).
- **Christ's Superiority and New Life:** Paul presents a "lopsided contrast" between Adam and Christ, showcasing Christ's superiority. Through Christ's obedience, particularly His death, we receive life and righteousness. This new life is rooted in our baptism into Christ, signifying a new corporate identity (5:15-21, 6:3-4).
- **Baptism and New Identity:** Keener unpacks the significance of baptism, drawing parallels with Jewish proselyte baptism. It represents conversion, solidarity with Christ, and a sharing in His death and resurrection. He acknowledges the debate about baptism's role in salvation but emphasizes its symbolic power (6:1-10).
- **Freedom from Sin and Slavery to Righteousness:** Paul's imagery of slavery highlights the shift from being enslaved to sin to becoming slaves to righteousness. This freedom comes from Christ's death, breaking the power of sin. We are called to "reckon ourselves dead to sin," aligning our perspective with God's view of us (6:11-23).

Important Ideas/Facts:

- **The Law's Role:** Keener clarifies that the law doesn't produce righteousness but exposes sin, making us aware of our need for God's grace. The law informs but doesn't transform the heart (5:13-20).
- **Grace Abounds:** Paul emphasizes the abundance of God's grace, which outweighs sin. He uses repetition to highlight the free gift of righteousness bestowed upon us, urging us to live righteously because of God's gift, not to earn it (5:15-21).
- **Indicative vs. Imperative:** Keener points out the tension between who we are in Christ (indicative) and how we should behave (imperative). Believing in our new identity empowers us to live it out (6:11).

- **Renewing of the Mind:** Transformation involves a mental shift. Embracing the truth about ourselves in Christ is crucial for breaking free from sin and living in righteousness (6:11, 8:2, 12:2).

Quotes:

- "Death entered the world through sin...because all sinned." (5:12)
- "Christ is superior to Adam...Those who are in Christ should live righteousness because of God's gift, not in order to achieve it." (5:15-17)
- "We have been baptized into Christ...we share Christ's death and resurrection." (6:3-4)
- "We need to look not at our past. We need to look at what has happened to us in Christ." (6:1-10)
- "God reckons us new. We need to get our perspective in line with how God views us and act accordingly." (6:11)

Noteworthy Points:

- Keener draws on Jewish tradition and practices to illuminate Paul's arguments, offering a richer understanding of concepts like baptism and the law.
- He highlights the rhetorical techniques employed by Paul, such as the "lopsided contrast" and the repeated emphasis on grace, which strengthen his message.
- Keener acknowledges the complexity of certain concepts, like the role of baptism, and encourages thoughtful consideration of different perspectives.

This briefing doc provides a concise overview of the main themes and key insights from Keener's lecture on Romans 5:12-6:23. By understanding the relationship between Adam and Christ, the transformative power of baptism, and the importance of embracing our new identity in Christ, we can grasp Paul's message of life in Christ and the Spirit.

4. Romans Study Guide: Session 7, Romans 5:12-6:23

Romans 5:12-6:23 Study Guide

Quiz

Instructions: Answer the following questions in 2-3 sentences each.

1. How does Paul use the figures of Adam and Christ in Romans 5:12-21?
2. Explain the significance of the law in relation to sin and death according to Romans 5:13-14.
3. What is the meaning of the "free gift" in Romans 5:15-21?
4. What is the role of baptism in Romans 6:1-4?
5. How does Paul address the question of continuing to sin after receiving grace in Romans 6:1?
6. Explain the concept of "reckoning" in Romans 6:11.
7. How does Paul use the analogy of slavery in Romans 6:12-23?
8. What is the contrast between "wages" and "free gift" in Romans 6:23?
9. What does Paul mean by the phrase "died with Christ"?
10. What was the Jewish understanding of sin's ultimate fate?

Essay Questions

1. Analyze the rhetorical structure and purpose of Paul's comparison between Adam and Christ in Romans 5:12-21. How does this comparison contribute to his overall argument in Romans?
2. Discuss the relationship between the law, sin, and death in Romans 5:12-6:23. How does Paul's understanding of this relationship differ from potential Jewish viewpoints of his time?
3. Explain the significance of baptism as a symbol of death and resurrection in Romans 6:1-11. How does this understanding shape Paul's view of Christian life?
4. Examine Paul's use of the slavery metaphor in Romans 6:12-23. What are the implications of this metaphor for Christian freedom and obedience?

5. Discuss the tension between the "indicative" and the "imperative" in Romans 6:1-23. How does Paul navigate this tension in his call to Christian living?

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Adam:** The first human being created by God, representing fallen humanity and the source of sin and death.
- **Christ:** Jesus, the Son of God, representing the new humanity and the source of righteousness and life.
- **Law:** The Mosaic Law, given by God to Israel. It exposes sin and condemns those who transgress it.
- **Sin:** Any act that violates God's will and separates humanity from him.
- **Death:** The consequence of sin, both physical and spiritual.
- **Grace:** God's unmerited favor and love shown to humanity through Christ.
- **Free gift:** God's gift of salvation and eternal life offered through Christ, received by faith.
- **Justification:** God's act of declaring a sinner righteous through faith in Christ.
- **Baptism:** A ritual immersion in water symbolizing union with Christ in his death and resurrection.
- **New creation:** The transformed state of believers who are united with Christ.
- **Slavery:** A metaphor used to describe the power of sin and the freedom found in Christ.
- **Wages:** Payment earned for work, contrasting with God's free gift of salvation.
- **Eternal life:** The gift of God, a life of fellowship with him that begins now and continues forever.
- **Indicative:** Statements that describe reality, such as the believer's new identity in Christ.
- **Imperative:** Commands that urge believers to live in accordance with their new identity.

- **Reckon:** To consider or regard something as true or real, often used to describe God's imputation of righteousness to Abraham and believers' embrace of their new identity in Christ.

Quiz Answer Key

1. Paul contrasts Adam, whose sin brought death to all humanity, with Christ, whose obedience brings life and righteousness to those who are united with him. This comparison highlights the transformative power of grace through faith in Christ.
2. The law reveals the condemning nature of sin and exposes humanity's guilt. Although sin and death existed before the law, the law makes sin "reckonable" by providing a clear standard of righteousness.
3. The "free gift" refers to God's undeserved gift of salvation and eternal life through Christ. This gift is not earned but freely bestowed on all who believe, contrasting with the idea of earning wages through works.
4. Baptism symbolizes union with Christ in his death and resurrection. It signifies a turning away from the old life of sin and an embrace of the new life offered in Christ.
5. Paul strongly rejects the notion that grace gives license to sin. He argues that since believers have died with Christ to sin, they should no longer live in it. Grace empowers a transformed life.
6. "Reckoning" involves considering something as true or real. In Romans 6:11, believers are called to "reckon" themselves dead to sin, aligning their perspective with God's declaration of their new identity in Christ.
7. Paul utilizes the slavery analogy to contrast the bondage of sin with the freedom found in Christ. Believers are freed from slavery to sin and become slaves to righteousness, resulting in a life of obedience to God.
8. The "wages" of sin represent the earned consequence of disobedience, which is death. This is contrasted with the "free gift" of God, which is eternal life, highlighting the undeserved nature of God's grace.
9. "Died with Christ" refers to the believer's spiritual union with Christ in his death, signifying a break from the power and dominion of sin. This death is not literal but metaphorical, representing a radical transformation of identity.

10. Jewish tradition often portrayed the ultimate destruction of sin on the Day of Judgment. Sin would be vanquished, and the world would be filled with righteousness. Paul, however, emphasizes that this future reality has already broken into the present through Christ's death and resurrection.

5. FAQs on Keener, Romans, Session 7, Romans 5:12-6:23, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

FAQ: Romans Chapters 5-7

What is the role of Adam in Paul's argument in Romans?

Paul uses Adam as a foil to Christ, highlighting the contrast between the consequences of Adam's sin and the benefits of Christ's obedience. Because of Adam's transgression, humanity inherited a state of alienation from God, leading to sin and death. Christ, as the "second Adam," reverses this curse through his obedient act of dying on the cross, offering a new life of righteousness and reconciliation with God to those who are in him. This doesn't imply universalism, as not everyone is "in Christ." Rather, it emphasizes the profound change offered to those who believe.

What is the relationship between the law and sin in Romans 5?

The law, while righteous and good, serves to expose and condemn sin rather than transform the heart. It reveals the depth of human sinfulness but offers no power to overcome it. The law functioned like a magnifying glass, making sin's presence and consequences more apparent. Ultimately, the law's inability to produce righteousness underscores humanity's need for a solution beyond its own efforts, a solution found in Christ.

What is the significance of baptism in Romans 6?

Baptism, for Paul, symbolizes a believer's identification with Christ's death and resurrection, signifying a decisive break from the "old self" dominated by sin and a new life marked by righteousness. Just as proselyte baptism in Judaism symbolized conversion and a new life, Christian baptism represents entering into a new covenant relationship with God through Christ. While the act itself doesn't automatically save, it serves as a powerful public declaration of faith and commitment to follow Christ.

How does Paul address the question of whether Christians can continue sinning since grace abounds?

Paul vehemently rejects the notion that grace gives believers license to sin. He emphasizes that those who have died with Christ to sin are no longer enslaved to it. This new life in Christ, while based on God's grace, carries an ethical imperative to live righteously. True faith manifests in transformed behavior, reflecting the new identity received in Christ.

What does it mean to "reckon ourselves dead to sin"?

Paul uses the accounting term "reckon" (also used in Romans 4 regarding Abraham's faith) to call believers to align their self-perception with God's perspective. God declares those in Christ to be righteous, cleansed from sin's power. Believers are urged to actively embrace this truth, acknowledging their new identity and living in accordance with it. This mental shift empowers a transformed life.

How does Paul use the imagery of slavery in Romans 6?

Paul contrasts slavery to sin with slavery to righteousness. Before Christ, individuals are enslaved to sin, yielding only death as wages. But through Christ's liberating work, believers are freed from sin's dominion and become "slaves" to righteousness, leading to eternal life as a gift. This metaphorical language highlights the radical transformation from a life dictated by sin to one dedicated to serving God.

What does Paul mean by "union with Christ"?

Union with Christ describes the intimate, spiritual connection between believers and Christ. It's not a mystical merging of identities but a profound relational bond through the Holy Spirit. This union forms the basis for believers sharing in Christ's death and resurrection, receiving his righteousness, and drawing on his power for living a transformed life.

What is the main source of disagreement regarding Romans 7?

Romans 7 is debated due to Paul's vivid description of an internal struggle with sin. Some scholars interpret this as reflecting Paul's pre-conversion experience under the law, while others see it as portraying the ongoing struggle of a Christian who still battles with sin's allure even while belonging to Christ. This interpretive challenge has led to diverse understandings of the chapter's meaning and application.