

WEEK 2 || **ROMANS 6 & 12**

## GOSPEL CHANGE

Last week we heard some great news: despite our sin, we can be completely accepted by God, simply by trusting in his son who died for us! That's great... but what does it do for us *right now*? If the popularity of self-help books is anything to go by, most of us aren't worried about the *penalty* of sin so much as the *power* of sin - it's tendency to trap us in habits that keep hurting us and those we love.

What are some of the destructive habits people get trapped in today? In our society, do they seem to be on the increase or the decrease?



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## THE PROBLEM THE GOSPEL ADDRESSES

As we take a second look at Paul's letter to the Romans, we'll see the gospel reaches right to the heart of these concerns. Read the very start and very end of the letter: **Romans 1:1-5 and 16:25-27**

1. In 1v5 and 16v26, what repeated idea is the ultimate point of the gospel?

Would you normally think of obedience as "good news"? Why or why not?

2. From last week (1:28-32), what was the original cause of humanity's problems and what's the effect now? How has that shown up in the news lately?
3. In light of these problems, how might "the obedience that comes from faith" be *good news* for the world?

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## THE SOLUTION THE GOSPEL OFFERS

The good news is that God won't leave us wallowing in the mess of our own sin forever. The gospel brings about "the obedience that comes from faith". But we might wonder: why should *faith* in Jesus produce *obedience* to Jesus? If we trust that Jesus has died for our sin, graciously taking it's penalty for us, couldn't that lead us to *more* sin because we don't fear God's wrath anymore? Let's see how this obedience that comes from faith actually works...

**Read Romans 6:1-14**

4. What happens to someone when they trust in Jesus? (v5)
5. What does that do to their relationship with sin? (v6) How does this answer 1:28?
6. What does that free us up to do now? (v11-13)

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## THE DIFFERENCE THE GOSPEL MAKES

Read Romans 12:1-16

7. What contrast is drawn in v2?

From chapter 6, how does the death and resurrection of Jesus make this possible for us?

8. Compare the prescription for Christian community with the description of the world by listing some of their characteristics...

The world (1:28-32)

Christian community (12:3-16)

Which would you rather be part of and why?

9. Do you feel that being granted “the obedience that comes from faith” really would be good news for you? If so, what do you need to do to experience it for yourself?

10. How could you best communicate this “goodness” of the gospel to others? Words? Actions? Community? Discuss.

The good news of the gospel creates **new obedience** (from the heart) in each of us, and **new community** as we gather together. It’s very different from the problems we see in our world. It’s literally a joy to come under the reign of the resurrected, life-giving King Jesus, freed from the deadly reign of sin. In fact, that might be what first attracts those around us to the gospel... assuming we actually show it in action, not just talk about it! Sin isn’t our king anymore. **The one who died for sin is King!** Let’s pray for each other that we’d live like it.