

Bible Study for June 15-21

You are encouraged to take some time to reflect on the scripture and the questions provided either individually, or with members of your household.

Read: Romans 6:1b-11

Notes: In chapter 5 Paul began a discussion on the purpose of the Law, which is to show us where we sin; and how – the more that laws are applied – the more we will be prone to sin and feel that we will never escape sin. Think of it this way: we already have laws regarding maximum speed limits. What if we added more provincial laws regarding minimum speed limits, say “*speed limit between 75 – 80 kph*”? How much more often would we be breaking the law?

To all this Paul replies that believers need to remember the freedom offered in forgiveness, while at the same time balancing that freedom with responsibility. Its like moving out of a province with such laws to another province. Just because the law doesn't have the same power doesn't mean that we shouldn't drive responsibly. And Paul follows up by asking, why do we sometimes act as if we still live in the former province? This is a problem Paul often addressed regarding those who felt it was okay to deliberately sin because God would forgive them.

Questions to Ponder:

Did you ever have a time in life when you felt justified in breaking a law? What were the circumstances?

How would you define the term “freedom from sin”?

Martin Luther once used a hypothetical case of a doctor who could cure illness to the point that people didn't die after treatment, and how much such a doctor could charge. His point was that baptism does the same thing, and it is free. What do you think holds people back from fulfilling their baptismal vows and fully living in that freedom?

Is it a problem for you that in this world everything has a price, but in God's kingdom – and because of Jesus' sacrifice - eternal life is free for the taking? If it were even possible, how much would you consider paying for eternal life?