

What Does Romans 6:14, 23 Mean?

By Moshe Schwab

Romans 6:14

"For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace."

We are not to allow sin to rule our lives; and instead of living by the old system of law that gave us misapplied extra laws, we have the Holy Spirit to help us **keep God's commandments and live right**.

Also note, "Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and **sin is lawlessness**;" 1 John 3:4 NKJV. "**Lawlessness**" by usage from the Greek Torah is to not keep the Torah.

Further Study

Shaul likens the Messiah's death and resurrection to our death to sin and subsequent new life where we've been freed from sin earlier in Chapter 6. Verse 13 says that we are to no longer to live in sin.

In verse 14, through the Messiah and the favor (grace) of God through the Messiah Yeshua, sin should not rule over our lives. We received the Holy Spirit through the Messiah as our helper – that is God's favor (grace).

So, we are to keep God's commandments with the help of the Holy Spirit and live life with the help of the Holy Spirit; the Holy Spirit will help us to live right so that we don't allow sin to rule over us. Therefore, instead of extra laws that were imposed on them that came with the law; we instead have God's favor (grace) through the Holy Spirit to help us. Shaul is trying to get them to accept the work of the Holy Spirit.

The Messiah has come and God's favor has come through Him so that we are not slaves to sin nor under a system of extra laws (verse 22).¹ It is important to note; Shaul says in verse 15 that we are still under the law and that the law has not been done away with. He says, "Certainly not!" **The law and commandments of God in the Old Testament Torah have not been done away.**

Romans 6:23 NKJV

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

If we live in sin, we will go to the lake of fire (Revelation 21:8), but if we live by God's commandments and by our helper the Holy Spirit (God's gift), God will give us eternal life. We receive the Holy Spirit by believing in the Messiah Yeshua.

Further Study

We should note that verse 14 is saying that we are not to allow sin to rule our lives; and instead of living by the old system of law that also gave us extra laws, we have the Holy Spirit to help us live right. So Shaul is saying that the way to eternal life is to keep God's commandments with the help of the Holy Spirit and to live life with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Again, Shaul says in verse 15 that we are still under the law and that Torah law has not been done away. He says, "Certainly not!" Also, "Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and **sin is lawlessness**;" 1 John 3:4 NKJV. "**Lawlessness**" by usage from the Greek Torah is to not keep the Torah.

¹ Extra misapplied laws are not commandments of God and they were not to make up misapplied extra laws. "You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you." Deuteronomy 4:2 NKJV. So, living by the extra misapplied laws that came with the law, was also living in sin because that is disobeying the Torah. Shaul is not saying there is anything wrong with God and His commandments; it is man-made laws that are the problem.