# **ROMANS 6:7 • TV243B**

A television broadcast sermon delivered SUNDAY, APRIL 7<sup>TH</sup>, 1985 by HENRY T. MAHAN

Transcribed, edited and published DECEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup>, 2010

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**Romans 6:7** *"For he that is dead is freed from sin."* 

I am going to be reading from the **Book of Romans.** If you have a Bible, I would like for you to turn to **Romans Chapter 6.** You will be especially interested in my message today. The title of the message is: **"FREE FROM SIN."** 

First of all, Paul writes in **verse 7**, "*For he that is dead is free from sin.*" He is talking about being dead with Christ, crucified with Christ, buried and raised with Christ. "*He that is dead is free from sin.*" Sin has no dominion over him, no control, no demand, and no claims, because he is dead.

It is like when a man goes to the electric chair for murder and the switch is thrown and he dies. He is free from sin; he is free from crime. The Law has no more claims. The Law has nothing else that it can do to him; he is free from sin.

**Romans 6:18** says this; "Being then made free from sin, (delivered from sin), you became the servants of righteousness. Being made free from sin, (being given this blessing and this glorious standing of freedom from sin); you became the servants of righteousness."

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Read **verse 22;** "But now, being made free from sin and becoming the servants of God, you have your fruit unto holiness, and the end life everlasting." Being made free from sin, and becoming the servants (the bond-slaves) of Jesus Christ, you have fruit now. That fruit is unto holiness and the end results of it all is eternal life."

Are you interested in this message? I believe some of you are. You will have to listen and listen carefully because I am going to deal plainly, very bluntly, and I believe scripturally with you on this subject, **"Free from Sin."** 

Our great concern before God is our sins. That is true of anyone listening. This is true of me and everyone listening to me. David said that; he said, "*My sins are ever before me*."

One of the prophets said that this is our whole trouble; "*Your sins have separated you and your God.*" This is what is between you and God, your sins, that's the whole trouble. There wouldn't be any trouble if it wasn't for sin. There would be no death, sorrow, or punishment. Sin is the whole trouble and it is between you and your God.

*"The wages of sin is death."* The wages are the results of sin. *"Sin, when it is finished,* (when it has run its course and brought its results), *bringeth forth death."* For all have sinned, there is no one that hasn't sinned.

There is no one that is not plagued with this problem; everybody has it. Even the little children out there listening to me are sinners. *"All have sinned and come short of the glory of God."* 

Now, here is my question; what would it mean to you to have the hope that you were free from sin? What if all of your sins, past, present, and future, were pardoned, forgiven, and put away forever and forever, never to be remembered or mentioned again?

David and Paul wrote about that; they both wrote the same thing. David said it in the Psalms and Paul said it in **Romans 4**; "*Blessed*, (twice happy), *is the man whose iniquities are forgiven*." He is a happy man, the man whose iniquities are all forgiven.

The man whose sins are covered, *"Blessed*, (twice happy), *is the man to whom God will not charge sin."* Now, you think about that. You talk about happiness, bliss and total joy, our sins will all be forgiven toward the man who God will not charge or impute one sin.

He talked about that in **Hebrews 10:17**; God said, "*Their sins and iniquities will I remember no more*." You might say, "God can't forget anything." That is true, but the blood of Christ is so effectual and so sufficient and strong that even the holy eyes of God cannot see sin that has been eradicated, removed, and blotted out by the blood of Christ.

That is so, that is the effectual work of the blood of Christ. In **1 John 1:7**, the Scripture says; "*The blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanseth us from all sin.*" I'm not talking about two or three or our past sins; I am talking about all sin.

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The hymn writer wrote that blessed hymn:

"My sins Oh the bliss Of that glorious thought My sins, not in part, But the whole.

Are nailed to the cross, And I bear them no more Praise the Lord It is will with my soul."

Now, three times in our text (**Romans 6**) it declares that the believer is dead; "*I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless, I live.*" When Christ died, we died. When He arose, we arose. When He ascended, we ascended. When He was seated at the right hand of God, we were seated in Him.

Paul is saying that every believer who has died under the judgment of sin is dead with Christ and he is free from sin. It is just like Christ is free from the sins that He bore, which were imputed sins, not His own.

"He was made sin for us. He bore our sins in His own body on the tree;" did He not? He arose without sin. Where are the sins? He put them away. "He cast them to the depths of the sea to be remembered no more."

So, Christ is free from sin and in Him I am free from sin. That is what He is saying. We are free from sin and we are no longer in bondage to sin. We are no longer under the guilt of sin. We are now the servants of the Lord. We are now the servants of righteousness.

He that is freed from sin, from the service of sin and from the bondage of sin has become the servant of God and the servant of righteousness. His fruit, the fruit of his life, is holiness unto the Lord. The results of all of it are a sure hope in Christ of life eternal.

Let me speak to you as plainly as I can on the subject, **"Free from Sin."** I am not going to speak in riddles. I'm not going to speak in religious jargon; I am going to speak plainly and truthfully, even if you don't believe what I am saying, at least you will understand what I am saying.

There are four things that I am going to deal with in this message:

First of all: What "*freed from sin*" does not mean. Some folks are missing the boat on this right here, what it does not mean.

Secondly: I am going to talk about what "free from sin" does mean.

Thirdly: Then, the Lord willing, I am going to talk about how this blessing of *"being free from sin"* comes to us. How can you and I have it?

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Fourthly: What are the results of that blessed hope?

I read to you three times, "*Free from sin; he that is dead is free from sin.*" He that is free from sin is no longer the servant of sin but the servant of righteousness. He that is free from sin is not only the servant of God and of righteousness but he has his fruit unto righteousness; "*The end thereof, life eternal.*"

What does this not mean (to be free from sin through the righteousness of Christ and the sacrifice of the Son of God)?

First of all: To be free from sin does not mean that I am free from the presence of sin. Sin does remain. It does not reign; it does not control; but it does remain. Everyone listening to me is a sinner, whether they are a believer or an unbeliever.

The Bible says in **1 John 1:8;** "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us." Verse 10 says; "If we say that we have not sinned, we make God a liar."

When the disciples asked our Lord, "*Teach us to pray*," He taught them to pray this; "*Forgive us our sins*." Our Lord taught His disciples to pray every day for the forgiveness of sin.

How very real are the motions of sin to every honest believer listening to my voice. I am not talking about getting drunk and rolling in the gutter. I'm not talking about murder, theft, rape, adultery, and these things.

I am talking about the sins of the mind, the heart, and the imagination. There is the sin of pride, lust, covetousness, envy, jealousy, and prejudice. These things are sin. "*The thought of foolishness is sin.*"

We are not perfect in ourselves, but we are perfect in Christ. "He hath perfected forever them that are sanctified. By one offering He hath perfected us forever." We are not perfect. Any man who claims to be perfect is a "liar and the truth is not in him." He has even made God a liar. You never live a day without sinning. So, to be free from sin does not mean that we are free from the presence of sin. That is foolishness to even talk about it.

Secondly: To be free from sin does not mean that we are free from an awareness of sin. We are aware of things about us. Those things that are appealing to the flesh still appeal to the flesh. They don't appeal to the spirit or to the heart, but they still appeal to the flesh.

There is a constant warfare in every believer between the flesh and the spirit. This is what Paul says, "*The flesh lusteth against the spirit and the spirit against the flesh so that you cannot do the things you would.*" Read the **7<sup>th</sup> Chapter of Romans.** The apostle Paul talks about it; he says, "*I would be perfect; I love the law of God. I would be perfect but I find another law warring within me, bringing me into captivity to the law of sin and death. O wretched man that I am; who shall deliver me from this body of sin?"* 

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The apostle Paul said, "Christ came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. I am less than the least of all the saints." If Paul were without sin, he would be better than all the saints because he would be the only one without sin. Paul said, "He is not worthy to be an apostle."

We are not delivered from the awareness of sin, the conscience of sin, the conflicts of sin or the warfare between the flesh and the Spirit. Be honest with yourself and be honest with God. He said, *"If we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sin."* The Scripture says, *"He that covereth his sins will not prosper."* The man that denies his sins and tries to cover his sins God will not prosper.

I am not talking about prosperity like all these con-men on television. I am talking about spiritual prosperity. I would rather have patches on my britches and know God than to drive a limousine and be in the gall of religious bitterness. It is time that someone spoke against the racketeering in the name of religion and in the name of God which is going on in our day.

Freedom from sin, what does it not mean? It doesn't mean that we are free from the effects of sin. You are not free from the effects of sin. Sin is the cause of all unhappiness. Have you ever been unhappy?

Sin is the cause of all sickness. Sin is the cause of all sorrow, depression, and death; sure it is! *"By one man sin entered this world and death by sin."* None of these things were contrary to happiness on this earth until sin came.

Are you free from depression? Are you free from loneliness (are you never lonely)? Are you free from sorrow? Are you never depressed? Are you free from pain? Do you ever have a headache? Are you free from sickness? Are you never sick? Do you never have a cold? Are you free from sadness? Are you never sad or blue? Are you free from fear? Are you free from all tears? Do you never cry? Are you free from old age? Are you free from death?

*"It is appointed unto men once to die."* I will tell you this; if you had no sin, you would not die." The Scripture says, *"Sin bringeth forth death."* 

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The effects of sin are going to stay with you until you do leave this earth. When I say that we are free from sin in Christ, I am not saying that we are free from the presence of sin. I am not saying we are free from the awareness of sin and the conflict of sin. I am not even saying that we are free from the effects of sin. I can get sick just like anybody else and will someday according to God's good providence.

Today, there are all of these fellows (false prophets), telling you that they want you to be well, be prosperous and be a millionaire. They want to be millionaires, that is what they want. It doesn't matter about you; they want you to just send a cut of what you get.

What does it mean to be free from sin? What are we talking about when we say, "*Free from sin*" and "*He that is dead is free from sin*?"

First of all: To be free from sin is to be free from the condemnation of sin. That is what it means to be free from sin and to be free from its condemnation. Listen to **Romans 8:1;** "*There is therefore, now, no condemnation to them who are in Christ.*" There is no judgment, no wrath and no charge. "*Christ hath freed us from the curse of the Law, being made a curse for us.*"

Do you know why there is no condemnation against the believer? Christ took his condemnation. "Payment, God's justice cannot twice demand, first at my bleeding Surety's hand and then again at mine." No one pays a debt twice. If it is paid, it is stamped "Paid in full."

A man is not fined twice by a judge for the same crime. He is fined once, pays his fine, and it is over. **Romans 8:33** says, "Who can lay anything to the charge of God's elect; it is God that justifieth."

The word "justifieth" means to be without sin. It means not guilty. "Who is he that condemneth; Christ has died, yea rather, is risen again who is even at the right hand of God who also maketh intercession for us. He that believeth shall not come into condemnation."

These preachers can talk all they want to about the believer being judged. We have already been judged and the debt has already been paid. Full satisfaction has been rendered. There is no charge against the believer and there is no condemnation against the believer. There is no judgment to the believer.

We may be witnesses of the judgment. We may be by-standers at the judgment. I will tell you this, "*Christ hath perfected forever them that are sanctified*." We have already been accepted and are already seated at the right hand of God. There is no judgment! That is like bringing Christ into judgment again. We are one with Him. "*I in them and thou in me, that they all may be perfect in one*."

Do you think God is going to bring Christ back into the judgment? If He brings His people back He will have to bring back Christ because they are "*one*." You cannot disassociate that which God has associated. You cannot disunite that which God Almighty has united forever. To be free from sin is to be free from condemnation.

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Secondly: To be free from sin is to be free from guilt. It is to be "not guilty". The jury comes marching out of the jury room and the Judge asks them, "Have you reached a verdict?" The jury says, "Not guilty."

What are you going to do if he is not guilty? You are going to have to let him go. If a man is not guilty, then he is not guilty. He is not chargeable or punishable. In **Romans 5, verse 1 and verse 11,** it says; *"Therefore, being justified by faith,* (not guilty) we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." In **verse 11** it says *"By whom we have received the atonement."* 

Pardoned does not mean that the person is not guilty. Paroled does not mean that he is not guilty. Forgiven does not mean that he is not guilty. It means that he is guilty, but pardoned. It means guilty, but paroled. It means guilty, but forgiven. The word (justified) means that we have no guilt. We are justified; the law is honored and justice is satisfied. There is no charge.

What does it mean to be free from sin? It means to be free from sin's penalty and free from sin's punishment. We shall never die. Christ said, "*He that believeth on me shall never die.*"

You might say, "Well, everybody is going to die." The believer may sleep, and his body may be placed in the ground, but we will never die; we have already died. You can't die twice. We may sleep but we are not going to die. *"If this earthly house of our tabernacle be dissolved, we have already a building of God not made with hands and it is eternal in the heavens."* 

We will never be judged; that is what I told you. We will never hear God say, "Depart from Me; I never knew you." We will never be ashamed; "He that believeth shall never be ashamed." That is what it means to be free from sin, free from condemnation, free from guilt, free from punishment and free from the penalty.

Fourthly: To be free from sin is to be free from its reigning power.

Listen to me; there was a time before we heard the Gospel and before we met Christ when sin not only remained in us but it controlled us. Sin reigned over us and it ruled over us; we delighted in darkness. We delighted in rebellion. We wearied of the light and didn't want anything to do with it. We delighted in sin; sin controlled us, ruled us, and reigned over us. Sin dictated our course. We had very little conscience about it.

We cared nothing about God, truth, holiness, righteousness, honesty, and integrity. But now, being new creatures in Christ, we love God and we love His Law, His Word, His Commandments and we love to do His will.

Though we a constant have warfare, and a constant battle, and an awareness of sin, yet, we do not love sin; we love righteousness. We long to be like Christ. *"Sin shall not reign over you to obey the lust thereof."* 

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What does reign? It is Christ that reigns! Christ's reign is not a reign of rules and laws. Christ's reign is a reign of love. He loves us and we love Him. Grace reigns in righteousness. We have been delivered from the reigning power of sin.

That which we once loved, we now hate. That which we once hated, and was wearied of, and found no joy in it at all, we now love, treasure, and cherish. We now love the presence of our Lord and that is the blessings of our Lord. We now love the presence and fellowship of His people.

To be free from sin is to be free from its reigning power and to to be controlled by another. It is like when you pass a building on the street and you see a sign on the door that says "Under New Management." That means that the store has a new owner and a new manager.

I will tell you this, when a man is redeemed by the grace of God, he has a new owner and he has a new manager. He has one, the Holy Spirit, who has taken up His abode in that place and He reigns.

Last of all: How does this blessed hope, this hope to be free from sin come to us? How does it come to us?

First of all: It comes to us by the grace of God; it is a gift. This freedom from sin, these blessings of eternal life, is not something that we buy, something we earn, or something that we work for; it is the gift of God.

The wages of sin is something that we work for, but the gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord. *"Where sin abounded,* (overflowed), *the grace of God did much more overflow."* It was His grace that gave me to Christ in an everlasting Covenant.

It was His grace that chose me in Christ in His sovereign election. It was His grace that gave His Son to redeem me by His blood on the cross of Calvary.

It was His grace that awakened me on my Damascus Road to hell and arrested me and stopped me and revealed Christ to my heart.

It was His grace that brought me safe thus far and sustained me and kept me. It is His grace that will keep me until I lie down to die in faith.

It is His grace that will raise me from the tomb. It is His grace that will give me a new dwelling place in glory and it will be His grace that will conform me perfectly to the likeness of His dear Son.

So, how does this blessing and freedom from sin come to us? It comes to us by the grace of God.

Secondly: This blessing comes to us by the life and death of Christ.

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People may accuse me of playing a one-string-fiddle. That is all right if you have the right string. Having one message is all right if you have the right message. Paul had one message; he said, "I preach Christ and Him crucified. I am determined to know nothing among you save Christ and Him crucified."

That is my message and I am saying this; I am free from sin by the work and by the labor of another. It is not "I" that did it but Christ that did it. He came to this earth in the flesh, "Born of a woman, made under the law to redeem them that were born under the law."

He came to this earth. The Scripture says, "By one man's disobedience I was made a sinner. By another man's obedience I was made righteous."

He went to Calvary's cross. You might say, "How can one man pay such an enormous debt of sin, all the sins of all believers of all generations of all nations, kindred, tribes and tongues under heaven?" It is because of who He is. It is not how much blood Christ shed; it is whose blood was shed. *"Who is He that condemneth; it is Christ that died? He was wounded for our transgressions and by His stripes we are healed."* 

Then, He arose from the grave. His resurrection says that God the Father accepted all that the Son paid. If God the Father, the law of God, justice, and righteousness were not satisfied, Christ would not have risen.

When He brought Him from the tomb, He arose without sin. He received Him and said, "Come on up here and sit down on my right hand until I make Thine enemies Thy footstool."

He intercedes for us. He's coming back. He said, "If I go away; I will come again and receive you unto myself that where I am, there you may be also."

Thirdly: We are justified and this blessing of freedom from sin comes to us by faith.

"If thou shalt confess with thy mouth Jesus to be Lord and believe in thine heart God's raised Him from the dead, thou shall be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

Where is this made? This is made before God. I will tell you this; if it is before God it will also be before men. You can't keep it down; you can't put a lid on it. What God does, He does openly, permanently, eternally, and powerfully. Men will know about it.