

# “Releasing the Power of Life In You” // Romans 6:6–23 // Romans #13

## NACP Commissioning Script

### Introduction

Easter: 16,352, 73 POF. **1 human reason:** so many of you brought your one.

- **What has been so encouraging** to me over the last few days has been hearing the many stories of people who came with you, many of whom came to faith in Christ.
- **One girl, who was somebody’s one, tweeted out after our first Easter service on Wed:** *“Tonight i went to an Easter service by @SummitRDU on UNC campus and it felt like i was hearing God for the first time ever”*
- BTW, not just here, but our church plants had an amazing weekend: **Center Church: 224 and 2 POF; Josh told me** that one of the guys who just came to Christ in January brought 36 people with him.

Works Consulted:

*Romans for You*, Romans 6, Tim Keller

“Perfect Freedom,” Tim Keller

“The New You - Romans 6:5–14,” Joby Martin

“Compassion Weekend - Romans 6:15–23,” Joby Martin

Set Free - Romans 6:15–23,”

Tony Merida “The Merger with the Cross,” Tony Evans

**Open your Bible to Romans 6**--as we continue our march through the book of Romans. **How many of you are still enjoying this?** (Journals (p. 42, [summitchurch.com](http://summitchurch.com))

- **Last weekend** we saw in the first few verses of chapter 6 **Paul establish the point that a *true believer* can’t continue to willfully and habitually pursue sin**, because a true believer is someone who has turned over control of their lives to Christ, and **when Christ comes in**, he breaks the power of sin over you.
- **Thus, if you are still willfully pursuing sin**, it means that you never really let Christ take control, because when he comes in he changes you permanently.

**But... But Paul** realizes that the **experience of every believer, including himself**, is a brutal struggle against sin.

- Over the next couple of chapters, he is going to talk about how even as an Apostle his life is a constant fight between what he knows he ought to do and what his sinful body is pulling him to do.
- In this chapter he asks the **question every follower of Jesus asks at some point:** *If resurrection power actually come into me, why do I still struggle so much with saying no to sin? Why does my heart still feel so stubborn sometimes?*
- *Why does my mind wander in prayer? Lose focus in worship?*
- And how can I change?

**Note, Paul is addressing his counsel to real Christians.** Notice in vs. 17 he describes these people as those who **“You obeyed from the heart that pattern of teaching...”**

- **These are not fake or insincere.** These are the real deal.

Y'all, I **find these chapters so encouraging**. Some of the most encouraging in the Bible!

- Don't you find yourself frustrated, a lot, at your lack of progress in the Christian life?
- Wondering why temptations still have such attraction to you; wondering why you don't naturally love God more; are more naturally generous; more courageous with your convictions; that you cared more about people—or whatever?
- I wonder that about you. I wonder it about me, too.

**Chapters 6 and 7** (particularly chapter 7) are Paul at his most vulnerable. What he reveals about himself may surprise you; they definitely will encourage you.

**These chapters are so crucial in understanding the Christian life.**

- My dad paid each of my kids \$100 each to memorize this chapter.
- Some of you are thinking, “Well, that’s a **scripture memory program** I can get down with. Can I get your dad’s email address?” Yes, it’s “LynnGreear@Getyourgreedyhandsoffmyinheritance.com”

In chapter 6, Paul lays out his theology for **how to change**. He says change begins by embracing, at your core, the new identity God has giving you.

- In preaching on this chapter, Tony Evans tells the story of a **guy who visited his therapist** and said, “I need some help changing my diet.” The nutritionist said, “OK, what’s the problem?” And the man said, “Well, every time I go by grocery store I find myself just wanting **to eat dog food**. When I walk in I feel inexplicably drawn to the dog food section. It’s just something in me says ‘You really need to go to that section.’ And when I’m there, I find myself staring at the pictures on the dog food bags and thinking about how much fun it would be to play around with them. And then I’ll just rip open one of the bags and eat a scoop. Sometimes I get so excited I bark and howl and I’ll lay on my back and try to get people walking by to scratch my belly.”

- The nutritionist says, “**Well, sir, that...** that does sound like a dietary challenge. How long have you been like this?” And the man said, “**Ever since I was a puppy.**”
- It was **so much funnier** when he told it. “Some things,” Pastor Tony says, “require more than behavior modification. They start with identity.”

**This is what Paul is saying:** *Change begins with how you see yourself.*”

**11 Likewise you also, he says, reckon (logizomai) yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (NKJV)**

- “**Reckon**” is a word we’ve seen before. It’s the Greek word, “**logizomai.**”
- (Some translations say, “count” or “consider,” but I prefer “reckon.”)
- (This is not “reckon” like us Southerners sometimes use it, “Well, I reckon it’s gonna rain later.”)
- It’s an **accounting term**. It means to look at one thing and consider it to be something else.
  - I’ve heard it described like a **Wild Card** in Poker: You take something **like a Joker** and say, “This Joker is now going to count as an Ace.”
  - (And for the record, I don’t play Poker, of course. The **only card games** I play are Bible charades and the Left Behind edition of Uno.)
- **If you remember, in Romans 4 Paul used this word “logizomai” to talk about how God credits** righteousness to when we trust Jesus as the substitute penalty for our sins.
  - **When we lay claim to Jesus as our sin bearer**, resting our faith in him, God *logizomai* (reckons, counts) our faith as righteousness.
- **Well, now, in Romans 6, it’s our turn to do the reckoning:**
  - We are to count (reckon) ourselves as already dead to sin, **and when we do, God infuses the power of new life into us.**

- You see, just as faith was the means by which we received justification; so, **continued faith** is the means by which we access the power for sanctification.
- Here's how it works:
  - **When we put faith in Christ** as the substitute for our sin, **God reckons** our faith as righteousness.
  - **As we reckon ourselves dead to sin**, God infuses into us the power of new life.
  - IOW, just as we believe our way into justification, **so we believe our way into the power of sanctification.**
- You say, **"OK, well, but when I do that, but I don't feel resurrection power. I don't feel dead to sin.** Sin and wrong desires feel very much alive in me."
  - Right. But as you continue to believe it, God uses that faith to transform you.
  - **Abraham, you might remember from chapter 4, was Paul's example...** At 90, after a lifetime of infertility, God **declared he would have a son**—and not just one random kid; a son that would father a great nation.
  - **Now, when God said that**, Abraham didn't say, *"You know, I have been feeling unusually frisky for the last few weeks... so I believe you."*
  - **No, Romans says he believed what God said even when he DIDN'T feel it, even though he knew his equipment was way past the expiration date.**
  - And as he believed, **Romans 4 says**, he "received strength."
- So **we will receive the strength to walk in righteousness** as we believe that God has made us dead to sin--like he said.
  - Listen, this is **not** some kind of **mental trick...** (i.e. the power of positive thinking) where you tell yourself "I'm brave" enough times that you become brave. I'm attractive, smart, and doggonit people like me--that kind of garbage.
  - God gives you actual power when you believe that what he says is true.
- **Faith, Paul says in Romans 4**, is believing God as he "calls things into existence that do not yet exist."
- As you believe them, God **gives you the power** for them.
- **Listen: (We always want to feel first, before we'll believe.** God says, "No, sometimes you have to believe first, and only then will you feel.")
- **In the Christian life, power comes through believing: Believing in the righteous identity God has declared over you** releases the power to live up to that identity in you.
- This is why **Satan began each of his temptations of Jesus in the wilderness** with the charge, *"If you really are the Son of God..."* When you think about it, it's kind of an odd way to start the temptation.
  - But right before Jesus had done into the wilderness to be tempted, God had declared over Jesus, "You are my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased!"
  - So this was the first thing Satan attacked, *because he knew that if he weakened Jesus' identity in the Father*, he would **weaken Jesus at his core.**
  - So, before he brings any of the temptations toward materialism or pride or the lusts of the flesh, he **starts with Jesus' identity: Are you really the beloved Son of God?**
- **That's a pattern for how he tempts us.** Satan will do **whatever he can** to take your eyes off the new identity God has given you.
  - He'll start bringing up **past and present sins--bringing up things in your past that are true. And he'll whisper:**
    - You **really think you are a beloved son or daughter of God?** Remember how bad you messed up that relationship? With how little spiritual progress you've made, with how much you mess up?
    - **No way, not yet!** He might even **dangle a carrot** in front of you: You are almost there, but not yet, and you still need to prove that you are worth loving. So, **try a little harder; do a little better, and then God will love you.**

- **And the moment you start believing that, he already has you-- because he's taken your eyes off of what he can do and put them on what you can do.**
  - **The power of the Christian life** begins by believing what God has declared, even though it feels impossible--you are fully righteous in his sight; you are **dead to sin**; you **have the power** of the resurrection is inside of you.
  - As you believe that, he releases in you the power of new life.
- You say, "But, I **don't have a righteous record** and I don't feel righteous." That's not what God bases his declaration on. He has declared it over you based on the finished work of Christ.
  - One of **best illustrations of this came from my 2nd daughter, Allie, when she was 8**: *"It's like God spun his chair around and says, 'I want you' before we even started singing."*

So, the first command is "**RECKON** yourself dead to sin and alive to God."

In vs. 12 we get the second: 12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. 13 Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.

Paul explains: 14 For sin will not (cannot) rule over you, because you are not under the law but under grace...

- **Sin cannot rule over you, because when you received Christ, JESUS took the place of power at the center of your heart. Thus, sin can no longer hold you captive.**
  - (You see, **before you received Christ**, sin did hold you captive— **Paul says in Romans 1** that we were literally "given over" to sin, which means we couldn't stop sinning. But **that's not true anymore**, Paul says, because Jesus rules at our center with the powers of resurrection.

<sup>16</sup> (But, even though that's true) don't you know that if you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are *(become)* slaves of that one you obey—either of sin leading to death or of obedience leading to righteousness?

- **IOW, even though sin can't rule over you, it can still invade and harrass parts of your heart.**
  - **I think of it like this**: When the **Allied forces took control of Berlin in WW2**. At that point, the power of the Axis countries was broken. The war was over. Even so, there were still pockets of German soldiers throughout the countryside, controlling small towns, still terrorizing the citizens. But the Nazi regime wasn't in power anymore. It had been broken. The war was over.
  - **Paul says this same reality is true of the Christian now**. Christ has broken sins control and he now sits at the seat of power, but sin still exists out in the margins, and **if you stop fighting it**, it's going to work slowly and methodically to regain control.

((Now, real quick--Before we explore what some of those things might be, let me add here as an aside: I know this might be a difficult analogy because of the injustice of slavery in this country. A couple of things here:

- The **slavery Paul is here referring to** would be more like what we call "indentured servanthood." It's still not a great economic system, but it's not the injustice of kidnapping and forced labor

along ethnic lines. Paul makes clear in places like **1 Timothy 1** that that kind of slavery is categorically wrong.<sup>1</sup>

- Second, Paul is **just using an analogy**, not endorsing a particular economic system. See what he says in vs. <sup>19</sup>“I am using a human analogy because of the weakness of your flesh.”)
- So, **don't let the analogy throw you.**)

**The point is--sin works to enslave.**

- **Sin is a captor.** A natural predator. It's always working for dominance.
  - Some of you think you can harmlessly play around with sin--go along with sin and compromise in your life and it won't affect you.
  - **No, sin is a predator and it is working for mastery.** It reminds me of when you read some story on the news, “**Florida man mauled by pet cougar**” and you read the story and find out this guy had a **pet cougar** named Fluffy and Fluffy “**snapped one day and ripped his face off**.” And everyone always acts so surprised, “Oh, but Fluffy was always so gentle and sweet.” **First, it's a cat**, and you can't trust them. But it's **not rocket-science** to realize that Fluffy is a predator. If you keep a pet cougar in your house, at some point it's going to turn on you and eat you. That's its nature.
  - **You entertain sin and you are courting disaster.**
    - **Nobody wakes up** and says, 'Today's the day I ruin my life. I'm going to throw away my marriage, start an addiction, and begin lying to everyone I know.' Or, “Today is the day I get pregnant before marriage.”
    - No, sin starts slowly, incrementally, subtly. Small areas of compromise. But it's **always on the move**.
    - It's why **John Owen** said, “You must be killing sin, or it will be killing you.”

Now, I want to **press in here on what Paul means** when he says, <sup>16</sup>(But) don't you know that if you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are (become) slaves of that one you obey” because, you might say, “Listen, when I sin, I'm **doing only what I want to**. I'm not becoming anybody or anything's slave.”

Paul would say, “Ah, no. You're not thinking about it deeply enough. Behind **every choice you make is a calculation** of “if I do this it will lead me to happiness.”

- It is the principle Paul taught in Romans that “everybody is a worshipper, and everybody, at their core, is driven by worship.”
- You say, “I'm **not religious, so I don't worship** anything.” To **worship something is to attach ultimate value to it**--it is something you determine you have to have to be happy; something we feel like, without it, life is not worth living.
  - **Whatever that is, Paul is saying, controls** your behavior, because you'll do whatever you need to do to get (or keep) that thing.
  - Notice the word Paul uses is the **language of religious devotion**--you “offer” your bodies to this thing like a sacrifice in worship
- You become a “slave” to it, because, you'll do whatever it takes to get that thing and hold onto it.

So, **what might some of those things be that we become enslaved to?**

**David Powlison**, the Christian counselor, groups our idols (things we worship) into 4 basic categories.

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<sup>1</sup> “Anyone who kidnaps another and sells him must be put to death” (Ex. 21:16). In 1 Tim 1:8–10 Paul puts slave traders in the same category as those who kill their parents, adulterers, perjurers, and perverts.

1. **(Idols of) Power:** Some people love influence and recognition. They seek that through things like money and status, because those are how you get it.
2. **Control:** Some people want everything to go according to their plan, and want to know that in the future that everything will continue to go on their plan.
  - a. They don't like uncertainty and they have to have things happen on THEIR terms and according to their timetable.
  - b. If that timetable is thrown off (even by a few minutes), they become irritable, impatient, even angry.
3. **Approval:** Some crave to be accepted. They can't be happy unless certain other people are happy with them, admire them, or desire them.
  - a. **So, criticism is devastating** to them.
  - b. Not **being affirmed** is devastating.
  - c. Feeling like they are **not attractive enough** is devastating.
  - d. **Being picked last** is devastating.
  - e. Many times they are **cowards**--they don't do the right thing not because they don't know what it is, but because they don't want to deal with the disapproval of friends for doing it. So they cave.
4. **Pleasure:** Some **long for physical delights**--the good life is sensual delights, be that sexual pleasure, a nice house, best vacations, a nice car, good food, or creature comforts

**(Power/Control/Approval/Pleasure: Which of these 4 is your biggest one?** Now, turn to your neighbor and say, "I know what yours is!")

BTW, there's nothing wrong with **any of those things in and of themselves**. It's when they become **central** in your life—**ultimate**—something we can't live without; something that compels your obedience even over what God wants--that's when they become wicked (**and enslaving**).

<sup>2</sup> <http://biblehub.com/greek/1939.htm>

- False worship is when a **good thing becomes a God thing** and so turns into a bad thing.

In fact, Paul uses a **very illuminating word** to describe the nature of sin in vs.12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions.

- This word is **epithumia**. "Thumia" just means desire. Adding "epi" means that desire becomes so large that it controls you.
  - "Epi" literally means "**on top of**" or "above." Think of "epithumia" like desire stacked upon desire until it's so weighty it controls your heart.<sup>2</sup>)
- **So, you start thinking:**
  - **If I can't make a certain amount of money** (we all want to make money and that is fine, but you start thinking, without this level of money, there's no way I can be happy: Without this level of income, I'll be living a second-class life.)
  - **OR, I want a family**, and if I can't have that, well, life doesn't even feel like it's worth living. (So, you are all the time worried about it, resentful).
  - I want to **be noticed**. I want my co-workers or my boss or my husband or my children to recognize my value and commend me, and if not, I'll nurse resentment.
  - **Or, I really, really want a boyfriend** and I'll be willing to compromise all kinds of standards just to have someone with me.
  - Or, I want to be well again. And without that you live depressed, angry at God.

**Again, there's nothing wrong with any of these things**, but when they become your masters, they lead you toward death.

**Tim Keller says that there are 3 sure-fire tests** to show you what your spiritual masters are--the **first tremors of death in you**:<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Tim Keller, Sermon, "Perfect Freedom: Romans 6:1-7, 11-18."

- **Epi-anger:** (not a real word; I added 'epi') When something blocks you getting a good thing, you get upset. That's normal and fine.
  - But if **something blocks you from getting an ultimate thing**, you get epi-angry. You snap. You rage.
- **Epi-worry:** If something good in your life is threatened, you get worried. If I **found out my kids were in danger**, I'd be worried. That's natural.
  - But if **something ultimate** in your life is threatened, you are paralyzed. Your fear has become epi-fear. You are so anxious that you cannot think right.
- **Epi-sadness:** If you lose something good in your life, you grieve and weep. Again, that's normal.
  - But if you **lose something ultimate**, you despair; you fall apart; you feel like life is not worth living.
- *These 3 emotions point to places where something has displaced God as the Master of your heart.*

#### So, what ends up provoking these 3 emotions in you?

- What makes you the angriest?
- What causes you the most worry?
- What has caused you the most sadness?

#### Two of my biggest: money and approval.

- **Control that comes from money:** Like many married couples, we argued about money. I was terrified we'd spend through our safety net... money for me is security.
- **Approval:** Fearing failure in the church

Paul says, "Look, everybody's serving somebody. You gotta serve somebody." Or maybe that was Bob Dylan, but he got it from Paul.

**\*16 Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness?**

- **Every master besides God, he said**, leads to death.
  - If you are enslaved to **approval**, your life will be plagued by constant self-pity, envy, hurt feelings, feelings of inadequacy... And, like I said, you'll be coward, not willing to do the right thing if it gets disapproval
  - If you are enslaved to **pleasures**, you won't be able to say no to the pleasures of food, or sex or pornography. In fact, you might get ADDICTED to those things.
  - If you are enslaved to **power**, you become domineering and vengeful. Self-promoting. Harsh, even abusive.
  - If you are enslaved to **control**, you'll worry all the time, obsessively. You'll lose your temper a lot. People around you will feel manipulated, like you are using them for your purposes--which you are.

**23 For the wages of sin** (Paul says) **is death...** (We know this verse. We always use it as a **short explanation of salvation**, which it is. But the **context is a description** of what happens in our lives when we allow sin to gain dominance. We start to experience death. In Romans, death and life are not just options for the afterlife, they are conditions you experience now.)

**The more you allow sin to control your life**, the more you'll experience a **kind of living death**.

#### First and foremost, you'll never be satisfied.

- **Joby Martin, who preaches here sometimes, has a great example for how sin works. He says that when he moved to Jacksonville** one of the first things he got invited to do was go to the local greyhound racing track.
  - **Most interesting part** is right before the race starts, they bring this fake "rabbit" named Rusty out and the announcer goes, "Heeere's Rusty!" Those dogs get *pumped!* They are banging against the door of the cages and when they open them they tear off after Rusty, rounding those corners like it's Talladega.

They get all the way to the end and that “rabbit” suddenly disappears... Later in the kennel, they’re like “AHHH I was SO CLOSE this time!” Their friends are like, “Gosh, ME TOO! You think we’ll ever see that rabbit again?” “I don’t know.”

- Sure enough, the next day, **HE’S BACK!** And they chase him around and around again.
- We think, “Gosh, **what a dumb dog...** they’ll never get the rabbit!”
  - But **everyday our alarm clock goes off...** and it’s almost like it’s saying, “**Heeere’s Rusty!**”
- **Joby said,** “and the thing that’s the most sad is when the dogs actually catch the rabbit. They chew through it and they go, “Hey... wait a minute. **I’ve been duped.** *This isn’t even a real rabbit.*” And they say that if that ever happens, that dog loses almost all motivation to even run the race.
  - **That’s where some of you are.** You caught Rusty. You got the car, moved into the house, gotten the corner office--you are like, “*You see that? Assistant Manager. Boom.*” You are in the new marriage.
  - And some of us are **even dumber than the greyhounds** because we think, “Well, this Rusty is not what I thought it would be, BUT I’m sure THE NEXT ONE WILL!”
- Paul says in v. 21 **“So what fruit was produced then from the things you are now ashamed of? The outcome of those things is death.”** Paul says, “You see where that led you, why do you keep going back there?”

~~Sin promises freedom. But it is the freedom of the fish who hops out of the water...~~

- ~~Little by little, death takes over~~ you—insecurity, anger, jealousy, and bitterness start to fill your heart.

## MUSIC

**...but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

- **There is another Master,** Paul says, who actually gives you life! He is what your soul has always been looking for.

- And the **best part: he doesn’t require you to work** to obtain him. He **gives you his acceptance,** security and joy as a gift.
- You see, **every other master besides God threatens,** “If you don’t work enough for me, I’ll make you miserable.”
  - **Money** says: “Fail to obtain me, and you’ll be poor and cursed. If you don’t work hard enough or are not smart enough, I’ll curse you.”
  - **Relationships** say, “If you don’t find the right person, you’ll be miserable; if you are not pretty enough or skinny enough or drive the right kind of car, I’ll make you lonely and miserable.”
  - But **God says,** “I give you my joy and blessing as a gift. You don’t have to earn it. Mine is not a wage; it’s a gift. It’s free.”

**And that is eternal life.** The eternal life Paul talks about in vs. 23 is not just eternal life in heaven, it is eternal life now, because **Jesus is so much better than every other Master you give yourself to:**

- **God is more secure than money...** he promises to supply all our need according to his riches in Christ Jesus, and his stock never crashes or dips below 10,000.
- **God is more fulfilling than romantic love.** The arms (tenderness, security, feeling that you are special) that we longed for in marriage were really his arms.
- **Knowing God is better than earthly power.** What greater power can there be than to know that the sovereign God who controls every molecule in the universe has commandeered them all for your good?
- **God is better than physical health/wellness**--because he offers abundant life no matter the circumstances and eternal life that can never be taken away.
- **God is better than achievement.** I promise you, hearing “well done good and faithful servant” from Jesus will be better than 10,000 trophies that will fade from people’s memories almost as soon as they are awarded.

- **Everything you compare God to, he wins!**<sup>4</sup>
- Tim Keller has a wonderfully simple way of saying this: *Jesus is the only Master who, if you find him, will satisfy you, and if you fail him, he will forgive you!*

So, in conclusion, 2 ways that you and I can live the life Jesus has for us:

- **RECKON yourselves dead to sin.** Embrace that identity. Believe it even when we don't feel like it:
  - **Believer:** You are **redeemed, cherished**, sanctified, holy saints for whom all the promises of God are yes in Christ Jesus.
  - And **when sin comes back for you** and says, *"This is who you are. This is what you do. This is what you are good for."* You say, "No, I am a **redeemed, beloved Son of the King**. I'm not under your jurisdiction of death anymore; I know who I am."
  - And **when you declare that**, you **won't feel captive to sin** and it will lose its power over you!
  - There's a **place up at Lake Gaston** my family and I will sometimes go to. And there's almost always a little flock of geese or ducks (gaggle?), and they are always strutting around down there like they own the place. Normally they just live and let live, and sometimes we'll even go out there and feed them. Well, one day one of them got aggressive. It flaps its wings, takes a couple of steps toward us and quacks... and my kids and I all retreat in terror. Then I realized, *"Why am I running away from geese?"* It can't do anything to me. It doesn't have fangs or talons. **So, once I realized who I was and who it was--you're a goose, and I'm a man**, I just went back in. **Kicked them**. No, I didn't kick them. At least not very far.
  - **When I know who I am in Jesus**, I can face these temptations and doubts and say, "I don't belong to you anymore. You don't control me."

- **PRESENT your members daily to God** (This old death; this old slavery, doesn't fit me anymore!)
  - **In John 11, Jesus calls Lazarus from the dead and orders him to take off his grave clothes.** Why? Because **living people don't wear dead men's clothes**. If you're crucified in Christ, and raised new in his likeness, **sin doesn't fit you** anymore. Quit trying to put on that greed and insecurity and all that stuff that went with the old life. Clothe yourself with Christ--that's where life is.
  - **And that's what some of you need to do now.**

*Jesus is the only Master who, if you find him, will satisfy you, and if you fail him, he will forgive you!*

<sup>4</sup> See <http://thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/justintaylor/2010/09/03/having-god-is-better-than-money-sex-power-or-popularity/>