

BANQUET®

— MAN CAN NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE —

Romans Chapters 5 to 8 Read from "The Message"

From Death to Life to Freedom

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<p>Q</p>	<p>5: 6-8 & 9-11 How do you understand the words "But God put his love on the line for us by offering his Son in sacrificial death while we were of no use whatever to him" as applying to you? And: Now that we are set right with God by means of this sacrificial death, the consummate blood sacrifice, there is no longer a question of being at odds with God in any way. If, when we were at our worst, we were put on friendly terms with God by the sacrificial death of his Son, now that we're at our best, just think of how our lives will expand and deepen by means of his resurrection life!</p>
<p>Q</p>	<p>5:20-21 Do I see myself fighting sin falling short of God's righteousness or living in Eternal Life? All sin can do is threaten us with death, and that's the end of it. Grace, because God is putting everything together again through the Messiah, invites us into life—a life that goes on and on and on, world without end.</p>
<p>Q</p>	<p>6:1-3 Am I (you) still living in the land of sin or have I left it behind? So what do we do? Keep on sinning so God can keep on forgiving? I should hope not! If we've left the country where sin is sovereign, how can we still live in our old house there? Or didn't you realize we packed up and left there for good? That is what happened in baptism. When we went under the water, we left the old country of sin behind; when we came up out of the water, we entered into the new country of grace—a new life in a new land!</p>
<p>Q</p>	<p>6: 11, 12-14 Have I grasped the truth about the death of Christ for me in regards to my sin nature? Could it be any clearer? Our old way of life was nailed to the cross with Christ, a decisive end to that sin-miserable life—no longer at sin's every beck and call! What we believe is this: If we get included in Christ's sin-conquering death, we also get included in his life-saving resurrection. We know that when Jesus was raised from the dead it was a signal of the end of death-as-the-end. Never again will death have the last word. When Jesus died, he took sin down with him, but alive he brings God down to us. From now on, think of it this way: Sin speaks a dead language that means nothing to you; God speaks your mother tongue, and you hang on every word. You are dead to sin and alive to God. That's what Jesus did. That means you must not give sin a vote in the way you conduct your lives. Don't give it the time of day. Don't even run little errands that are connected with that old way of life. Throw yourselves wholeheartedly and full-time—remember, you've been raised from the dead!—into God's way of doing things. Sin can't tell you how to live. After all, you're not living under that old tyranny any longer. You're living in the freedom of God.</p>

	<p>7: 24 Have or do you find this question to be yours? I've tried everything and nothing helps. I'm at the end of my rope. Is there no one who can do anything for me? Isn't that the real question? 7:25 Do you know the life of this answer (as an increasing constant in your life)? The answer, thank God, is that Jesus Christ can and does. He acted to set things right in this life of contradictions where I want to serve God with all my heart and mind, but am pulled by the influence of sin to do something totally different.</p>
	<p>8:9 Invite people to share examples of this thinking that they have experienced. But if God himself has taken up residence in your life, you can hardly be thinking more of yourself than of him. 8: 12-14 So don't you see that we don't owe this old do-it-yourself life one red cent. There's nothing in it for us, nothing at all. The best thing to do is give it a decent burial and get on with your new life. God's Spirit beckons. There are things to do and places to go!</p>
	<p>8:25 Know this great truth: God knew what he was doing from the very beginning. He decided from the outset to shape the lives of those who love him along the same lines as the life of his Son. The Son stands first in the line of humanity he restored. We see the original and intended shape of our lives there in him.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Pray for and encourage each other to see and be IN the Life we are IN in Christ</p>