

***Recap of 1/4/26 message by Pastor Chris Sommerfield***

**Romans 6: 1-14 “New Life in the New Year”**

This passage helps Christians understand that they have been set free from the bondage of sin and are empowered to live a new life. It offers hope to those struggling with guilt, shame, or habitual sin, reminding them of the victory they have through Jesus. As we embrace the new year, let us recognize our identity in Christ and live boldly in the new life He offers, leaving behind the old ways of sin and stepping into the freedom of His grace and power. We are made alive together with Christ, by grace we have been saved! (Eph. 2:1-5) The way we think about grace in our lives directly impacts the way we will live our lives unto God. There is a danger of thinking God's grace must be cheap, it's a free gift after all! We must remember that while salvation by grace through faith is indeed a free gift to us, it came at great cost. It cost the very blood of the Son of God and we must cherish that gift. “Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate. Costly grace is the treasure hidden in the field; for the sake of it a man will gladly go and sell all that he has.” (Dietrich Bonhoeffer) This year let us consider our desires and our understanding of grace and seek to live this new life unto God with joy and gratitude as we remember the high cost!