

Sunday, October 18, 2020

We Serve a Better Master

Romans 6:15-23

ROMANS

Choosing & Enslaved to Sin

Both Captive to Sin & Making Sinful Choices

Examples: Alcoholic, gluttony, sexual sins**Under the Dominion of God's Grace****Romans 5:21**

²¹so that, *as sin reigned in death, **grace also might reign through righteousness** leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

**Romans 6:1-14 Dead to Sin, Alive to God****Romans 6:12-14**

¹²Let not sin therefore *reign* in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. ¹³Do not **present your members to sin** as instruments (weapons) for unrighteousness, **but present yourselves to God** as those who have been brought from death to life, **and your members to God** as instruments (weapons) for righteousness.

¹⁴For sin **will have no dominion** over you, since you **are not under law but under grace**.

What does it mean to be under the rule of God's grace?

¹⁵What then? **Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace?** By no means!

¹What shall we say then? **Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound?**

The Principle: Your Slavery is Revealed by Your Service

¹⁶Do 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?** (Cf. willing slavery)

We Serve a Better Master

Joyfully work out the obedience God, our master, has worked into us. (Cf. Philippians 2:12-13)

ESV Outline:

Romans 1:8-15	Paul's Longing to Visit Rome
Romans 1:16-15	The Righteous Shall Live by Faith
Romans 1:18-32	God's Wrath on Unrighteousness
Romans 2:1-11	God's Righteous Judgment
Romans 2:12-29	God's Judgment and the Law
Romans 3:1-8	God's Righteousness Upheld
Romans 3:9-20	No One Is Righteous
Romans 3:21-31	The Righteousness of God Through Faith
Romans 4:1-12	Abraham Justified by Faith
Romans 4:13-25	The Promise Realized Through Faith
Romans 5:1-11	Peace with God Through Faith
Romans 5:12-21	Death in Adam, Life in Christ
Romans 6:1-14	Dead to Sin, Alive to God
Romans 6:15-23	Slaves to Righteousness
Romans 7:1-6	Released from the Law
Romans 7:7-25	The Law and Sin
Romans 8:1-11	Life in the Spirit (Next Week)
Romans 8:12-17	Heirs with Christ
Romans 8:18-30	Future Glory
Romans 8:31-39	God's Everlasting Love
Romans 9:1-29	God's Sovereign Choice
Romans 9:30-10:4	Israel's Unbelief
Romans 10:5-21	The Message of Salvation to All
Romans 11:1-10	The Remnant of Israel
Romans 11:11-24	Gentiles Grafted In
Romans 11:25-36	The Mystery of Israel's Salvation
Romans 12:1-2	A Living Sacrifice
Romans 12:3-8	Gifts of Grace
Romans 12:9-21	Marks of the True Christian
Romans 13:1-7	Submission to the Authorities
Romans 13:8-14	Fulfilling the Law Through Love
Romans 14:1-12	Do Not Pass Judgment on One Another
Romans 14:13-23	Do Not Cause Another to Stumble
Romans 15:1-7	The Example of Christ
Romans 15:8-13	Christ the Hope of Jews and Gentiles
Romans 15:14-21	Paul the Minister to the Gentiles
Romans 15:22-33	Paul's Plan to Visit Rome
Romans 16:1-16	Personal Greetings
Romans 16:17-23	Final Instructions and Greetings
Romans 16:25-27	Doxology

ⁱ Moo, D. J. (1996). *The Epistle to the Romans* (p. 406). Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.

ⁱⁱ Ibid. (p. 407).

ⁱⁱⁱ Ibid. (p. 408).

- I. Our Master Provides What He Commands
(A Command Sandwich)

God is the Master We Want to Serve

1. Rescued from Sin's Tyranny (A framework or mindset)
2. To A Willing Bondage (Slavery & Choice) Cf. **Philippians 4:8-9**

Joyfully work out...what our master has worked in.

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1. How does this week's text encourage you in your effort to be obedient? Does it help you better understand the relationship between God's work & our own effort?

2. Does this "present yourself as slaves" match your own experience? That is to say, do you feel compelled to do the right thing and yet still need to make choices? (This would be good to discuss and pray about with a brother or sister)

3. Paul teaches us that we are saved by grace to good works (Cf. Eph. 2:8-10) not by good works. Why is understanding this so important?

4. What are the various ways in which God is a better master? (This is good food for meditation and prayer)

5. How does our culture think about the concept of freedom? What does Paul have to say about this here in this weeks passage?

A. The Top Bun (17-18)

God's Grace Has Changed Who We Are!

¹⁷ But **thanks be to God**, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the *standard of teaching* to which you were committed (cf. Gal. 5:17-24; Rom. 8:4-9), ¹⁸ and, *having **been set free from sin**, **have become (been made) slaves of righteousness.***

[¹⁹ I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations.]

B. The Meat "Command" (19)

Serve Righteousness with Equal Devotion

^{19b} For *just as* you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, **so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.**

Illustration: Volleyball foul
Home, work, neighbors, Church

C. The Bottom Bun (17-18)

Comparing Who We Were & Who We Are by Grace

²⁰ **For** when you were slaves of sin, you were **free** in regard to righteousness. ²¹ **But what fruit** were you getting at that time *from the things of which you are now ashamed?* For **the end of those things is death.**

²¹ "Therefore, what fruit did you have then? *That of which you are now ashamed.* For **the end of these is death.**"ⁱ

²² **But now** that you have **been set free from sin** and **have become (been made) slaves of God**, the **fruit** you get leads to **sanctification** and its end, **eternal life.**

Two Pronged Grace
given all believers

Given the Life of Jesus!

This is the clear parallelism between vv. 21 and 22 that is created if v. 21 is punctuated with a question mark after "then":ⁱⁱ

	Status	Result	Outcome
v. 21:	"then": slaves of sin, free from righteousness	"fruit" bringing shame	death
v. 22:	"now": free from sin, slaves of God	"fruit" bringing sanctification	eternal life

Is this Yours? (more than psychological encouragement)

II. Death is Earned Life is Given

²³ For the **wages of sin** is death, but **the free gift of God** is **eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

"We may summarize the verse by noting, with Lloyd-Jones, its three contrasts: **the master that is served**—sin versus God; **the outcome of that service**—death versus eternal life; and **the means by which this outcome is attained**—a "wage" earned versus a gift received."
(bold mine)ⁱⁱⁱ