

# SERVANT OF SIN OR SERVANT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS?

Friday: God & I Time

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**Romans 6:15-23** <sup>15</sup>*What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.* <sup>16</sup>*Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?* <sup>17</sup>*But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.* <sup>18</sup>*Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.* <sup>19</sup>*I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.* <sup>20</sup>*For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness.* <sup>21</sup>*What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death.* <sup>22</sup>*But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.* <sup>23</sup>*For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

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So what are you going to do? Paul has very clearly informed us that if we are Christians we do not serve sin. Christ conquered sin once and for all. Sin is dead to Christ, and since Christians are united with Him, sin is dead to us. With that truth in mind, God commands us to not let sin reign in our lives, or to use our bodies as tools for wickedness, but use our bodies as tools for doing right for God's glory. Knowing all of that, you come to a point of decision. Are you going to be a servant of sin or a servant of righteousness?

6:15 *What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.* 16 *Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?*

We should know the answer to this question by now, but to be sure, Paul emphatically tells us *God forbid!* For a person to think he can sin because they are not under the law but under grace is to misunderstand what grace is. Write again the definitions of law and grace below.

Law \_\_\_\_\_  
Grace \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

We talked about yielding yesterday, and Paul says whatever you yield yourself to, you are servant of that thing. The word servant means slave. Paul is using an illustration that is very understandable to those in the Roman church. It is estimated that 60 percent of the people in Rome were of the slave class. Write below some characteristics of a slave.

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Paul goes on to say you are a slave to something. Either you are a slave of sin leading to death or a slave of obedience leading to righteousness. We are no longer slaves to the cruel taskmaster of sin but slaves to a loving Heavenly Father.

6:17 *But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.* 18 *Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.*

If you are a Christian, God has enabled you to say no to sin because you have obeyed from your heart the doctrine that was given to you. Doctrine is **teaching and instruction**. What specific Bible teaching or doctrine changes a person from a sinner to a justified believer before God? Fill in the blanks. The G\_\_\_\_\_ L. Stop and thank God for what He did by sending Jesus to die for your sin.

*6:19 I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.*

Paul was speaking in human terms by using the picture of slavery so we can clearly understand his point. He reiterates in verse 19 the point he made in verse 13: *Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.* However in this verse he does it with a little more force. He says don't yield the members of your body to sexual sins but yield them to things of righteousness that lead to holiness before God.

When you are a slave to sin before salvation, sin controlled you and made you do those things that do not please God. However when you become a Christian and you are freed from sin you are...

**- Free from sin's guilt**

This doesn't mean you won't have feelings of guilt it means you are completely free from condemnation. You do not stand before God guilty any longer because God has covered that sin with the blood of Jesus.

**- Free from sin's penalty**

**- Free from sin's reign**

And ultimately one day you will be...

**- Free from sin's presence**

*6:20 For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness. 21 What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death.*

Before a person becomes a Christian he is not bound to do righteous things. He could live however he wanted. When a person becomes a believer, he recognizes that those past sinful things just bring shame. Think about the end result in some of the following sins and write that end result in the blank. In other words, how do these things in an unbeliever's life lead to destruction?

Drugs \_\_\_\_\_  
Pornography \_\_\_\_\_  
Cheating \_\_\_\_\_  
Lying \_\_\_\_\_

The only path that sin leads to is death. For a believer Paul is not talking about ultimate death and separation from God but a path that leads to a destructive lifestyle and a lack of fellowship with Christ. The point Paul is making is that sin is in no way worth the price that is paid.

*6:22 But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.*

In this verse Paul gives the alternative to the path of sin which is a path of holiness and everlasting life. Think about the end result of these Christian virtues and write the result in the blank. In other

words, how do these things make your life better and help your relationships with others?

Honesty \_\_\_\_\_

Humility \_\_\_\_\_

Turning our eyes away from sinful things \_\_\_\_\_

6:23 *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

The word *wages* was the word that was used for payment given to soldiers by a general for fighting in a war. The “general” of a non-Christian’s life is sin. This “general” tells a non-Christian how to live and what to do. The payment that a non-Christian receives is nothing other than death. If you do not know Christ as your personal Savior then there is nothing in store for you but separation from God for all eternity. Our prayer for you is that you come to know Christ. If God is working in your heart about your need for salvation, will you stop right now and go talk to your counselor? Don’t wait or put it off. This is the biggest decision you will ever make in your entire life.

Whereas we see the payment for sin is death, on the other side of this we see a free gift. This free gift is just that—a gift—it is nothing we can earn. This free gift is from God and it is eternal life. Who would choose death over life? This free gift only comes one way and that is through Jesus Christ our Lord. Acts 4:12 says, *Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*

Salvation is such a wonderful and overwhelming gift given to us by a loving, merciful God. We should want to tell everybody about this gift. Write your salvation testimony below and be ready to share this with your cabin.

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We started the week asking the question, “What does it take to win the battle against sin in your life?” Paul has thoroughly given us the answer in Romans 6. Every Christian has the ability to win the battle with sin because the battle has already been won through Christ. Christians are dead to sin and alive to God. We have the ability to yield our bodies to God for His service and say no to sin. God has, in His grace, saved us and once we are saved He tells us to live for Him. However He doesn’t leave us to do that on our own. He gives us grace for that too. What a wonderful God we serve! Take the time to pray and thank God for what He has done. Now go out and say “no” to sin and “yes” to God. By His grace you will win the battle against sin.