



BRENTWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

ROMANS

WHO IS YOUR MASTER? (ROMANS 6:11-23)

SEPTEMBER 15, 2013

ROMANS 6:16-23 (HCSB)

¹⁶ Don't you know that if you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of that one you obey —either of sin leading to death or of obedience leading to righteousness? ¹⁷ But thank God that, although you used to be slaves of sin, you obeyed from the heart that pattern of teaching you were transferred to, ¹⁸ and having been liberated from sin, you became enslaved to righteousness. ¹⁹ I am using a human analogy because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you offered the parts of yourselves as slaves to moral impurity, and to greater and greater lawlessness, so now offer them as slaves to righteousness, which results in sanctification. ²⁰ For when you were slaves of sin, you were free from allegiance to righteousness. ²¹ So what fruit was produced then from the things you are now ashamed of? For the end of those things is death. ²² But now, since you have been liberated from sin and have become enslaved to God, you have your fruit, which results in sanctification —and the end is eternal life! ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

HIGHLIGHTS

- > **BIBLICAL EMPHASIS:** In Romans 6, Paul describes how believers are impacted by Jesus' crucifixion, resurrection, and life. Just as sin and death have no mastery over Christ, the believer can be free from the mastery of sin by faith. When the believer is the servant of righteousness, he or she is free from the control of sin. As believers in Christ and slaves to God, we are recipients of the gift of eternal life.
- > **TEACHING AIM:** As a result of today's study, you will learn that in Christ you are:
 1. Dead to sin, alive to God (Rom. 6:11-14)
 2. A slave to righteousness (Rom. 6:15-18)
 3. The recipient of God's gift of eternal life (Rom. 6:19-23)

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

In Romans 6, Paul began by asking a series of questions that all followers of Christ would do well to ponder. Having found Christ, can believers continue to live in the old ways of sin? Paul's answer, of course, was a strong no. The apostle then used the remainder of the chapter to identify and discuss reasons that Christians can no longer think and live in the old ways.

> READ ROMANS 6:11-14.

What does it mean to be "dead to sin" (v. 11)?

Knowing that, what do you think it means to be alive to God in Christ?

What is Paul's basis (and ours) for believing we will live with Christ?

What aspects of a Christ follower's identity does Paul mention in this passage? Do you see them as part of your identity? Why or why not?

What personal battles are you fighting? How do those struggles separate you from God?

The second half of this chapter of Romans serves as an illustration of the first half. In verses 1-14 Paul taught that the gospel frees the believer from the power of sin when the believer reckons himself or herself dead to sin and raised to a new life of righteousness. To illustrate that teaching, Paul returns to the analogy of slavery in verses 15-23.

> READ ROMANS 6:15-18.

Some of the early believers fell into a philosophical trap about sin. They believed that because their sins were paid for by Christ's death, then they could sin as much as they wished. Paul answered this issue in verse 15, "Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Absolutely not!" Though we're free from the penalty of sin, we shouldn't use that fact as license to do whatever we want. That's not what Christ died for. Instead, we have the opportunity to live in the grace and righteousness of God.

What two masters did Paul describe? Do you agree with Paul that we have to be slaves to something?

What does it mean for something to be our master?

What characterizes a life mastered by God?

What do we communicate to God when we don't allow Him to be the master of our lives?

> READ ROMANS 6:19-23.

Again, Paul contrasted the two lives we can lead. To be slaves to moral impurity means we descend into greater and greater lawlessness. Sin begets sin. The process is familiar. A despicable act at first is unthinkable. Then it becomes an intellectual curiosity, then a possibility, and then an actual transgression. Initial guilt may soon be replaced with self-serving justifications and the despicable act is repeated and accepted. On the other hand, being slaves to righteousness results in sanctification. The process here is one of becoming increasingly dedicated to God.

How does a person move from being a slave to sin to being a slave to righteousness?

What activities would characterize a slave to righteousness today? For thought only: Which of these are present in your life?

What is Paul referring to when He talks about spiritual fruit? Read Galatians 5:22-24 and 2 Peter 1:5-8 for some examples.

What is the end goal of the Christian life, according to verse 23?

APPLICATION

Once we accept the facts of Jesus' death and resurrection by faith, we enter into a personal relationship with Him and He lives in us. Our personal relationship with Jesus provides incredible riches. Not only do we get to experience everlasting life in the presence of God, but we also are freed from sin's bondage and equipped to share the gospel and reflect Jesus' love and grace to the world.

Why do we often fear surrendering our lives completely to God, allowing Him to be our Master?

Does your daily life reflect Christ living in you? Where is there room for improvement?

What is one step you can take toward living as a "weapon of righteousness" this week?