

## Romans 6:15 – 23

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

-The question in verse one deals with continual habitual sin as a lifestyle. This usage of the word sin is aorist tense indicating it is a one-time thing in the past, even a series of one-time events. This is dealing with occasional sin in the life of a believer.

-Paul first addresses the old nature and how we are freed from it. Now he addresses believers who sin.

-The question he asks as part of his diatribe is: because we are under grace we can sin a little? and he answers as strong as he did in verse 1. By no means!

- All sin is wrong and out of place in the life of a believer. Romans 6 is showing the ideal situation while Romans 7 will address the practical situation which is a life time struggle with and against sin.

**16** *Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness?*

-Everyone is a slave to someone, either sin or obedience. Who do you obey?

-Paul reveals the end product of each, sin leads to death ...Obedience leads to righteousness.

-In chapter four the readers were saved by faith now in chapter 6 they are being taught how to live like saved people.

-We have been made positionally righteous in Christ now we must become in practice righteous. We must live different because we have a new master.

**17** *But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance. **18** You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.*

“Slaves of righteousness: What does it mean to be a slave? A slave was more than an employee. The noted Greek scholar Kenneth Wuest defined the ancient Greek word for a slave here by these terms:

- One born into a condition of slavery.
- One whose will is swallowed up in the will of another.
- One who is bound to the master with bonds only death can break.
- One who serves his master to the disregard of his own interests.

The following *was once* true in regard to our slavery to sin:

- We were born as slaves to sin.
- Our will was swallowed up and captive to sin within us.
- Our bondage to sin was so strong that only death – spiritually dying with Jesus on the cross – could break the bondage.

- We were so enslaved to sin that we served it to the disregard of our own interest, even when sin destroyed us.

Now the following *is true* in regard to our slavery to righteousness:

- We are born again, now as slaves to righteousness.
- Our will is now swallowed up in the will of God. It is His will that matters to us, not our own.
- We are bound to Jesus with bonds that only death can break; but since He has triumphed over death and given us eternal life, those bonds will *never* be broken!
- We now willingly chose to serve Jesus to the disregard of our own (selfish) interests.” (Guzik, Enduring Word commentary)

**19** *I am using an example from everyday life because of your human limitations. Just as you used to offer yourselves as slaves to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer yourselves as slaves to righteousness leading to holiness.*

-The illustration of slavery could be offensive to many reading the letter but Paul uses the imagery to help them understand.

-We have a new master in Christ and we need to live for the new master not the old master.

-The pattern of sin is ingrained deeply in the sinner and it is not easy to pull up. three trees, 1 year, 5, years and 15 years...which is the hardest to pull up? The same way you made sin a habit, make righteousness a habit.

**20** *When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness.*

- Our only inclination was evil and we were powerless against it.

**21** *What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death!*

-What has sin benefited you? nothing at all. Sin makes one sick and tired and very empty.

-People who do not believe in God still would live better and healthier if they obeyed the Bible.

**22** *But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. 23* *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

-Paul sums his argument up by stating that sin leads only to death.

-Serving God leads to holiness and results in eternal life.

-Wages of sin is death, wages indicate an earning and a working for

-Gift of God is eternal life. It is a gift.