

“We may summarize [6:23] by noting, with [D. Martyn 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.” ~ Moo

Are you growing in holiness?

The presence of holiness “is the evidence that we have truly become slaves of righteousness” ~ Tom Schreiner

Schedule

- Next 2 weeks: No class over Christmas & New Years holidays.
- Jan 5: Romans 7

Previous Lessons

- Previous lesson notes are available online:
<https://www.theheightschurchmn.org/adult-sunday-school>

Credits

- Main sources for outline and shared quotes are:
 - *Epistle to The Romans (NICNT)* by Douglas Moo [Eerdmans, 1996]
 - *Romans (IVPNTC)* by Grant Osborne [IVP, 2004]
 - *Teaching Romans, Volume One: Unlocking Romans 1-8 for the Bible Teacher* by Christopher Ash [Christian Focus, 2009]
 - *Romans (Teach the Text Commentary)* by C. Marvin Pate [Baker, 2013]

III. The Assurance Provided by the Gospel: The Hope of Salvation (5:1-8:39)

B. Freedom from Bondage to Sin (6:1-23)

1. “Dead to Sin” through Union with (and New Life in) Christ (6:1-14)
2. Freed from Sin’s Power to Serve Righteousness (6:15-23)

“The great Christian paradox is that we are freed from the slavery of sin to become slaves to God. The difference is the hostility of the old master versus the love and grace of the new.” ~ Grant Osborne

- a) **The Question:** Since Christians are not under the law, can they live in sin? (6:15a)
 - Similar to the question in vs. 1.
 - This question is in response to v. 14.

“Some might interpret the absence of law to mean they are free to do whatever they want, and the presence of grace to mean God will understand and forgive whatever they do.” ~ Grant Osborne

- b) **The Answer:** By no means! / Absolutely not! (6:15b)
 - God’s grace not only liberates us, it constrains us
- c) **The Explanation Begun:**
 - (1) Argument 1: everyone is enslaved to something. You’ve got to serve either sin or God. (6:16)
 - a) If you offer yourselves (continually) to a thing, you become its slaves.
 - b) Obedience is the “litmus test” of your slavery: I am a slave of the one whom I actually obey.
- The mark of slavery is constant obedience

“I may call myself a slave of someone else... but if I actually obey sin... then it shows I am still the slave of sin.” ~ Christopher Ash

If Christians “constantly to yield to the voice of temptation, they would effectively become slaves of sin again.” ~ Doug Moo

- John 8:34b “everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin”

Is Sin the controlling force in your life?

c) There are only 2 possible slaveries open to me.

- No such thing as human autonomy

“The question is not, then, whether one will have a master, but which master one will serve... The freedom of the Christian is not freedom to do what one wants, but freedom to obey God – willingly, joyfully, naturally.” ~ Doug Moo

- Sin or Obedience (i.e., God)
 - (2) Argument 2: you have been set free from slavery to sin to become slaves now to righteousness, leading to holiness. The message of grace has set you free to serve God (6:17-19a)
- Paul thanks God for their conversion

“Paul uses ‘obey’ because he wants to underscore [that] ...submission to Christ as Lord of life... is part of becoming a Christian... becoming a Christian means being placed under the authority of Christian ‘teaching,’ that expression of God’s will for NT believers.” ~ Doug Moo

- Form, pattern, rule, standard of teaching – which shapes us.
- Divine passives – we were set free, and made slaves of righteousness

“The Christian is not just called to do right in a vacuum but to do right out of a new and powerful relationship that has already been established.” ~ Doug Moo

- Paul uses an imperfect analogy since we have human limitations in our understanding.

“Speaking of two slaveries helps us understand the transfer, but they are very different slaveries. We are transferred from a cruel slavery to a gracious slavery, from a closed slavery to an open slavery, from a forced response to a free response, from a slavery that leads to death into a slavery that leads to life.” ~ Christopher Ash

d) The Appeal: as you formerly devoted yourself to serving sin in an ever-increasing bondage to lawlessness, now you should present yourself as slaves to righteousness leading to an ever-growing sanctification. (6:19b)

- (1) 2 Masters:
 - Impurity/Lawlessness
 - Righteousness

“...sanctification is defined first as a life of freedom from the dominance of sin and second as a process of becoming more like Christ.” ~ G. Osborne

- (2) 2 Roads:
 - Downward spiral – leading to more lawlessness
 - A steady growth in grace – leading to holiness

(3) Main takeaway:

“...freed people should exercise the freedom that has been won for them in Christ. We’ve been set free: so act free!” ~ Christopher Ash

e) The Explanation Concluded:

- (1) Argument 3: sin brings shame and results in death (6:20-21)

“When people plant sin, they gain a harvest of shame.” ~ Grant Osborne

- (2) Argument 4: serving God brings sanctification and results in eternal life (6:22-23)

“Unlike the pagan, we plant righteousness, and the harvest is holiness or sanctification.” ~ Grant Osborne

- “Sin’s final payoff” – the “wages of sin” – “death”

“Paul changes metaphor from harvest (‘fruit’) to the pay, probably of a soldier (the word is used of a soldier’s pay in Luke 3:14 and 1 Cor. 9:7). General Sin never fails to pay his army. Every soldier is paid his wages, and those wages are death. This is what we deserve.”