

The Facilitator

Community Groups @ Trinity Presbyterian Church

3/4/18

Text: Romans 6:11-23 (ESV)

Title: Slavery vs. Freedom in Christ

Teacher: Tim Rice

Surrender through Prayer:

Surrender through prayers for Illumination and Transformation, asking that Jesus would meet with you in this time.

Engage with the Sermon

Read the passage together

In his sermon, Tim led us through the second half of Romans 6. Where last week we saw our freedom from the guilt of sin, here we see that Christ, by His life AND death, has freed us from the enslaving Power of sin. Like the moon in orbit, going wherever the earth goes, we live our lives enslaved (serving and being owned) by something or someone. Whether it's love, approval, work, fame, money, or pleasure, we devote our time and effort to things that ultimately will not last. The amazing truth of the Gospel is that Christ has not just removed the guilt of our sin so that God can accept us, but He has freed us from the power of sin so that, no longer tethered to it's demands or enticements, we can be free to experience the freedom, grace and love of God. Like an old mill-horse who, given the freedom of an entire pasture, goes back to walking around a tree the rest of it's life, Jesus didn't free us from the power of sin so that we'd keep doing it. He freed us so that we'd experience the amazing joy of being in union with Him and serve Him with all of our life.

Reflection Questions:

- 1. As Tim said, "whatever has most of your attention has you." We like to think we're autonomous and couldn't be enslaved to anything, but whatever has our attention has control. Often we can't even feel it because it becomes socially acceptable.*
 - What person or thing gets most of your attention or effort?**
 - How could that become something that enslaves you?**
 - What "socially acceptable" thing in your life is the greatest threat to you being enslaved to something besides God?**
- 2. Tim talked about the Mill-Horse who was retired to a huge open field, but spent ever day walking around a tree. Jesus has freed us from our tether to sin, and yet we still go back and keep serving it as if it still has power and control.*
 - What do you know that Jesus has freed you from, and yet you can't stop yourself from going back to that old way of thinking or living?**
- 3. Jesus told his followers, take up your cross daily (die to your sin and selfishness), and take my yoke upon you (attach yourself to me) for my yoke is easy and my burden is light.*
 - Where do you need Jesus to attach to you and lead you into His freedom?**
 - Where is He calling you to serve him with your live?**

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WORSHIP AND PRAYER:

A.C.T.S.

(Spend time in prayer and worship as you consider Adoring God the Father, Confessing your sin and weakness, giving thanks to Jesus, and asking Holy Spirit to transform you. Use this as a time to talk to God about what's been revealed in your heart from this sermon.)

1. ADORATION *(The Father)*

Adore and Worship God for His attributes and actions

2. CONFESSION *(Me)*

Spend time Confessing sin and ways in which you are finite and limited

3. THANKSGIVING *(Jesus)*

Give thanks to Jesus for his salvation (past, present, future)

4. SUPPLICATION *(Holy Spirit)*

Ask Holy Spirit to transform you in specific ways

5. Prepare for Gospel Community *(My Neighbor)*

Pray for those who are on your heart, that God would use you to impact them with His gospel message.

Prayer Items

- 1. Worship God for His kindness as our Master and Lord – that He is no tyrant. Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit for His kind rule over us in Christ when, in His power, He could be so overwhelming.*
- 2. How have you lived as if some thing or person is more desirable to you than Jesus? Confess your lovelessness and folly to Jesus, asking Him to cleanse you, to heal you, and to persuade you of His worth and love.*
- 3. Give thanks to Jesus for the wonder of His power and love, especially that He wants you. Thank Him for conquering sin's power and for freely offering His life to you when we deserve death for our rebellion.*
- 4. Who do you know that lives (needlessly) in bondage to some worldly influence? Pray for them, asking the Lord to free them from the slavery of their own desires and fill them instead with His eternally satisfying love.*
- 5. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you see the glory of being owned by Jesus. Ask Him to remove your shortsightedness and fear; and help you to joyfully offer yourself to the Lord to serve Him in love.*