

Mount Calvary Baptist Church
Lesson Title: The Believer's Relationships
October 2, 2018
Romans 6:1-23 (Background Passage)
Romans 6:15-23 (Lesson Passage)

Theological Principle: When we are servants of righteousness, we are free from the control of sin.

Introduction:

- *What excuses might a person give for continuing to give into a particular sin?*
- *What does the excuse given for a habitual sin reveal about a person's understanding of God?*
- *How do people use God's grace as an excuse to live however they want?*

Understanding the Text

PAUL CARRIES FORTH the theme of 6:1–14 in this section. He continues to proclaim that believers are set free from sin (vv. 18, 22). But the emphasis shifts slightly. Whereas freedom was the dominant motif in verses 1–14, slavery now takes center stage. Paul uses this imagery both to remind us of what our state used to be (“slaves to sin,” vv. 17, 20) and to encourage us to recognize what we have now become in Christ (“slaves to righteousness,” v. 18; “slaves to God,” v. 22). This paragraph focuses, therefore, on the transfer from one state of slavery to another and the implications that ensue from that transfer.

• **Slaves to Righteousness**

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

Romans 6:15-19 (NIV2011)

- *How does a person move from being a servant of sin to being a servant of righteousness? What steps does Paul outline for becoming a servant of righteousness? (16-17)*
- *If we offer ourselves to God as a servant of righteousness, why would it be a contradiction to also offer ourselves to sin? (18)*
- *Read Matthew 6:24. Why is it innately impossible for us to be both slaves to sin and slaves to righteousness?*

• **The Wages and The Gift**

²⁰ When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. ²¹ What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! 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.
Romans 6:20-23 (NIV2011)

- What is the result of being a slave to righteousness? (6:19, 22)
- What are the wages of sin? (6:23)
- What is the gift of God? (6:23)

Status Result Outcome Before we were Christians

STATUS	RESULTS	OUTCOME
(v. 21): slaves of sin, free from righteousness	fruit bringing shame	_____

Now that we are Christians

STATUS	RESULTS	OUTCOME
(v. 22): free from sin, slaves of God	fruit bringing sanctification	_____

Paul pictures the believer as one who has been transferred from the one regime to the other. We have been placed in a new situation, dominated by a new set of powers. But in keeping with New Testament eschatology, our domination by the new powers does not yet mean that we are rescued from any possible contamination from the old regime. That regime still exists, and through our continuing participation in this world, it can still affect us.

The Old Regime	The New Regime
Adam	C_____
Sin	Righteousness, O_____
Death	L_____
Law	G_____
Flesh	S_____

Apply the Text

- How can you show your wholehearted obedience to God this week?
- In what areas of your life do you need God’s help to loosen the grip of certain sins?