

Free From Sin...
Romans 6:15~23, part 1

This section of scripture speaks to the “*reality*” of our faith in Christ... The substance of what we believe. It is here in this passage, that Paul takes the truths found in the “*gospel of Christ*” the “message of the Cross,” and appropriates those truths into the lives of those who believe. In this particular section, he reveals, just “*how it is*” that the gospel of Christ “*saves the human soul...*” from sin...

The Bible teaches that we are in “*Bondage to sin.*” That Sin is our Master, and we its Slaves... But the “*good news of God*” as Paul puts it... is God has provided a Savior, a deliverer...

Here in Romans 6, Paul reveals to us two principles... two inseparable truths...

That serve as a “**KEY**” to “**Unlock the Door**” to “**Set Men Free**” from sin...

(John 8) ³¹Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, *If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;* ³²*And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*

The first truth he speaks to is that of our **death** in Christ... A word he uses in some form or another 16 times in the first half of this passage. The other, is the word **yield**, which he uses in some form or another 17 times in the second half of this passage. Paul gives the first half speaking to our “*death*” in Christ, and the second half speaking to our “*new life*” in Christ.

In the first 14 verses, he speaks to our “**Death** in Christ...”

(Vs 14) Paul declares, by our faith in the “*gospel of Christ...*” we have been “*set free*” from SIN!

¹⁴*For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.*

The word Paul uses here for “**dominion**” here is very interesting...

It means to “*have rule over,*” to “*be in authority*”... to “*be Lord of,*” “*exercise Lordship over*”... The best use of the word, which best describes Paul’s intended use of the word is... “*God...MASTER*”

(Vs 14) Paul says... **Sin shall no longer be “your God”...**

Sin shall no longer be “your Master...” and you its “slave...”

In verses 11~23... Paul uses the “*analogy*” of a **Master and his Slave**.

In verse 19, Paul says... *I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh:* The reason he uses the analogy of a Master and his Slave, is due to the fact, that the depths of wisdom that Paul is sharing here, far surpasses our weak, feeble human minds. God’s ways are so much higher than our ways... So to explain this “*Divine Truth*”, Paul uses an earthly analogy that we can comprehend!

Sin shall no longer be “your God”... Sin shall no longer be “your Master” and you its “slave”

Paul uses the MASTER/SLAVE analogy, to help us understand what he’s saying... A SLAVE exist only to serve HIS MASTER’S bidding... A slave has no authority, a slave does not serve his own will, a slave is one whose only choice is that of obedience to his master...

Before a person comes to faith in Christ... he/she is in “*Bondage to Sin...*” We are the “*slaves of sin...*” Sin was our MASTER... and we its servants... **Just as a slave does what his master tells him to do, in the same manner, we did what our master’s bidding.**

Illustration: (Vs 13) “*instruments...*” In this case, a synonym for slave, a servant... Paul uses “*instrument*” because his readers can relate to it... In Paul’s day, Rome had millions of slaves...

To the *slave's master*, a slave was nothing more than a “**TOOL**” at his disposal, to carry out his purposes... Literally...they placed no more value on a slave's life, than that he was just a common tool. The only thing he/she was good for was to carry out the work of the Master...

One historical writer wrote, that if a slave became sick or injured, that the master of the slave would often cast him aside, and get another one! Just as if the handle broke in a hammer, we'd go out and simply purchase a new one, so often did the Roman masters...

Before we came to Christ, all of us were the “*Servants of Sin, the Slaves of Sin!*” We were under “*Sins dominion...*” under the “*Control of Sin*”...under the “*Lordship of Sin!*” There was *nothing else we could do, nothing else we could produce...*

But thanks be unto God, in Christ, we have been “Set Free from our former Master!”

How does Christ set us free from sin?

(Vs 14) Paul says...Sin shall no longer be “*your Master...*” for you are no longer under the Law...

Through “*Faith in Christ*” we have “died with Christ” to the Law...

The Law is no longer our Master and we *it's slave...*

When we *came to Christ...*we *left the Law...* We are no longer under the Law...

Having rendered us transgressors of God, the Law has fulfilled its purpose in our lives, and is no longer needed. As far as our life is concerned...the law is a done deal, its done what it set out to do in our life, and now we have no further need of it, in a very real sense, we are “*dead to the Law!*”

For sin shall not have dominion over you: for you are not under the law, but under grace.

By declaring that the Law no longer has place in the life of a follower of Christ, Paul is faced with another question, that is sure to be argued... If you take away the Law, then you are taking away the standard for men to live their lives. By taking away the Law, aren't you leaving the “*door wide open*” for a man to live how he pleases...right?

(Vs 15) ¹⁵*What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace?*

I mean, if you remove the law, than there is no “*standard of right and wrong...*”

Doesn't the “*Preaching of the Cross*” teach that, by removing of the Law, that men have no standard to live to? Are you not “*removing the restraints*” that keep men from sinning?

God forbid! I'm not saying that at all! Absolutely Not! Nothing could be farther from the truth!

Don't think for a moment, that “*by exhorting men to turn from the law, to die to the law,*” that we are “*removing the standard*” by which men ought to “*live their lives too...*”

Because we are not! What we are saying, and I want to make this clear, is that our “*gospel*” declares that the **Law** is NOT THE STANDARD for men to *yield their lives too!*

God forbid! Don't think for a moment, that in preaching the Cross, the message of grace, that in any way I am saying that to “*live in disobedience to God*” is ok!

The “*Gospel*” declares the one and only acceptable “*obedience*”, obedience to Christ as Lord!

Paul says... You know as well as I do...that each one of us is obedient to something...

(Vs 16) Paul says...Don't you know that to whom you yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants you are to whom you obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

Whether or not we are obedient is not the question... for each one of us is obedient to something...

The real question is, “*What or to whom are we obedient too?*”

Because you know as well as I know, that what we are *yielding our lives* too, is a very good indicator as to who or what we are serving!

The “*Gospel*” declares that all who are under the Law, are servants of SIN!

Now in no way am I saying that the LAW is Sinful, for it's not...a subject Paul picks up in chapter 7...

The Law is Holy, and the commandment Holy, and just and good... ..

The problem is not with the Law...but with Man! Man is sinful...and God Law is Holy... And no amount of obedience to the Law will help! All the Law is good for, when it comes to Sin, is to point out men's transgressions to it!

Anyone not “*Under Christ*”...is “*Under the Law...thus in SIN...*”

Man is either “*Saved*” or he's “*Unsaved*.” The saved are marked by being “*Slaves of Christ*.”

1) The first group are those who are guilty of breaking God's law, but have no concern. They do not believe in God, they do not seek forgiveness, they are those who love darkness... But nonetheless, they are “*under the Law of God...*”

2) The second group are those who are guilty of breaking God's law, but this group is remorseful. This group feels under the weight of guilt, but do not know what to do... But nonetheless, they are “*under the Law of God...*”

3) The third group are those who feel like they are innocent before God, on the basis of their adherence to the Law. This last group stands in the greatest danger... For by their affiliation with the Law of God, they manifest an “*apparent righteousness*.” Contrasted with the other two groups, they stand out as those who are the people of God! But...as Paul makes clear here, they are just as guilty as the other two groups.

Even though they try and keep its standards, this group is just as guilty as the previous too...reason being, they too are under the Law! Remember, according to Paul's gospel, Obedience to the Law justifies no one...right?

All three of these groups are under the Law...and in bondage to sin... Which reveals an almost unbelievable truth... That the man who wants nothing to do with the Law of, the one who doesn't even believe in it to be of God, is no worse off than the man who does believe it, and tries to live up to its standards... For neither is no the better, **they are both in bondage to sin, being under the law!**

The “*Gospel*” declares that all who are under the Law, are servants of SIN, Slaves of Sin!

The Danger of the Law... There's a great danger in that it is very deceptive... By giving oneself to the Law, the “*appearance of righteousness*” comes with it.

Because many “misunderstand” GRACE...in that “*Obedience to God*” is no big deal, that serving Christ with one's life is optional... The “*Gospel*” we teach exhorts men to “*die to the Law...*” and “*Live unto Christ!*” Paul uses the word yield some 17 times...

The word “*yield*” means... *to place at ones disposal, to present, to offer as a sacrifice...*

Taking the two truths Paul reveals to us here in Romans 6, that of “*Our death in Christ*” and “*Yielding to Christ*” reveals the **very essence of “*True, spiritual worship of God...*”**

To fully grasp the understanding here, is to know something about the “*worship*” Israel offered God... Which consisted largely in part of the worshiper offering up animals on the altar unto God. Israel’s worship dealt largely with the sacrificing of animals as prescribed in the Law of God...

No longer will the worshiper come to offer upon the altar of sacrifice, the body of animals...

The “*Call of the gospel*” is “*Lay down his life to the Law*” at the Cross with Christ...and offer up to God the *sacrifice of one’s life in service to the Lord Jesus Christ!*

(Ro. 12:1) *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*

T: That doesn’t mean that God is asking us to “*die for Him...*” (though he may, many have in the past...) **Though he doesn’t ask us to “*die for Him...*” He does ask ALL to “*LIVE for Him...*”**

We are all “*LIVING unto something...*” the only question is what or who? No one is outside of these two spheres, one is either still “*under the law*” or he is “*under Christ.*” One of but two Masters!

In this analogy Paul uses of Masters/Slaves... He declares that ALL MEN are like SLAVES... That each one of us, are serving “*One of Two Masters.*” We are either obedient to God, manifested by “*Yielding to Christ as Lord*” or we are disobedient to God, manifesting we have “*Sin as our Master...*”

Paul looks to the lives of those he is writing too...as examples that the “*gospel sets men free from sin...*” **(Vs 17~18)** *But God be thanked...that you were the servants of sin, but you have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered unto you.* ¹⁸*Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.*

Through “*faith in Christ,*” men are “*Set Free*” from the “*Bondage of the Law!*”

Paul says... “*I praise God for the difference that Christ has made in your lives!*”

Paul says... “*I am so grateful to God...that when you heard the gospel of Christ...that you gave your lives to Him!*”

You were the “*servants of sin...*” in that you trusted in yourselves, you no longer trust in your adherence to the Law, your goodness... I thank God that you heard the gospel, and by faith you’ve turned from that, and have turned to the way of true righteousness, by giving yourselves as servants of Christ, no longer servants of the Law! Through the hearing of the gospel, your hearts were changed!

Understanding, that *true righteousness* comes not by “*obedience to the Law*”, but rather comes from obedience to Christ!

¹⁸*Being then made free from sin, (Servants of the Law) ye became the servants of righteousness. (Servants **Of Christ**)*

Given the truth Paul has declared here, using the analogy of the Master/Slave...

The question we must ask ourselves is...

To which am I “*yielding*” my LIFE to as a slave?

One’s life is yielded to one of two things... Either to Christ, *yielding our lives as a sacrificial offering to him!* Or we are still under the Law...and have “*kept our lives*” for self...