

Free from Sin

Romans 6:15~23

Here in Romans 6, Paul moves to the heart of God's redemptive plan of redemption for man... To help us understand how God saved the human soul, Paul uses the analogy of a Master and his Servant.

I can't think of a greater privilege, than to be a "*servant of the Lord Jesus Christ...*" There is no *higher honor*, no *higher position* that a man/women can attain in this life, than in that of being a "*Servant of the Most High God!*" A servant of the God and Father of the Lord Jesus Christ!

This morning, I'd like to "*dedicate*" this service to *a very special servant* of the Lord... a servant of Righteousness...*Edith Winkler*.

Using the analogy of Master / Servant... Paul explains, that before we came to Christ, all men are in "*Bondage to Sin.*" That Sin is our Master... and we his servant. But Paul declares the good news of Christ... How Christ came to "*Set men free from sin...*" Because of Christ death, burial and resurrection... we are no longer "*Servants of sin*" but "*Servants of righteousness...*"

Today, we come together in celebration of the *death, burial and resurrection* of our Lord & Savior, our MASTER... Jesus Christ.

At the heart of the "*Christian Faith,*" is the Resurrection! We believe, that Christ Jesus laid his life down for us, that he died for our sin... That he was buried then arose from the dead! Victorious over death, hell and the grave! We believe that by what Christ has done, we too rise from the dead... The bible speaks of a yet future return of Jesus Christ, the second coming of Christ. A time when he, the bridegroom comes back for his bride... the church!

1 Corinthians 15:12~19... Speaks to the "*Importance of the Resurrection of Christ!*" how it lies at the "*heart of the Christian faith!*" If Christ had not risen, then we are fools to follow him... But if he did, (*and he did*)... all are fools who do not follow him!

Here, Paul explains what it means to "*live by faith...*" by giving "*substance*" to what we "*believe!*" Here Paul takes the truths of Christ "*death, burial & resurrection*" and explains the implications they have as it pertains to believers...

The truth that Paul reveals here in this passage, a very difficult one to grasp... The "*gospel*" that Paul proclaims, says, that the way to be right with God, calls for one to "*turn from submission to God's Holy Law...*" that God gave through *Moses*. Paul says, that as far as the Law is concerned... to "*die to it!*" To "*be done with it,*" to "*no longer submit yourself to its standards!*"

I don't know about you... that's hard to say, much less *comprehend to be true*. When you think about, if you didn't have a real good understanding of the N.T, you might well consider such a statement to be a reproach against God's word... BLASPHEMY!

But concerning the Law of God, that is exactly what Paul says to do... "*the gospel*" that Paul preaches, exhorts men/women... to "*die to it!*" To "*be done with it,*" to "*no longer submit yourself to its standards!*"

And Paul declares, as a result, those who do are "*FREE from SIN!*"

Free from Sin? Paul, you've lost it... Do you have any idea what you are saying?

Paul, by exhorting men to turn from the law, to no longer submit their lives to it, it appears that what you are you saying is that in GRACE...HOW WE LIVE no longer matters... I mean, if your exhorting men to no longer submit themselves to the Holy Law of God, God's righteous standard, aren't you removing the only thing that keeps men from sinning?

That is the question of verse 15...

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

We must understand the "*Thought*" behind this question...

Paul, if there's *no law*...no clear *standard of right and wrong to live by*, than anything goes...*right*?

Think with me for a moment... What would happen, if some of the laws we currently have in place in our society, were removed, and done away with?

A) What if GAMBLING were no longer illegal in Kentucky...*what would happen?*

B) What if the laws against the sale of ALCOHOL in Irvine were abolished...*what would happen?*

C) What if the laws against PROSTITUTION were removed...*what would happen?*

D) What if all highway SPEED LIMITS were no longer enforced...*what would happen?*

By a raise of hands... How many think, by removing those laws and others like them, that our society would be better for it?

Absolutely Not... Instead of helping the society around us, it would absolutely destroy it! Far from "*making things better*..." it would just make things worse! Things are bad enough right now, even with all the laws in place!

By taking away the Law, you'd be taking away the "*moral restraints*" of our society!
Whatever one chose to do, *would be ok*...nothing will be considered as "*wrong*."

By removing the Laws that govern our society, you'd be "*Setting men Free*" to live how they want to...

Knowing the "*Certainty*" of what would happen as a result of taking away those laws...

Can you imagine suggesting that to be "*Free from Sin*" is to be "*Free from the Law*?"

Can you imagine suggesting that the answer to *man's sin problem* is no longer submit themselves to God's law?

Yet, that's exactly what Paul is suggesting here in Romans 6...

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

The "*Preaching of the Cross*" declares to "*Set men free from Sin*" by "*Setting them free from the Law!*"

When you think about what Paul is suggesting here...(taking into consideration what we know would happen if certain laws were done away with in our society), it's hard to comprehend..."*just the thought*" that it would result in, the "*Increase of Godliness*" in one's life, rather than even more sinfulness!

That is the "*Mindset*" behind the question, posed in verse 15...

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

This question is not a question that stems from “*not understanding*” what Paul has just said...because what Paul has just said, he made crystal clear! But rather, the question comes as a result of not understanding “*how it could possibly be true.*”

It only *stands to reason*...that if you remove the Law that governs men’s actions...the Law that serves a “*moral restraint*” to govern the lives of men...that SIN would increase!

Paul, if you take away the Law...*isn't the natural result going to be more sin?*

(Vs 16~18) Paul’s answer...**Not if the heart’s been changed!**

¹⁶Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? ¹⁷But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine, which was delivered you. ¹⁸Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.

Far from giving men a “*license to sin*”, the message of the Cross rescues men from sin, by pointing them away from what could never make them right...mans goodness! The gospel points men away from the law by pointing men to Christ!

At the heart of *our struggle* to understand this truth, is the confusion and misunderstanding of what it means to be righteous. Our struggle with what Paul is saying, because we naturally think, “*that by taking away the law*” **sin will increase!**

But to “*Think*” that way, reveals that “*we associate being righteous with keeping the Law!*” It reveals the mindset, that “*he who adheres to the law*” is a righteous man...

Paul’s point here is, even though a man be a “*good man...*” A upstanding man in society, a good moral man, is no better off than the “*Immoral Man...*” Reason is the “*gospel*” is not a message of “*Morality!*”

It’s not hard to imagine a man who’s lived a life of debauchery, to go to hell...but its very hard for us to imagine that a really *good man* will go to hell. But according to the gospel, a man’s goodness won’t help.

A man’s “*outward obedience to the law*” may result in being a good person...but that won’t help... The only thing that will help, is an “*inward obedience, from the heart*” to the Lord Jesus Christ!

(Vs 17~18) Paul praises God for the “*Transformed lives*” of those in Rome who have been changed by the Gospel of Christ! ...but ye have **obeyed from the heart** that **form of doctrine**, delivered to you.

Paul says... “*I praise God for what Christ has done in your lives!*”

By removing the law, the “*gospel*” is in no way teaching “*Disobedience to God*”... but rather it reveals the “*Obedience to the Law*” is not obedience at all! The only “*True obedience*”...**obedience to Christ!**

The question **will not** be.....Has a man lived *good enough?*

(The gospel clearly reveals that none of us have...)

The question will be..... Whether or not we have lived unto Christ?

Because the Gospel replaces the “*Law of God*” as the **Standard** to which men should live to...

The Gospel replaces it with “*Christ*” as the **Standard** to which men are to live to...

(Vs 3) The Death of Christ on the cross...(we identify with his death by dying to requirements of law)

(Vs 4a) The Burial of Christ...

(Vs 4b~6) The Resurrection of Christ...(we too rise from the dead, resurrected...walk in newness of Life)