

## Slaves to Righteousness 2022-02-20

### Romans 6:16-18

*Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness?*

*17 But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, 18 and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.*

1979 Bob Dylan "Gotta Serve Somebody". Dylan slide (at end of sermon notes)

- Result of God's grace is to make us slaves of righteousness, not slaves of sin.

Don't sin so grace may abound (1-14) but because grace replaced the law. Romans 6:1, 15

- not under law's condemnation but under grace so doesn't matter how live.
  - "not under law" means God liberated from slavery of sin.

All born into slavery to sin. John 8:34

- Not unwilling enslavement: addicted to sin that ultimately destroy/kill.
- slaves to sin: immorality, greed. "good" desires: ambition, career, SWIM

Ultimately only 2 Masters, sin or righteousness and can't serve both. Romans 6:16, 20, Matthew 6:24

- Slavery to one is freedom from the other.
  - enslaved to sin free with regard to righteousness, enslaved to righteousness freed from sin...it's penalty, power, reign.
- Point of text: temaster you obey shows whose slave you are.

As a Christian, your choice of masters already made for you by the Father. Romans 6:17-19a, 1 Corinthians 6:19b-20

- Positional truth: 6:1-14: new life in Jesus Christ. 15-23 new Master...slave to Jesus Christ.
  - 2 slaveries: 1 begin at birth (sin), 1 begin at new birth, slavery to righteousness.

New life, new Master so never have same relationship to sin. Romans 6:21-23, 2 Peter 2:22

- 1-14 contemplated lifestyle of sin, 6:15 to occasional departure into sin.

Romans 6:23 addresses Christian toying with sin, not unbeliever living in sin.

- What is gained from sin as your master? Working wages verses receiving free gift; serving sin verses serving God; eternal punishment as final paycheck verses eternal life.
  - Why return to slavery you were liberated from?

theme in Romans 6: Whoever God justifies (declares righteous) He sanctifies (makes righteous).

- Sanctification is not automatic but God's grace is power for whole-hearted obedience Romans 6:19
- Power to resist temptation/sin....be on guard against falling back into old sins.
  - Not sinless but sin less and feel worse because you love righteousness and hate sin.
    - Aren't what you want to be or going to be. But thank God, not what you were!
- Power to pursue thoughts, attitudes, activities that God loves and honor Him.
  - That type of lifestyle will be an incredible witness to the slaves of sin all around you.... Declares slavery to Jesus Christ is where you find true freedom/joy.

Slaves of sin are not able to free themselves by their own efforts. Not able to just say *no* to sin.

- Freedom from sin is not by trying to master it but by changing masters.
  - Only God can free from sin and give new nature through new birth.  
Deuteronomy 30:15, Joshua 24:15, Matthew 11:28-30

Result of God's grace is to make us slaves of righteousness not slaves of sin.

- Cross behind you broke sin's power (sin no longer master), heaven before you where no sin... Holy Spirit today dwells within to give daily victory over sin.
  - Present yourself to God as slave of righteousness. Obey Word. Look forward to eternal life free from all sin in presence of benevolent, loving, Master

### **Gotta Serve Somebody – Bob Dylan**

You may be a state trooper, you might be a young Turk  
 You may be the head of some big TV network  
 You may be rich or poor, you may be blind or lame  
 You may be living in another country under another name  
 But you're gonna have to serve somebody, yes you are  
 You're gonna have to serve somebody  
 Well, it may be the devil or it may be the Lord  
 But you're gonna have to serve somebody  
 Might like to wear cotton, might like to wear silk  
 Might like to drink whiskey, might like to drink milk  
 You might like to eat caviar, you might like to eat bread  
 You may be sleeping on the floor, sleeping in a king sized bed  
 But you're gonna have to serve somebody, yes indeed  
 You're gonna have to serve somebody  
 Well, it may be the devil or it may be the Lord  
 But you're gonna have to serve somebody