



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Discovery 201** – Our next Discovery class is 201, scheduled for Sunday, September 24th at 3 pm. Learn the basic habits all Christ-followers need to become spiritually mature. Be equipped with the skills and tools to begin and continue these habits. Sign up on the App or website or email Rene Snyder at rsnyder@southwinds.org with questions. Childcare and a light meal provided.
- **MEN'S RETREAT** – Join the Southwinds Men for an overnight retreat in Tracy, Friday night Sept. 29 – Saturday morning Sept. 30. Great food, worship & inspiring messages, tournaments, swimming, campfire chats, s'mores & lots of laughs. Cost is \$25. Click [here](#) to register.
 - Bring a tent to camp out on the lawn or sleep at home and join us back in the morning!
 - Sons are welcome to come along.

MY STORY

As a child were you taught the difference between historical slavery versus biblical slavery?

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

Have a Volunteer Read: Romans 6:16

Point #1: God's grace CHANGES OUR LOYALTIES.

"In 6:15-23, he says we should say no to sin, because our freedom is found in being enslaved to God, meaning our highest loyalty and deepest allegiance is to God now. Since we are united to Christ, and we're underneath his satisfying rule, how could we willfully persist in sin and presume on his grace?" – **Michael Nolen**

According to Paul, why does grace not permit sin?

“This is so important. He’s saying our lives not just our words reveal our deepest loyalties, our true master. How we live reveals who we are ultimately pledging allegiance to in our hearts. Paul says we are either slaves to sin, or slaves to Jesus. There is no middle ground. Because of sin, the natural posture of our hearts is to love ourselves, not God. Martin Luther said we are curved in on ourselves. By nature, we are loyal to our desires over God’s desires. We’re enslaved to these desires.” – Michael Nolen

What does it mean to be enslaved to sin? Why is this significant?

Have Another Volunteer Read: Romans 6:16

Point #2: God’s grace TRANSFORMS OUR DESTINY.

“The path of sin always, 100% of the time, leads us away from Jesus. 100% of the time, it hurts others and harms us, both now and ultimately in the life to come. Sin always looks like a good idea at the start, but never at the end. The path of sin is never a good investment. It always over promises and under delivers. Sin is a hologram, a mirage. Sin never gives what it offers.” – Michael Nolen

“When we remember how grace transforms our destiny, and remember the very real consequences of sin, we are strengthened to battle sin. Grace never encourages sin. How could it? Grace gives us a totally new destiny of life, not death.” – Michael Nolen

Why would we go back to the slavery of sin, obeying that old master, walking the pathway which only leads to death?

Have Another Volunteer Read: Romans 6:17-18

Point #3: God’s grace SETS US FREE TO LIVE FOR GOD.

“This slavery is not based on coercion, but desire. People don't submit to sin against their will. They submit to sin because it is their will. They want it. Outside of Christ, we freely choose sin. We choose sin because we desire to sin. Outside of Christ, we will always carry out the dictates of sin the master, until God releases us from sin’s mastery.” – Michael Nolen

“This is precisely what he's done in Jesus. He causes us to be born again, so we can believe. And with new hearts come new, stronger desires that break the shackles of sin. Faith is us running out of slavery’s bondage into the kingdom of life. We'll still be tempted to get angry or to give into lust. Sin will still try to seduce us to be selfish. But then the Spirit comes with a more powerful voice, with a new set of desires. The Spirit says, ‘You belong to God now. You have new loyalties. God's not out to get you. He is for you. He wants good for you.’” – Michael Nolen

What should motivate us to be set free of our sins?

Have Another Volunteer Read: Romans 6:19-23

Point 4: God's grace BEARS BETTER FRUIT.

Romans 6:21. But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. The path of sin is never a good investment.

“You should underline that. Paul’s saying, “Why would you want to go back to shame and death?” Think about the fruit of sin in your life. Does it not produce shame? It does for all of us. The sexual immorality, the drunkenness, the lying, the anger, the bitterness, the terrible words, the racism, the abuse, the arrogance. Sin leads to shame. 100% of the time.” – **Michael Nolen**

“God's not being cruel in pointing that out. He's being kind and gracious so we don't reap the fruit of shame in our life. He reminds us that sin is always destructive. Sin always ends in death. Sin always leaves lifeless things and people in its wake, in part in this life and ultimately in the life to come.” – **Michael Nolen**

“He shifts in (Romans) 6:22. *But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, [Again, note, we don't set ourselves free. Only God can do that] the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life.* He’s saying, the fruit of God is far better. It does not produce shame and regret and guilt. It produces life, eternal life. 100% of the time.”
– **Michael Nolen**

- **Why does Paul highlight the different fruits of sin and righteousness?**
- **How does this passage lead to greater trust in Jesus and greater love for holiness?**

APPLICATION

Find someone this week who can help you stay motivated from falling back into the bondage of sin.

PRAISES

PRAYER REQUESTS