

Paul has been teaching in Romans 6 that sin has been defeated! Jesus conquered sin! Therefore, yield yourself to Christ and experience the abundance of the life He gives and promises! Beginning in verse 15 of chapter 6, he now declares that we are no longer compelled to serve sin, we may freely choose to obey Jesus and then share in His joy! Unfortunately, there are many people who do not realize it is possible to be a slave to something and think you are free. It is also possible to be free and think you are enslaved! Jesus Christ alone sets us free from the slavery of sin. This life of emancipation enables us to experience true freedom, freedom that is only found in Christ!

When you yield your life to Jesus, you will find true freedom. Freedom in Christ brings:

1. TRUE LIBERTY! (vs. 14-18)

"The fact that we are saved by grace does not give us an excuse to sin; but it does give us a reason to obey. Sin and Law go together. 'The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the Law' (1 Corinthians 15:56). Since we are not under Law, but under grace, sin is robbed of its strength." Warren Wiersbe

- There is freedom which is bondage.
- There is bondage which is freedom.

Paul distinctively draws a contrast between what we once were without Christ, between what we now are in Christ. He makes it clear that there is a definite difference which is noticeable and discernable by others (verse 17).

Temptation asks, "to which master will you submit your body?" Every person who is living is a bond servant to someone or something.

2. TRUE LORDSHIP! (vs. 19-20)

• We were once loyal to sin.

John 8:34 (NASB95) Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin."

- You were self serving rather than God serving.
- You were self gratifying rather that God glorifying.
- You were selfishly living rather than selflessly living.
- We may now be loyal to the Savior.

Tony Merida in <u>Christ-Centered Exposition: Exalting Jesus in Romans</u> states:

"Living our new identity involves daily sacrifice—a daily offering of ourselves to God in righteousness. Paul tells believers of their past, in which they used to living passionately for sin, but says, 'so now' you must live passionately for God as 'slaves to righteousness.' this is a call to act. it is a call against passivity. Sanctification involves action. This offering our parts involves a holy sacrifice. Holy living involves offering yourself to God as an act of worship."

Sanctification is the process of being made holy resulting in a changed lifestyle for the believer. Sanctification involves saying no to sin and saying yes to God.

3. TRUE LIFE! (vs. 21-23)

- The old life that resulted in death!
- The new life which results in life!

John 10:10 (NASB95) "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

CONCLUSION:

Dr. John Phillips states in his commentary on Romans:

"No person can expect victory who doesn't really want victory. No person can expect victory who has a soft attitude toward sin. God expects sincerity as much today as He did when He said to rebellious Israel in Jeremiah 29:13 'You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.'

God is not going to bring us into the blessedness of this new liberty unless we really want it. The attitude that grace gives us license to sin, makes deliverance from its power impossible. As long as that attitude is indulged, sin will remain the master and we shall remain the slaves."

Too many people want to experience the power of God while still living in the presence of sin. You can't have it both ways. Whoever/whatever is controlling you is your master today.

Joshua 24:15 (NASB95) "If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."