

## Exegetical Notes - Romans 6:15-23

### **“SLAVES”**

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## Romans 6:15-23

### Verses 1-18

***What then? Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? By no means! <sup>16</sup> Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? <sup>17</sup> But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance. <sup>18</sup> You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.***

- Paul began the last section of Scripture (Romans 6:1-14) by asking the question, “Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase?” His answer is, “BY NO MEANS”! To sin so that we may experience more of God’s grace is nonsense. He opens this section with a second question. “Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace?” He answers his second question with the same emphatic words, “BY NO MEANS”! There is NO reason to sin.
- Paul argues that to willingly submit to sin makes you a slave to sin even though Christ died to set you free from it. Better to seek to be obedient to God because sin leads to death, but obedience to righteousness.
- We thank God that by his grace, though we were once helplessly enslaved to sin we are now free and seek to obey God’s teaching sincerely. We now want to please God above all else.
- Set free from sin we now seek to obey God!

### Verses 19-23

***I am using an example from everyday life because of your human limitations. Just as you used to offer yourselves as slaves to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer yourselves as slaves to righteousness leading to***

***holiness. <sup>20</sup> When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. <sup>21</sup> What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! <sup>22</sup> But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. <sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.***

- Slavery was common then, so people understood the analogy Paul was making. They knew that slaves were required to obey their masters without question. They understood that they were slaves to sin, required to obey sin as their masters, before they came to know Jesus. But that, after coming to Jesus, they desired to live for him and to no longer be mastered by sin.
- Those who came to Jesus knew that serving sin as their master brought them no reward. But having come to Jesus, they now understood that serving him as Master brought great benefit. Sin leads only to death, but Jesus brings eternal life.
- “The wages of sin is death,” and as a result of that all die because all have sinned. “But the gift of God is eternal life.” Jesus paid the price of our sinfulness; he died. But he had never sinned so he paid our debt and set us free from death. As a result we share in his resurrection.

(These exegetical notes are the foundational study for the sermon entitled *SLAVES*. They have been prepared by the Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen, Interim Senior/Lead Pastor at Cornerstone Fellowship, Coatesville Pennsylvania. All rights are reserved by *Cornerstone Fellowship* & The Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen. They are used here by permission.)