

Hymns 253, 261, 334, 363, 521, 570, 693

Evening Worship / January 8th 2023

“Who, What, Do You Obey?”

Romans 6:14-23

I. A glorious, joyous truth that should encourage all true believers –

¹⁴For sin shall not have dominion over you, ... (not Lord over you)

Romans 6:14 A (NKJV)

1. Something only real believers care about, the dominion of sin.

A. Non-believers are happy that sin reigns. They sing about SIN being king, if not with their mouths and lives, with the HEARTS!

B. The true believer has cried out for deliverance from sin, just like Israel cried for deliverance from bondage in Egypt –

²³Now it happened in the process of time that the king of Egypt died. Then the children of Israel groaned because of the bondage, and they cried out; and their cry came up to God because of the bondage. Exodus 2:23 (NKJV)

2. Why doesn't sin still have dominion over us?

Romans 6:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴... for you are not under law but under grace. Romans 6:14 B

A. Grace means our sins are forgiven.

B. Grace means God is on our side and that He can help us.

II. The really STUPID thing that no right-minded person would do –

¹⁵What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not! ¹⁶Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness? Romans 6:15–16 (NKJV)

1. I have said this MANY TIMES but I will say it again, Jesus did not die so that we could get our fill of sin without consequences! Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not!

2. He died to save us from sin, meaning from sin in us and the sinning we do -

²¹And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.” Matthew 1:21 (NKJV)

3. If you run back to sin, you are not only its slave, you are a dead dog! sin leading to death – Romans 6:16

¹¹As a dog returns to his own vomit, so a fool repeats his folly. Proverbs 26:11 (NKJV)

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III. *The smart thing, people who have the mind of Christ do –*

¹⁷ But God be thanked that *though* you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. ¹⁸ And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. ¹⁹ I speak in human *terms* because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness *leading to more* lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness. Romans 6:17–19 (NKJV)

1. *Thank God for right thinking –*

¹⁷ But God be thanked that *though* you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. Romans 6:17

A. *Your before - you were slaves of sin*

B. *Your after –*

you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered.

C. *This obedience is first in the mind / doctrine / world-view, our Credenda, our Creed what we believe!*

D. *But you say, Pastor, it says you obeyed from the heart*

- *For us the heart is the seat of emotions*
- *In Biblical days / Biblical thinking it was the very center of our being: including mind and emotions, everything that is REALLY US!*

2. *Right thinking leads to radical change in reality –*

¹⁸ And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. Romans 6:18

slaves of righteousness. Romans 6:18 is our new identity in Christ.

3. *Right thinking leads to right living / an entirely new, different, godly, holy way of life –*

¹⁹ I speak in human *terms* because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness *leading to more* lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness. Romans 6:19 (NKJV)

Members in Romans 6:19 is a reference or could be to body parts, like the hymn –

“Take my hands, and let them move At the impulse of Thy love;
Take my feet, and let them be Swift and beautiful for Thee,
Swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice and let me sing Always only for my King;
Take my lips, and let them be Filled with messages from Thee,
Filled with messages from Thee.”

Frances R. Havergal

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IV. *Let us reason, the old slave-to-sin-you was getting nowhere FAST -*

²⁰ For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹ What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things *is* death. Romans 6:20–21 (NKJV)

¹² There is a way *that seems* right to a man, but its end *is* the way of death. Proverbs 14:12 (NKJV)

²⁵ There is a way *that seems* right to a man, but its end *is* the way of death. Proverbs 16:25 (NKJV)

There is no good fruit on the sin tree –

That is why John the Baptist says it is about to be cut down. The fire here is Hell's fire!

¹⁰ And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Matthew 3:10 (NKJV)

V. *But now, serve God and prosper...*

²² But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. ²³ For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:22–23 (NKJV)

1. *True freedom is freedom from sin not freedom to sin –*

³⁴ Jesus answered them, **“Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin.**

³⁵ **And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever.** ³⁶ **Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.** John 8:34–36 (NKJV)

2. *If you are free from sin, give your service to God, become a slave of God-*

“The surest evidence of our spiritual life is the dedication of ourselves to God.”
Matthew Henry

When we are slave of (dedicated to) God, we will have:

A. *Fruit to Holiness –*

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. Galatians 5:22–23 (NKJV)

B. *Everlasting Life –*

and the end, everlasting life. *Not only everlasting in duration but also everlasting in quality –*

¹⁰ **The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.** John 10:10 (NKJV)

C. *Our wages vs God's Gift –*

²³ For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:22–23 (NKJV)

Eternal Life and righteous, holy, change, serving God life, are the same thing!

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Pray that God will set us free from sin, that we might be slaves of God!

Pray we would have fruit to holiness, and in the end everlasting life!

Pray according to this morning's sermon that the Gospel, Jesus Christ or even our humble pastor's preaching of God's Word would NOT grow old, stale, "old hat" or boring to us as God's Word is the Word of Life!

Pray that we won't need to be at the point of death to PRAY FERVENT PRAYERS!