

Romans 6:20-23

June 11, 2020

Review

Theme of Romans: The gospel of God (1:16-17)

Ch 6 The triumph of grace over the power of sin

The main ideas in 6:1-19

1. Though God's grace abounds to us through Christ, we are not to continue in sin (1-2, 15)
2. As pictured in believer's baptism, we have been united with Christ, including union with Christ in His death (3)
3. We have died with Christ to sin, making it utterly incongruous to continue living in sin (2)
4. We were buried with Christ in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead, we too would walk in newness of life (4)
5. Our old self was crucified with Christ, with the purpose and result of no longer being enslaved to sin (5-7)
6. We are united with Christ in His resurrection (8-10)
7. We must count ourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ (11)
8. We must not let sin reign in our mortal body, to make us obey its passions (12)
9. We must no longer present the parts of our body to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but instead must present the parts of our body to God as instruments for righteousness (13)
10. Being under the reign of grace we have been liberated, and consequently sin will not have dominion over us (14)
11. You are a slave either to sin which leads to eternal death, or to obedience which leads to righteousness (16)
12. God has set you free from sin and made you a slave of righteousness who is obedient from the heart to God's Word (17-18)
13. Just as you once presented the parts of your body as slaves to increasing lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, leading to sanctification (19)

A chapter that...

1. concerns the relationship between the Christian's *position* under grace, and the Christian's *practice* under grace
2. exhorts the believer to live out His new identity in Christ by resisting temptation to sin, and by serving God

Outline

1. The old way of slavery to sin and its results
2. The new way of slavery to God and its results
3. The great contrast between the wages of sin and the free gift of God

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Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version (ESV).

The old way of slavery to sin and its results (20-21)

Question: Verse 21 speaks of the results of sin. In addition to death, what other results are produced by sin?

Our whole text serves as the climactic...

1. reason for doing what we were commanded in verse 19
2. answer to the question of sinning that grace may abound

20 “For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness.”

verse 21

1. “the end” means the outcome (NASB)
2. “death”
 - Eternal death (cf. 23)
 - The full penalty of sin
 - The eternal separation from God in hell that begins after physical death (2 Thess 1:9)
 - **James 1:14–15** “But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.”

The purpose of this verse is to banish from the believer’s mind the thought of choosing sin over obedience

1. Why go back to serving something that produces shame and eternal death?
2. Does not deny that salvation is entirely by grace, received through faith alone in Christ alone

The new way of slavery to God and its results (22)

Question: Verse 22 speaks of the fruit of serving God. What are some various types of fruit that are produced by service to God?

Serving and obeying God results in the continued production of good “fruit” in your life

- **Gal. 5:22–23** “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”

The production of good fruit “leads to sanctification”

1. Growth in practical holiness
2. The setting apart of our conduct unto the Lord for the service and honor of His holy name
3. The purification of our conduct

The end of sanctification is “eternal life”

1. Eternal life is indestructible, eternal fellowship with God (John 17:3)
2. Eternal life has a present form (**6:4**)
3. Eternal life has a future form, which is the meaning here
 - Includes a glorified body with which we will serve God forever
 - **2 Cor. 5:4–5** “For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.”

The purpose of this verse is to anchor in the believer’s mind the superiority of serving God over serving sin

1. Obeying God is worth any sacrifice
2. Does not teach that salvation is by works
3. Lays out the glorious road ahead for those who, by God’s grace, have been set free from sin and made slaves of God
4. Teaches that all who receive eternal life will not continue in slavery to sin but will grow in obedience and sanctification
5. Teaches the believer not to live for the moment, but for the long-term

The great contrast between the wages of sin and the free gift of God (23)

23a “For the wages of sin is death,”

1. Those who serve sin as their master, will receive the wages due them for their service
2. What we earned

23b “but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

1. Eternal life is not given as wages that are due
2. Eternal life is unearned and given by grace
3. Received by virtue of union with Christ our Lord, including in His death and resurrection

This verses contrasts...

1. The two masters—sin and God
2. The two ends/outcomes—death and eternal life
3. The two means to these ends—wages and a freely given gift purchased by Christ

Why go back to serving our old master, when we have received such a magnificent gift from our new Master?