

From Slavery to Slavery

Jeff Rogers / Lamplighter Bible Study

Romans 6:20-22

Romans 6:20–22, *For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. 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. 22 But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life.* (Emphasis mine)

A quick review of the word “slave” (*doulos*) in the Bible that is often rendered as servant. The word group including *doulos* has the following applications:

- It is compulsory service
- It is lowly service; the lowest level
- It is dependent service (on a lord)

The main theme is victory over sin...

- Everything Paul is giving to us is to prove his point in Romans 6:15
- Paul does not just give a command, but he gives his deductions from the command; that is what he is doing.

I. The Slave We Were (Romans 6:20-21)

- A. The “*for’s*” have it.
 1. “*For*” in verse 20 introduces an explanation of the end of verse 19, “*so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.*”
 2. The “*for’s*” of chapter 6:5; 7; 10; 14; 19; 20; 23
- B. What about “*you*?”
 1. Refers to all believers (there is no such thing as a believer who was not the slave of sin)
 2. All parts of our being were enslaved
 - a) Mind – thinking is impacted by sin
 - b) Heart – affections are set on things of this world
 - c) Will – Unable to please God
- C. You were “*free*.”
 1. Free – not under compulsion or restraint; able to act at will.
 2. **1 Corinthians 7:39**, *A wife is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord.*
- D. What was the reality of our enslavement to sin? (Romans 6:21)
 1. A characteristic of the new birth is the shame of our past (there is no glory in our past lives before Christ).
 - a) There is guilt, embarrassment, remorse, shame, torment.
 2. The outcome (for) of the former enslavement is death
 - a) John 8:31-34
 - (1) **John 8:31**, *So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, (If you continue (obedience) in my word then you are my disciples.*
 - (2) **John 8:32**, *and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”* To be set free, one must first be enslaved. In this case, we are slaves to sin and Satan.
 - (3) **John 8:33**, *They answered him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free’?”*

Like most, these “believers” did not see that they were enslaved and referenced their Jewish pedigree.

(4) **John 8:34**, *Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin.* Until we believe, we are enslaved.

(a) **John 8:37**, *I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you.*

(b) **John 8:59**, *So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.*

b) **2 Timothy 2:26**, *And they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.*

c) **2 Peter 2:19**, *They promise them freedom, but they themselves are slaves of corruption. For whatever overcomes a person, to that he is enslaved.*

II. The Slave We Are (Romans 6:22)

A. “*But now*” – this needs to be in every man’s life. A present state of grace and deliverance.

1. “Been set free from sin” it is in the passive condition. (meaning someone else acted upon us and not us; through this action of another, we were set free) **John 8:36**, *So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.*

a) Not free from all practice of sin (we still sin).

b) Free from the domination of sin.

c) Redemption – purchased out of the slave market of sin into righteousness. We are now owned by another as a believer.

(1) We are His slaves

(2) He is a benevolent master (**1 Peter 2:16**, *Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.*

B. “*AND have become slaves of God*” – Immediate transfer (no other categories)

C. “*the fruit {benefit} you get leads to sanctification*”

1. Sanctification = separate from sin; set apart unto holiness (negative and positive).

2. Being conformed to the image of Christ and daily growth in grace.

3. It’s end? Glorification

D. The action “*present your members*”

1. Eyes (what we gaze upon)

2. Ears (what we listen to)

3. Tongue (what we say)

4. Mind (what we think)

5. Heart (what we desire/affections)

6. Stomach (what/how much we eat)

7. Feet (where we go)

