



Sermon Title: Freedom

Speaker/ Date: Reuben Scheeringa, July 4, 2021

Romans 6:12-23

Being limitless would bring with it a lot of freedom. You'd be able to do a lot that you were never able to do before. This is the FREEDOM that comes as a result of Jesus' limitless ability.

BIG IDEA- SLAVERY TO CHRIST, IS THE ONLY TRUE FREEDOM.

Paul brings out two thoughts for us to focus on.

1. WE ARE ALL SLAVES

In this passage Paul is talking to the church, and letting them know that we are all either slaves to sin, or slaves to righteousness.

You've probably seen pictures of slavery as it happened in the United States in history. These images might have included scenes that showed slaves being sold at auction. These auctions are a humiliating and despicable stain on the history of our great country, and it's something shameful that God absolutely does not approve.

Understand this is an old problem, one that Paul uses to push his point. Understand, these slaves in history were sold to the highest bidder, with no rights and no choice in the matter. They were separated from families and homes and treated however their masters decided. It was horrific in many cases. Now, imagine a different scene. Imagine the same platform, the same slave up on the stage, but instead of a crowd of men, only two are there: one called Mr. SIN, and one called Mr. RIGHTEOUSNESS. Instead of these men bidding for the slave, the slave has the choice of where he gets to go. He conducts an interview, and based on what the masters offer the slave, he makes his choice. He has no choice whether or not he'll be a slave, but he does get to choose who his master is.

That's the picture Paul is painting here. Before you come to Jesus, you have no choice. You belong to sin. But, when you give your life to Jesus, you become free from that master. You legally become the property of Jesus. **1 Corinthians 6:19-20**

2. WE EACH SERVE ONE OF TWO MASTERS.

Now if you are a slave to Christ, He lets you choose whether you live with Him, or go back to live with your old master, sin.

MASTER 1: SIN

The first option is to choose to serve the old master. This would be like being bought from the master who abused and mistreated you, brought to the house of the master who loves and cares for you, and then choosing to go back to hang out with the old boss. Paul describes the results as rebellion, deeper levels of sin, shame, and death. **Romans 6:23**

Although we can't lose our salvation, the relationship can be damaged, and the blessings of the new master are lost because we're hanging out with the old master!

MASTER 2: JESUS

The second choice is to reject the sin master, and enjoy life with your new master, Jesus. You have been bought with the blood of Jesus so that you can now have a relationship with the Creator of the universe who knows you and loves you more than you can imagine. **1 Corinthians 6:19-20**

This passage shows that you are now the temple of God, the dwelling place of the Creator. That's the personal relationship that He wants with us, and it's through that relationship, that He rewards and blesses us here on Earth and into eternity.

Every day, we must choose to follow the ways of God and reject the pull of our old master, sin. And what is the result of choosing God?

Eternal life. You might be asking yourself right now, "But I thought you said we couldn't lose our salvation. (emphasize) So, if we sin, do we not get eternal life?" Let's look at something Jesus said. **John 10:27-29**

In this passage, Jesus says, "I give them eternal life," not "I will give them eternal life." The Greek verb is a present-tense verb, not a future-tense. That means that eternal life is not something that we get later. It's something that we get now, and we can enjoy the benefits of right now.

Discussion Questions:

- What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?
- Can a person serve both sin and Jesus? Explain
- What does it mean that sin is no longer your master? Does that mean that you never sin again? Explain
- How would you explain freedom in Christ to a child?
- Does knowing that the Holy Spirit resides in you influence your daily actions? Why or why not?
- What reasons do people have for returning their old master of sin after they put their faith in Jesus?

BIBLE VERSES

Romans 6:12-23

¹² Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. ¹³ Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. ¹⁴ For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

¹⁵ What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! ¹⁶ Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves,^[c] you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷ But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, ¹⁸ and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. ¹⁹ I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.

²⁰ 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. ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

John 10:27-29 NIV

My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one can snatch them away from me, for my Father has given them to me, and he is more powerful than anyone else. No one can snatch them from the Father's hand.