

# ROMANS

KNOW THE TRUTH

April 28, 2024

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SERMON: The Free Gift of Eternal Life

SCRIPTURE: Romans 6:12-23

SUMMARY: Seven times in these verses in the New Living Translation, Paul uses the word “now” to identify the current life of those who are receiving this letter! The Greek word translated “now” is from a root word meaning “at this time, the present.” Paul is describing the current state of believers in relationship to their previous life and their life “now” in Christ. In his writing he uses words and phrases like “formerly” or “once you were” to describe lives before Christ. He uses the word “now” to identify the current state of a believer’s relationship with Jesus and right living. This compare and contrast was significant in Paul’s day because it was significant to his readers. These truths are timeless because “now” is our time and they apply to us.

### GALATIANS 4:8

Formerly, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to those that by nature are not gods.

### EPHESIANS 2:13

Once you were far away from God, but now you have been brought near to him through the blood of Christ.

### EPHESIANS 5:8

For once you were full of darkness, but now you have light from the Lord. So live as people of light!

I. GO ALL IN FOR THE GLORY OF GOD.

#### ROMANS 6:12-14

12 Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires. 13 Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God. 14 Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God's grace.

Give Yourself *Completely* - offer, sacrifice and worship. Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice which is your spiritual worship.

- Instrument
- Whole Body
- New Master
- Serve God
- Freedom of God's Grace

## II. YOU BECOME A SLAVE TO WHAT YOU CHOOSE TO OBEY

#### ROMANS 6:15-16

15 Well then, since God's grace has set us free from the law, does that mean we can go on sinning? Of course not! 16 Don't you realize that you become the slave of whatever you choose to obey? You can be a slave to sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God, which leads to righteous living.

## III. BECOME A SLAVE TO RIGHTEOUS LIVING

#### ROMANS 6:17-19

17 Thank God! Once you were slaves of sin, but now you wholeheartedly obey this teaching we have given you. 18 Now you are free from your slavery to sin, and you have become slaves to righteous living. 19 Because of the weakness of your human nature, I am using the illustration of slavery to help you understand all this. Previously, you let yourselves be slaves to impurity and lawlessness, which led ever deeper into sin. Now you must give yourselves to be slaves to righteous living so that you will become holy.

## IV. SLAVES OF GOD RECEIVE THE FREE GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE

#### ROMANS 6:20-23

20 When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the obligation to do right. 21 And what was the result? You are now ashamed of the things you used to do,

things that end in eternal doom. 22 But now you are free from the power of sin and have become slaves of God. Now you do those things that lead to holiness and result in eternal life. 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Lord's Supper reminds us that we have become *slaves* of God!

### LIFE APPLICATION SERMON GUIDE

1. Compare and contrast life before Christ and life after Christ.
2. What happens when someone is "saved?"
3. What happened when you were saved? What characterizes your life now compared to your life before Christ? Why is this significant? Or why not?
4. Does the use of the word slave help your understanding of your relationship with God or not? Why was it significant to Paul to use this word (verse 19)? Is there a difference between slave and servant? If so, what? How might we describe this relationship in our culture using different words or phrases?
5. The phrase Paul uses, "to become slaves of God," is strong language and a compelling expectation. How can we know if we are meeting this expectation? If you are not a slave to God are you a slave to sin (verses 14-18)? Why or why not?
6. What dynamics should characterize the life of a slave of God in 2024?
7. PRAY: Thank God for your free gift of eternal life! Ask the Lord to help you be a better slave to righteous living (verse 18 & 19).