

Romans Part 31

“Choosing Masters”

Today, since we have covered so much ground in the book of Romans, we thought it would be a good time to go back to chapter 6 and walk through and do a recap and refocus...

If you think about it, every major religion and many denominations are “shame based” religions; “you did something wrong, therefore you are or have brought shame to yourself and your family etc.”

Sin wraps us up in chains and takes us places that we don’t want to go, don’t want to be there and don’t know how to get free, we become slaves to the things we hate... but becoming a slave to God is a different matter altogether, He gave to us freely while we were at our worst and gave us a free will so that we could choose Him, He has no desire to have a bunch of mindless little humans running around serving Him.

The bible clearly teaches us that He longs for Children, who love and serve Him and become holy because they want to be like the one who saved them and who they choose to worship.

But this freedom brings with it a form of danger, if we have the freedom to obey, then we also have the freedom to disobey. When I disobey, I open the door to a powerful force that comes and puts me right back into bondage and slavery and pulls me away from God.

Now God is more powerful than those that want to pull me away, but He reminds us that we have to be diligent to let Him protect us.

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? ³³ Who shall bring a charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who

is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written:

***“For Your sake we are killed all day long;
We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.”***

³⁷ Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:31-39

A while ago, Laury did a marvelous job explaining how we are called to not negotiate with sin but that we are to die to sin, we are called to “crucify” the old, selfish, rebellious spirit we got from Adam, but then the question is; how do we stay free from sin and bondage and not slide back once again?

What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not! ¹⁶ Do 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

1. Can I keep on sinning?

The question is this; if believers are covered by grace, are no longer judges by the standard of the law, do they no longer need to fear punishment? Are the wages of sin of no consequence? Do we get to break moral laws with impunity? Or put another way, does grace by faith give us a license to sin?

Well, Paul answers this question with a big NO. It does matter, because sin is addictive. It becomes more and more compulsive and leads to greater separation from God. If we continue to sin, we will become more enslaved to that sin.

The point is we get to choose who or what we are going to be enslaved to.

Paul in the very first verse of the book of Romans lays out who he is a slave too,

Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, Romans 1:1

2. Slave to righteousness.

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

I want to make this distinction very clear, it is not God who makes us slaves; ***to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.***

⁶ And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!”⁷ Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ. Galatians 4:5-7

God does not enslave us, instead he adopts us as His children and actually makes us joint heirs with Jesus, but the words slave stresses the radical nature of a true believers desire to obey God.

When the teaching team meets, one of the things I stress is this, I find very few Christians who do not “believe” the bible, in other words I have had very few people say to me, “I don’t believe the bible...” if they claim to be true followers of Christ. We just don’t want to obey!!

Laury laid out the idea of “negotiating” with Jesus; “I will forgive if Jesus...”

We just don’t want to do it!! I don’t want to forgive, tithe, bless, quit gossiping... so we will justify not obeying. We “believe” we just don’t want to obey.

We can pray all we want, cast everything we can think of out, but if we don’t obey, are we ever really going to have victory over the things, habits, sins, etc. that enslave us? I don’t think so.

Jesus, by the power of His death, burial and resurrection has given us the choice to be free, the term, “slave to righteousness” means we can be people who allow our born again spirit take control and we become people who can worship God for all He has done for us.

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. Romans 12:1

3. Slave to sin.

Sin is a dangerous enemy, each time I sin it produces a measure of death that damages us and the others around us, EVEN, when I ask and receive forgiveness of my sin. Sin still produces death.

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23

This verse is in a military type of form; a soldier gets his pay on a RELIABLE source and time; it is a certain thing. In other words, pay day is coming and it is for sure!

Before we are saved, we are slaves to sin, we are powerless to get free and stay free, so Paul goes from the wages of sin to the “free gift” this is an important shift.

God gives freely, His grace and mercy are not a wage, they are a gift.

4. The gift of God.

You earn death, you don’t earn grace or salvation.

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23

God does not pay us “wages” for obedience, we don’t earn brownie points for obeying His word and His Spirit. Salvation and grace and mercy are a free gift and that free gift can be interrupted by sin where we “earn” death.

This is important to understand.

Laury talked about this, we don't forgive so we will be forgiven, we forgive because God told us too. We don't serve so we get some recognition or God owes us, we serve because He told us too....

So now, let me introduce something that is going to take us places over the next few weeks; it is the word sanctification.

5. Sanctification.

The word means **“to be set apart for God’s use and purpose or to be made holy.”**

It is defined as “the process of being freed from sin or purified.

Jesus had a lot to say about sanctification and I find it interesting that today the church says little about it.

For this is the will of God, your sanctification: 1 Thessalonians 4:3

They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁷ Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. ¹⁸ As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth. John 17:16-19

We are set apart, made holy by the blood of Jesus and our obedience to His word.

a. Positional sanctification.

previously saying, “Sacrifice and offering, burnt offerings, and offerings for sin You did not desire, nor had pleasure in them” (which are offered according to the law), ⁹ then He said, “Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God.” He takes away the first that He may establish the second. ¹⁰ By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. Hebrews 10:8-10

and by Him everyone who believes is justified (sanctified) from all things from which you could not be justified (sanctified) by the law of Moses. Acts 13:39

at salvation, we are made holy by the blood of Jesus, we did not earn it, it is a free gift by God, adoption and sanctification into the body of Christ.

Now, we know we are “positionally holy, free from the power of sin, but we realize that we still sin and that is why the bible talks about sanctification is also “progressive” or “experiential”

b. Progressive sanctification.

Progressive sanctification has in view the setting apart of believers for the purpose for which they are sent into the world:

“As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified” (John 17:18–19).

Because Jesus set Himself apart for God’s purpose, it is both the basis and the condition of our being set apart. We are sanctified and sent because Jesus was. Our Lord’s sanctification is the pattern of and power for our own. The sending and the sanctifying are inseparable.

On this account we are called “saints” (*hagioi* in the Greek), or “sanctified ones.” Prior to salvation, our behavior was witness to our standing in the world in separation from God, but now our behavior should bear witness to our standing before God in separation from the world. Little by little, every day, “those who are being sanctified” and are becoming more like Christ.

For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified. Hebrews 10:14

c. Ultimate sanctification.

There is a third sense in which the word *sanctification* is used in Scripture—a “complete” or “ultimate” sanctification. This is the same as glorification.

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it. 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Paul speaks of Christ as “the hope of glory” ([Colossians 1:27](#)) and links the glorious appearing of Christ to our personal glorification:

When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Colossians 3:4

This glorified state will be our ultimate separation from sin, a total sanctification in every regard.

Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. 1 John 3:2

So, I don't want to get in the weeds and lose us, we are saved, we are made holy, positionally holy but as we grow, as we get victory over sin, as we are renewed by the word, we become progressively holy, we are becoming more and more holy, but some day, I am going to heaven and I am going to be ultimately sanctified, perfect in every way...