

The Book of Romans 6:15-23 Sermon Notes

Main Idea: Grace does not give us permission to keep sinning. Grace sets us free from sin so that we can now belong to God and walk in righteousness.

Paul begins with another question: “Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace?” His answer is clear: “By no means!” The Christian life is not freedom to do whatever we want. It is freedom from the old master of sin and freedom to live under the gracious rule of Jesus.

Key Scripture: Romans 6:16 says, “Don’t you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey?” Paul teaches that everyone serves something. We are either mastered by sin, which leads to death, or we are given over to obedience, which leads to righteousness.

1. You were made to worship.

God created us to worship and serve Him. At the core of who we are, we were made for God. But because of sin, our worship gets redirected toward things that cannot save us. People can worship money, pleasure, reputation, success, sports, comfort, or self. These things grab hold of our hearts and demand our affection, service, and devotion.

The issue is not whether we will worship. The issue is what or who we will worship. Apart from Christ, our worship bends toward sin. In Christ, our worship is restored to God.

2. Sin starts small, grows, leads to shame, and ultimately ends in death.

Romans 6:19 says sin leads to “ever-increasing wickedness.” Sin often begins with small choices that seem harmless, but it grows. The enemy is a liar, but he is not foolish. Most people do not choose destruction all at once. They take small steps until they find themselves trapped.

Romans 6:21 asks, “What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of?” Sin promises life but produces shame. Shame then pushes people into hiding, avoidance, lies, and deeper darkness. Conviction from Christ leads us to repentance and freedom, but shame apart from Christ keeps us trapped.

Romans 6:23 says, “For the wages of sin is death.” Sin always pays in death. Sometimes that death is obvious, like the loss of a job, marriage, or reputation. Sometimes it is quieter, like a damaged relationship, a hardened heart, or a life slowly pulled away from God. But all sin leads to death.

3. In Christ, you are free.

Romans 6:18 says, “You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.” The good news is that sin does not have to be your master anymore. Jesus has broken the power of sin and shame. Through His blood, you can be forgiven, cleansed, and set free.

Christian freedom is not the freedom to return to sin. It is the freedom to belong to God. Like sin, holiness often starts small and grows. It begins with a decision to stop serving the sin that Christ has freed us from, and then to walk day by day in the new life Jesus gives.

Closing Truth: Sin brings death, but Christ gives life. Romans 6:23 reminds us that “the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Grace is not permission to stay enslaved. Grace is the gift that sets us free.