

Servants of a New Master # 20

Romans 6: 15-23

Paul has clearly revealed the believer's need for being dead unto sin, liberated from the bondage associated with sin. Those who are dead to sin have been made alive in Christ. Every believer has been equipped of the Lord to live a victorious life over sin and the desires of the flesh.

However, many remain defeated by sin and continue to serve the lusts of the flesh. Once we have been saved, we are delivered from the penalty of sin: death. If we are walking with the Lord as we should, we are being delivered from the power of sin through sanctification. Although we have experienced deliverance from such bondage, many continue to live in defeat. Satan knows he can't overcome, but he is pleased to keep all he can bound in defeat. The life we live and choices we make have an impact on our lives.

Having been delivered from sin, there is no reason for a child of God to remain bound by sin and the desires of the flesh. We need to understand that we no longer serve the flesh, but we are not free to live as we please. Those who are in Christ are delivered from Satan's grip, but we remain servants of the Lord. Our lives should now be lived devoted to Christ instead of being consumed with personal desires.

Paul knew we were no longer in bondage, but we remained servants to Christ. I want to consider the [realities](#) of servant-hood Paul speaks of as we think on: [Servants of a New Master](#).

I. A Call for Decision (15-16) – Bear in mind that Paul is speaking to the believer in these verses. He speaks of the decisions we face in life. Consider:

A. The Argument (15) – [What then? Shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.](#) Paul reveals an argument he dealt with that is very similar to other arguments concerning sin and grace. Some argued there was no need to worry about sin in their lives at all since they were under grace. They felt they could live as they pleased, committing sin at will with no consequence, since they had received salvation by grace. Paul again declares God's displeasure with such thought and actions. God forbid; May it never be!

B. The Achievement (16) – [Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?](#) Here we discover the reality of our choices, even after we are saved. If we yield ourselves to the desires of the flesh in sin, we become a servant to our sin. If we yield ourselves to godly obedience in

righteousness, we are a servant of Christ our Lord. The difference remains in the choices we make. It is interesting to note: the word obey literally has the idea of “*answering a knock at the door.*” Each day we live, opportunities come knocking. Every opportunity we receive is not of the Lord. We have opportunities to please the Lord with our lives and the enemy will see to it that there are opportunities to indulge the flesh. Which will you answer? To whom will you yield your body a servant?

II. A Challenge for Consideration (17-19) – Here Paul offers a challenge to every believer. He urges all to consider their lives. We are challenged regarding:

A. Our Remembrance of the Past (17a) – *But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.* He challenges the believer to consider their past. Prior to salvation, we were all enslaved to sin. Satan was our brutal taskmaster. Our lives were lived with one goal and desire: to satisfy the flesh. We lived in bondage to sin with no hope of escape. Our lives were dominated and dictated by sin!

- It is not healthy for anyone to live in the past, but it is beneficial to remember our past. It creates an attitude of thankfulness and humility in us. None of us can boast of our past, but we can be thankful for the Lord’s mercy and grace while we were yet in sin.

B. Our Rejoicing in the Present (17b-18) – *But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.* ^[18] *Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.* The believer was once a slave to sin, bound by its lusts and condemned before God. However through His merciful grace, we have been delivered from sin, being set free in Christ. We remain a slave, but our Master has changed. We are now servants of the Lord, given the glorious opportunity to serve Him and glorify His good name!

- Remember that our obeying has the idea of answering a knock at the door. All the saved were bound in sin, enslaved by it with no hope of escape. However, one day we heard a knock at our heart’s door. It was the Lord offering pardon and salvation. As we answered the door by faith, we were delivered from sin and condemnation! Oh what a day when the Lord came calling!

C. The Reversal in our Position (19) – *I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.* Here we are challenged to recall the great change, the reversal of position, in our lives. Consider the position of being:

- **Yielded to the Flesh (19a)** – *I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity.* There was a time in all our lives when we were yielded to the flesh. We served the flesh in uncleanness. That uncleanness led to iniquity which led to more and more iniquity. We lived in a downward spiral, becoming more enslaved to the flesh and the determination to satisfy its lusts.

- **Yielded in the Faith (19b)** – *even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.* Although there was a time when we were determined to satisfy the flesh, now we are called to yield ourselves as servants of righteousness unto godliness. The believer ought to serve the Lord with more zeal and compassion than he ever served the flesh. This is only possible by faith in the Lord.
 - This really challenged my walk with the Lord. Take a moment to consider the determination we had to satisfy the flesh while we were lost in sin. There were no limits to which we would go to indulge ourselves and find the satisfaction we desired. Do we possess that same passion and zeal for the Lord? Are we as committed to serving Him as we were in serving the flesh? We ought to be! In fact, there should be no comparison. Our zeal for the Lord should outweigh any zeal we possessed for the flesh.

III. A Contrast in Production (20-23) – Finally Paul offers a distinct contrast in the fruit produced in the lives of those bound in sin and those who are delivered in Christ. He speaks of:

A. Those Condemned through Sin – All of humanity is born into this category, and those apart from Christ remain condemned. Their lives are known by their fruit. It is:

- **A Filthy Life (20)** – *For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness.* Those who remain slaves to sin are free from righteousness. Just as those in Christ are free from sin, the lost are free from righteousness. There is no desire for the Lord or His righteousness. Their lives are consumed by the flesh and are lived in accordance to its desires.

- **A Fruitless Life (21a)** – *What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed?* Paul poses a sobering question: What fruit was produced in the life of sin that you can honestly be proud of? Was there any eternal benefit to anything accomplished while living in the flesh? No! In fact, most of our activities and accomplishments while in sin now bring shame and disgrace.

➤ **A Fatal Life (21b, 23a)** – *for the end of those things is death.* ^[23] *For the wages of sin is death.* Paul speaks truth most would rather deny or ignore, but it remains nonetheless. Sin always results in death. It can never lead to life. Those who continue in sin, apart from Christ, and die in their sin will receive their just reward. A life of sin may bring temporal pleasure in this life, but it always ends in death. Those who die without Christ will face eternal death and separation in hell.

B. Those Redeemed in Salvation – Now Paul offers the alternative, the ultimate contrast to a life condemned in sin. We discover it is:

➤ **A Faithful Life (22a)** – *But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God...* The redeemed in Christ have been set free from sin through salvation and have become servants to the Lord. Those who were once servants of the flesh, literally slaves, how now become servants, bond-slaves to the Lord. We have committed our lives to service unto the Lord. We have surrendered the will of the flesh for the will of God.

➤ **A Fruitful Life (22b)** – *ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.* The sinner has no fruit he can claim, at least none that doesn't bring shame and disgrace. The saved in Christ bear fruit unto holiness. We have been delivered from the lusts of the flesh and now bear fruit that glorifies our Lord. There will be seasons of greater abundance, but all believers will bear fruit for the Lord.

➤ **A Furnished Life (23b)** – *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.* The slave of sin will receive his just reward. He has no help in this life or hope in the life to come. Those who are in Christ have both. We have the help and guidance we need to journey through this current state of life and a secure hope of life eternal. The fruit we bear is not of our doing or ability. God equips us to bear fruit for Him. He leads us in the ways of righteousness. He gives the gracious gift of eternal life in heaven through Christ. There is no comparison in the two lives described. I have never regretted believing in the Lord for salvation!

Conclusion: The truth of the matter is: we are all slaves to one master or the other. The question is whom do we serve. Are we serving Satan and the lusts of the flesh or are we committed to serving Christ the Lord? If you are unsaved you remain a slave to sin and Satan. You need to be saved and set free in Christ. Believers also continue to struggle with the flesh. We too must make a conscious effort to serve the Lord daily. We will face choices each day. We must choose wisely as we strive to serve the Lord! Take notice of who is knocking before you answer!