

Romans 6:12-23

- Victory over Sin:
 - Romans 6 – the CHOICE – do not continue in SIN
 - Romans 7 – the BATTLE – we still struggle with SIN
 - Romans 8 – the VICTORY – we overcome SIN by the power of the SPIRIT!
- The Choice...
 - In light of the truth that where SIN abounds – GRACE is more abundant - **Romans 5:20**
 - Should we [future] CONTINUE [abide] in the [τῆ] SIN nature – so GRACE may abound...
 - NO [optative] - because whoever has DIED to SIN – should NOT continue [abide] in SIN!
- What we Know...
 - Paul gave us THREE things we are to KNOW to help us NOT abide in SIN...
 - FIRST – do we NOT know that we were BAPTIZED into the death of Christ...
 - God did NOT crucify our SINFUL nature – so we would CONTINUE to walk in it...
 - SECOND – we KNOW that our OLD man is dead [crucified] – we have been set FREE from SIN...
 - Grace is NOT the freedom to SIN – it is FREEDOM from SIN...
 - THIRD – we KNOW that DEATH has NO power over us...
 - Just as Christ only died ONCE – and the life He now lives He lives to God...
 - So we also must [imperative] count [daily] ourselves DEAD to SIN – and ALIVE to God!
- 1ST – THE CHOICE... vs. 12-15
 - 1st – Do not let... vs. 12
 - Mortal body...
 - Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body!
 - Therefore [οὐν] - in light of the CHOICE we have as believers...
 - That we should NOT continue in SIN even though GRACE abounds – **Romans 6:1**
 - KNOWING we must COUNT our old man as DEAD – and walk in NEW life...
 - FIRST – we must [imperative] NOT let the [ἡ] sinful nature [old man] REIGN...
 - Within our MORTAL bodies [θνητός] – from the verb to be DEAD [θνήσκω]!
 - Paul is drawing the lines – so we can see where the BATTLE comes from...
 - When we put out FAITH in Jesus – our SPIRIT is Born again – **1 Peter 1:23**
 - But we still have our SIN – they are still the same OLD body...
 - As a result our OLD body – is on the same side as our SINFUL nature...
 - Therefore our NEW Spirit is now at WAR with our OLD [dead] body!
 - Obey lusts...
 - That you should obey it in its lusts!
 - We MUST not let the Sin nature RULE [βασιλεύω] over our body [αὐτός]
 - So that we continually [present] OBEY [ὕπακούω] all of it DESIRES [ἐπιθυμία]!
 - What does our SINFUL nature – in league with our OLD body want...
 - It wants to EAT – more than it should – and things that are NOT heathy [sugar – fat]
 - It wants to SLEEP – rather than get to work – or spend time with Jesus [quiet time]
 - It wants PLEASURE – even if it is in ways that are NOT honoring to God – **1 Thessalonians 4:3**
 - It wants MONEY – but no matter how much it is NEVER enough – **1 Timothy 6:10**
 - Our spirit has been reborn – but we are still live in our fallen sinful bodies...
 - The result is a constant BATTLE between our NEW spirit and our OLD body...
 - Every decision we make is influenced by this WAR....

- But we must NOT give into our SINFUL nature – because we CANNOT have TWO masters!
- **Matthew 6:24** – “No one can serve two masters. He will hate the one and love the other.”
- 2nd – Do not give... vs. 13
 - Unrighteousness...
 - Do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin!
 - SECOND – how do we FIGHT the WAR against the SIN nature...
 - We must NOT [imperative] PRESENT [παρίστημι] our members [parts of our body]
 - As INSTRUMENTS [weapons] to do what is WRONG [ἀδικία]
 - Through the influence [dative] of the SIN nature working within us!
 - A hammer has NO loyalties – it is NOT good or evil – it is just a TOOL...
 - In the same way our members are TOOLS – the question is what we are using them for!
 - Righteousness...
 - But present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead.
 - And your members as instruments of righteousness to God!
 - But [ἀλλά] – in contrast - we must [imperative] PRESENT [aorist] ourselves...
 - Through the influence [dative] of God working within us...
 - As those who have been made ALIVE from the DEAD [new life]
 - And our MEMBERS as TOOLS of righteousness to God!
 - The way we CHOSE to LIVE for the FLESH or the SPIRIT – is with our MEMBERS...
 - What do we CHOSE to watch with our eyes [the Bible or social media]
 - Where do we CHOSE to go with our FEET [to Church – or the mall]
 - What do we CHOSE to listen to with our EARS [the truth – or gossip]
 - We are FOOLISH to think that we can LISTEN – LOOK – TOUCH and not be affected...
 - Our DAILY decisions on WHAT we allow to influence our lives [body or spirit]
 - They are going to be what inevitably defines WHO we are!
- 3rd – Under Grace... vs. 14-15
 - No Power... vs. 14
 - For sin shall not have dominion over you - for you are not under law but under grace!
 - THIRD – why are we NO longer bound to our SIN nature...
 - For [γάρ] SIN will [future] NOT lord [κυριεύω] over us anymore [it used to]
 - Because we are [present] NOT under the LAW – but [ἀλλά] under GRACE [χάρις]!
 - There are TWO ways that we can try and CONTROL our sin nature [old body]
 - We can try to use RULES [law] - to KEEP us from doing what is WRONG...
 - Or we can trust in GRACE to change our HEART – so we WANT to do what is RIGHT!
 - **Colossians 2:23** – “Rules may seem wise because they require strong devotion... and severe bodily discipline. But they provide no help in conquering [our] evil desires.” [NLT]
 - The failure of RULES is that they do NOTHING to change what we WANT...
 - We can be TOLD what to do – but that does NOTHING to help if we do NOT want to...
 - The power of the GRACE - is God changes our DESIRES...
 - Therefore – SIN can NO longer LORD over us – it has lost its POWER...
 - Because we now WANT to use our MEMBERS [body] to do what is RIGHT!
 - Not permission... vs. 15
 - What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not!
 - Therefore [οὐν] – since we are NO longer bound to the LAW [no rules]
 - WHAT shall we do – continue [future] to live in SIN...

- Paul gives us the same reply he opened with [sin so grace abounds] – **Romans 6:1**
- Certainly NOT - he hoped [optative] this would NEVER be the way we live...
- Go back to - GRACE is NOT freedom to SIN – it is the FREEDOM from SIN!

- Rules tend to give a FALSE sense of RIGHTEOUSNESS...
- We THINK we are good because of what we are DOING!
- But we are MISSING the point – what is in our HEARTS...
- If we are told we MUST come to church – MUST read our Bibles – we MUST pray...
- Then we might do it because we feel a sense of OBLIGATION...
- But take away the RULES – and then look and see what a person does...
- If they STOP – that means they never had a heart to do them...
- But if they keep on GOING – keep on READING – keep on PRAYING...
- Then we can be confident that it is coming from their HEART [they want to]!

● 2ND – OUR MASTER... vs. 16-19

○ 1ST – Slaves... vs. 16

▪ The choice...

- Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey.
- You are that one's slaves whom you obey!
- Why is it so IMPORTANT to be careful what we DO with our bodies [members]
- Paul is going to use the EXAMPLE of being a SLAVE [δουλος]
- SOMEONE is going to be our MASTER – the one who we MUST serve...
- Can we NOT see [εἶδω] – whomever [God or Sin] we PRESENT [παρίστημι] ourselves to...
- We are [present] their SLAVES because we are [present] OBEY them...
- OBEY [ὕπακούω] – from the root words UNDER [ὑπό] and LISTEN [ἀκούω]!
- We often see in movies someone having to make a CHOICE...
- And TWO versions of themselves appear on their shoulders – one next to each EAR...
- One [who looks like a devil] is TELLING them to do what is WRONG...
- While the other [who looks like an angel] is TELLING them to do what is RIGHT!
- We always have TWO voices arguing in our MINDS...
- Our SINFUL nature [flesh] – that is trying to get us to LIVE for their life...
- And our SPIRIT – that is trying to get us to LIVE for God...
- The question is which one are we LISTENING [ὕπακούω] to...
- Because whomever we OBEY – we are making ourselves their SLAVE!

▪ The Result...

- Whether of sin leading to death - or of obedience leading to righteousness?
- While the CHOICE of who we LISTEN to is ours to make...
- But the RESULTS of our CHOICE are something that we CANNOT change...
- Either [ἤ] certainly [τοῖ] - we chose to LISTEN to SIN – and it leads to [εἰς] DEATH...
- Or we chose to LISTEN [ὕπακοή] to God – and it leads to [εἰς] RIGHTEOUSNESS!
- If we were given the choice between being DEATH of LIFE [righteous]
- The choice would be VERY easy to make - we would choose LIFE...
- But that is NOT the choice - the decision is who do we LISTEN to...
- If we LISTEN to the LORD – make ourselves a SLAVE to God – we will LIVE...
- But if LISTEN to our FLESH – become a SLAVE to SIN - then we chose DEATH!
- **Deuteronomy 30:19** - "I have set before you life and death - blessing and cursing. Therefore choose life."

- 2nd – Set free... vs. 17-18
 - Obeyed... vs. 17
 - But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin.
 - Yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered!
 - But although we used to be [imperfect] SLAVES [δουλος] to the SIN nature...
 - Paul gave THANKS [χαρίς] to God [dative]
 - Because we LISTENED [ὑπακούω] from our HEART [not external]
 - To the TEACHING [διδασχί] of GRACE – and we were DELIVERED[passive]!
 - Righteousness... vs. 18
 - And having been set free from sin you became slaves of righteousness!
 - And because we have LISTENED [active] to the TEACHING of GRACE...
 - We have been set FREE [passive] from the SINFUL nature...
 - And we have become [passive] SERVANTS [δουλόω] to RIGHTEOUSNESS...
 - We did NOT choose to be SET free [passive] – or to become SERVANTS to God [passive]
 - We CHOSE [active] to LISTEN to GRACE – and the RESULT was we were set FREE...
 - FREE [ἐλευθερώω] 7x in NT – no longer be under the power of SIN!
 - **Romans 10:17** – “Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God.”
 - There is POWER in hearing the WORD – coming together to learn the Bible...
 - Because it is the TEACHING of the Gospel of GRACE that SETS us FREE [passive]
 - When we hear the TRUTH – our SINFUL nature has no power over us!
 - **John 8:32** – “You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free [ἐλευθερώω].”
- 3rd – New Life... vs. 19
 - Human terms...
 - I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh!
 - The reason why Paul was talking about SLAVERY...
 - Using HUMAN [ἄνθρωπος] terms to describe SPIRITUAL truths...
 - Was because of the WEAKNESS of our FLESH...
 - He wanted to make it as SIMPLE as possible – so we could UNDERSTAND!
 - SLAVERY is a powerful picture – it says we have a MASTER...
 - There is SOMEONE who is telling us how to LIVE our lives...
 - But we have a CHOICE on WHO we want to be our MASTER!
 - Unclean ...
 - For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness.
 - And of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness!
 - For [γὰρ] just as we used to PRESENT [παρίστημι] our members [body] as slaves to SIN...
 - SIN [ἁκαθαρσία] – we were spiritually FILTHY because of our SIN...
 - And that LAWLESSNESS [dative] – led to more SIN [accusative]!
 - **John 8:34** - “I say unto you he that commits sin is the slave of sin.”
 - The same way a drug dealer gets a new client - giving them a free sample...
 - Sin can seem to be enjoyable - but it sucks us in and we are trapped...
 - And like a drug [the most addictive kind] it will take over our life...
 - In the end we find we are in BONDAGE – always looking for more SIN!
 - Holiness...

- So now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness!
- So NOW we must [imperative] PRESENT [παρίστημι] our members [body] as slaves to God...
- And RIGHTEOUSNESS [dative] – will lead to HOLINESS [accusative]
- HOLLINESS [ἀγιασμός] – being set apart – living for God!
- Like an ELEVATOR that can only go in TWO directions...
- Our life is either going DOWN [dominated by sin] – or UP [defined by the Lord]
- Therefore it is critical we make sure we are going the RIGHT way!

• 3RD – THE CONTRAST... vs. 20-23

○ 1st – Slaves to Sin... vs. 20-21

▪ Bad Fruit... vs. 20

- For when you were slaves of sin - you were free in regard to righteousness!
- For [γάρ] – when we were [imperfect] SLAVES to the SIN nature...
- We were [imperfect] FREE [ἐλεύθερος] from being RIGHTEOUS!
- Before we came to Jesus – we were FREE of conviction...
- We blindly followed after our SIN - not caring where we were going...
- No thought of consequence – following without question...
- We had NO choice – we did NOT know any better – we were by nature sinners...
- We did NOT think about God – think about righteousness – we were BOUND to sin!

▪ Second Death... vs. 21

- What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed?
- For the end of those things is death!
- So [οὖν] what was [imperfect] the FRUIT of those things we USED to do...
- Things we are now very [ἐπὶ] ASHAMED [αἰσχύνω] to even mention...
- The end of living that LIFE - free from God – was DEATH!
- Unfortunately coming to Jesus does NOT mean we FORGET...
- We can clearly remember MANY things that we did before we got saved...
- And we are very EMBARRASSED by all of them – they were SHAMEFUL...
- Why – because we now understand those things will be JUDGED...
- And that judgement meant the SECOND death [Lake of Fire] – **Revelation 20:14**

○ 2nd – Slaves to God... vs. 22-23

▪ Good Fruit ... vs. 22

- But now having been set free from sin - and having become slaves of God.
- You have your fruit to holiness - and the end everlasting life!
- But NOW that God has set us [passive] FREE [ἐλευθερώω] from our SINFUL nature...
- NOW that He has made us His [passive] SERVANTS [δουλόω]
- We have [present] the FRUIT [singular] that shows we are HOLY...
- Giving us the confidence - in the END we will have ETERNAL life with God!
- Coming to Jesus does NOT mean we are PERFECT...
- We are in the BATTLE every day between our FLESH and our SPIRIT...
- The WAR to try and controls our BODY – dominate our MIND...
- But if we are wondering where the PROOF is that we are SAVED...
- It is the BATTLE – it is the FACT that we are at WAR with SIN...
- Before we came to Jesus we did NOT care about our SIN...
- The STRUGGLE is the evidence that God is working in our lives!

- Eternal Life... vs. 23
 - For the wages of sin is death - but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord!
 - For the WAGES [payment due] – for those who are a SLAVE to sin - is DEATH...
 - But the GIFT [χάρισμα] of God – is eternal LIFE in Christ Jesus our Lord...
 - There is the CONTRAST – do we chose the WAGES or the GIFT!
 - The solution to the BATTLE is NOT what we have to do...
 - We CANNOT earn our way to VICTORY – try harder to OVERCOME our flesh...
 - The WAR is won by receiving the GRACE that God desires to give to us...
 - The POWER of the SPIRIT that can change our HEARTS!