

“Grace & Peace to You”

A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF ROMANS

Voice of China and Asia

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ROMANS LESSON 40 PART 1: “SLAVES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS”

ROMANS 6:15-23 *What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means!*

¹⁶ *Do you not know that if you **present** yourselves to anyone **as obedient slaves**, you are slaves of the one whom you **obey**, either of sin, which leads to death, or of **obedience**, which leads to righteousness?*

¹⁷ *But thanks be to God, that you who **were once slaves** of sin **have become obedient** from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, ¹⁸ and, **having been set free from sin**, **have become slaves** of righteousness. ¹⁹ I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once **presented** your members **as slaves to impurity** and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now **present** your members **as slaves to righteousness** leading to sanctification.*

²⁰ *For when **you were slaves of sin**, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹ But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death.*

²² *But now that **you have been set free from sin** and **have become slaves of God**, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

“THE SLAVE ANALOGY”

The “**Slave**” analogy is a difficult one for us to think upon. As we have said, “**slavery**” is a despicable idea, and to think that it could be used to describe our relationship IN ANY WAY to God is bewildering.

BUT... there it is. So, how do we grasp the concept that Paul was conveying when he used this term?

The **CHURCH AT ROME** was made up of **Jew & Gentile; Roman and Barbarian; Noble and Working class; Educated and Un-educated**; and, of course, **Free-born and Slave** (both present and former).

Most of Paul’s writing / teaching, up to now, has been regarding God’s work of grace as contrasted with **THE LAW** – for the Jews and Proselytes. But there is also a great percentage of the Church that has NO reference at all to the **JEWISH LAW**. TO THEM, this reference to “**Slavery**” is definitely more understandable. Paul leaves the imagery of “**THE LAW**” to speak more directly regarding “**Slavery**.”

What is his point... God’s point? **It’s ALL about the WILL...**

- That just as a slave is one who has been denied the power to perform HIS will, so mankind in the “Fall” was denied the power to establish their own will. As Paul said in **EPH 2:1-3...**
*And **you were dead** in the trespasses and sins ² in which you once walked, **following** the course of this world, **following** the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³ among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, **carrying out the desires** of the body and the mind, and **were by nature children of wrath**, like the rest of mankind.*
- Now, as being “**made alive in Christ Jesus**” through FAITH, [**JUSTIFICATION/RECONCILIATION**] we are free of that Satanic power... and FREE to make a choice to “serve God / Righteousness.”
- This Choice to **BECOME** a “**Slave of Righteousness**” is the essence of “**SANCTIFICATION.**”

THE CHART:

Here is a Chart to help visualize the distinction between **JUSTIFICATION** and **SANCTIFICATION**:

Comparison	JUSTIFICATION	SANCTIFICATION (<i>Made Holy</i>)
Purpose and Process:	<p>INSTANTLY Declared Righteous</p> <p>OBJECTIVE: Judicial; Legal; Positional</p> <p>From an External Source</p> <p>Christ's Righteousness Imputed (<i>Realized</i>)</p> <p>INSTANTLY Removes Guilt and Penalty</p> <p>Does NOT Change Our Character</p>	<p>GRADUALLY Made Holy</p> <p>SUBJECTIVE: Experiential; Progressive; Temporal (Daily)</p> <p>From an Internal Source</p> <p>Christ's Holiness Imparted (<i>Worked-out</i>)</p> <p>GRADUALLY Removes Sin's Pollution and Control</p> <p>Gradually Transforms Our Character</p>
Application:	ALL Believers Share the SAME Legal Standing	EVERY Believer at VARYING Stage of Growth
Duration:	A SINGLE instantaneous once-for-all Act; NEVER Repeated	A CONTINUAL Process Gradually Transforming, Maturing, and Producing Testimony

ROMANS LESSON 40 PART 2: "SLAVES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS"

FROM "SET-FREE..." TO "HAVE BECOME..."

ROM 6:17-18 *But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed,¹⁸ AND, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.*

Sometimes there are things expressed in the **SCRIPTURES** that can ONLY be seen through deeper study. Often, that is through the Original Languages (**HEBREW / GREEK**). *THIS passage is one of those.*

Vs17a) *But... Thanks be to God...*

Contrary to the bondage of slavery that was a result of Adam's Sin, God has **STEPPED IN** and **ACTED** on our behalf... SO THAT we are now free to OFFER ourselves unto God in a life of "righteousness".

Through "faith in Jesus' Death and Resurrection" we have been:

Reconciled... Justified... Redeemed... Saved!

THAT has removed us from death, and the power of the Old-Self, and created us as New Creatures.

➤ **Were ONCE slaves... This is the Old Self...**

- **Were ONCE...** This translates a very uncommon Greek form that means:
 - "There was a time in the past in which you were under this power, and that power lasted over a period of time until it was stopped.
 - You had NO control over neither the bondage nor the ending of it.

- **Slaves OF Sin... [Set-Free] FROM Sin...** - The word is “Doulos” – one who has been committed to another to be available at all times to their power and will...
 - This “bondage” was to “Sin” – “personified” - presented as an entity... not just an action
 - ALSO in Romans, and especially in Galatians, Paul also relates this bondage as to The Law – being the OT Law as given through Moses. (ROM 2-5; GAL 2-4)
 - However, The Law ONLY had power because of the Sin of the ones to whom it had been given. As Paul will later state: The Law was Perfect... WE just could not keep it because of Sin...
ROM 7:7 *What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. For I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, “You shall not covet.”*
10-12) *The very commandment that promised life proved to be death to me. ¹¹ For sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me. ¹² So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.*

➤ **HAVING BEEN SET FREE...**

Vs17b-18a) **“...have become OBEDIENT from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, ¹⁸ AND, having been set free from sin...**

- Remember that the word “obedient” means “to put yourself under what is said...” –
 - THIS “obedience” is “from the heart” – [AorActInd] - it is SINCERE – NOT casual...
 - This speaks of a “personal commitment to WHAT IS SAID...
- **The Standard of Teaching** – a “**form of Doctrine**” – Methodical instruction to lead to **“mastery”**
 - NOT just any teaching... it has a “**pattern**” that is NOT to be altered...
 - **2 TIM 1:13** *“Follow the pattern of sound words which you heard from me...”*
 - There are things which CANNOT be **summarized / paraphrased / estimated...**
- **To which you WERE Committed / Delivered... [AorPassInd] -**
 - This is **ACTIVE** on God’s part... **PASSIVE** on OUR part...
 - At New Birth God **“deposited IN us”** truth to which we respond with our **Mind / Soul / Will**
TITUS 2:11-12 *“For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹² training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age...”*
1 COR 2:15-16 *“The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. ¹⁶ ‘For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?’ But we have the mind of Christ.”*
ROM 12:2 **“BE Transformed** by the renewing of your minds...”

➤ **Have BECOME Slaves...**

Vs 18b) **have become slaves of righteousness. [AorPassInd] IF you have become “obedient” You WILL become slaves of righteousness...**

- HERE we come to a great distinction regarding the word **“Doulos...”**
- FIRST consider **“REDEMPTION”** –

- 3 Categories of Words: ALL “To Purchase” – Redeem / Release / to Possess for your own...
- In reference to a “person” the word related to the “purchase of a slave” [Agorazo...Time]
 - 1 COR 6:20 “...for you were bought with a price. So, glorify God in your body.”
 - 1 COR 7:20 “...You were bought with a price; do not become bondservants of men.”
- HOWEVER: we were NOT ONLY “purchased” BY God...
- We have ALSO been Set-free – “sent away in freedom NEVER to be made a slave again...”
 - GAL 3:13 “...Christ HAS redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us...”
- BUT “having been set free... we HAVE BECOME slaves...”
 - Having been... – AorPassPart -
 - Have become... – AorPassInd -

NOW PAUL MAKES THE APPLICATION:

ROM 6:19 I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations.

We are not REALLY “slaves,” but I had to use this because of the limits of our words...

For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness,

Unable to “free yourself” you had no choice... BUT the results still brought death...

SO NOW present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.

- Present – “give over to – release INTO someone else’s control...”
- YOU make the choice... YOU take the initiative... YOU offer without reservation...
- AorActImp – DO THIS NOW!

THERE WILL BE FRUIT

ROM 6:20-22 For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹ But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death.

²² But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, Eternal Life.

Have been set free... – AorPassPart – God DID This FOR YOU...

Have become... – AorPassPart – Having become “obedient” you “have become...”

Fruit leads to Sanctification... – a demonstrated separation -

Its “end-goal” is the “EXPRESSION of the Life ETERNAL that is YOURS!

HERE IS THE REALITY...

ROM 6:20 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Wages... – that which is EARNED – what is due for what has been done...

Free Gift... – UN-EARNED – freely bestowed because of the GIVER’S Initiative...

As Paul progresses through this subject, he is helping the Believers to advance from the “Inward work which God HAS done” to the “Outward work which is OUR responsibility.”

This will be the subject through to the end of Chapter 8.