



Ro 6:15–23—Slaves!

August 4

OVERVIEW: [Romans \(5–16\)](#)

CONTEXT: Paul begins Romans with the bad news that we're all trapped in sin. Then he shares the good news (Gospel), how God initiated a rescue plan centring on making us righteous, not through the Law, but by faith in Jesus. Through this we are given a new status, family and future. Grace sets us free from our old self to live as Christ. Our baptism signifies this break, our old self dying and our new self-coming alive to Christ (what is true of Jesus now becomes true of us). We've been set free from the penalty of sin, are being set free from the power of sin (and will one day be free from the presence of sin!). In our passage Paul answers a common objection to Christianity, that some 'Christians' think in Christ they're free to sin!

FIRST, A.M. SERMON RECAP (Ro 5:1–5)

- What is justification by faith? How does this beautiful doctrine lay at the heart of the Gospel/Christianity?
- What 5 benefits does the believer receive as a result of justification?
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
 4. _____
 5. _____
- (from the p.m.) Why ought what Christ did for the believer be the basis for our joy and thanksgiving (v. 11)?

READ: Ro 6:15–23

QUESTIONS:

1. **What comes to mind when you think of the image of slavery?**
2. *In Paul's day, slavery was much different than African slavery, and the institution was not based on race but economics. You could become a slave if you were captured in war or fell into debt. While*

sometimes slaves rowed in galleys, other times they ruled politically or oversaw great households or farms. Slaves could also do things to earn money and thus purchase their freedom. If a slave did become free (a "freedman") they often were retained in the services of their former master (their "patron"). Slaves and masters could have very close relationships.

3. In light of Rev 18:13, why is slavery immoral?
4. *V.15- Because we're saved by grace and not the Law, a Christian ought not sin. Using the illustration of slavery Paul explains why.*
5. **Generally, who or what are we enslaved to as unbelievers and then as believers? Are we free? What two options do we have for Lordship?**
6. V. 16- If we present ourselves (stand beside) to sin (Satan) or righteousness (Jesus), what is the outcome?
7. *Vv. 17–18-* What is the Christian freed from, and then enslaved to? How does this answer why we shouldn't persist in sin?
8. *V. 19a-* **Interestingly Paul acknowledges the limitation of his illustration. How are illustrations helpful but always imperfect?**
9. V. 19 (and v. 20–22)- If we submit/yield to sin or to righteousness, what will be the result? What is the end of sin/salvation?
10. **How are we to answer Paul's initial response (v.15a), that Christians are not free to go on sinning?**
11. **V. 23- Reflect upon the Gospel beauty in this verse. How does a knowledge of slavery help us to understand it?**
12. Throughout the NT, the writers of the Epistles often describe themselves as a *doulos* (slave) and Jesus as *kyrios* (Lord). **How does this thought shape your discipleship?**

NEXT TIME: Aug 11, Ro 9:19–33, God's Sovereign Choice, pt. II