

No One Can Serve Two Masters Romans 6:15-19

June 4, 2020

Review

Theme of Romans: The gospel of God (1:16-17)

1:18-3:20 The universality of sin and condemnation (the universal need for the gospel)

3:21-4:25 The gospel _____

Chs 5-8 The gospel and the sure hope it gives

5:1-11 Blessed results of justification

5:12-21 The superiority of the reign of God's grace in the second Adam to the reign of sin through the first Adam

Ch 6 The triumph of grace over the power of sin

The main ideas in 6:1-14

1. Though God's grace abounds to us through Christ, we are not to continue in sin (1-2)
2. As pictured in believer's baptism, we have been united with Christ, including union with Christ in His death (3)
3. We have died with Christ to sin, making it utterly incongruous to continue living in sin (2)
4. We were buried with Christ in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead, we too would walk in newness of life (4)
5. Our old self was crucified with Christ, with the purpose and result of no longer being enslaved to sin (5-7)
6. We are united with Christ in His resurrection (8-10)
7. We must count ourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ (11)
8. We must not let sin reign in our mortal body, to make us obey its passions (12)
9. We must no longer present the parts of our body to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but instead must present the parts of our body to God as instruments for righteousness (13)
10. Being under the reign of grace we have been liberated, and consequently sin will not have dominion over us (14)

Question: How does this passage challenge our common thinking?

Truth: You are either a slave to sin or a slave to obedience to God (15-16)

verse 15

1. Related to verse 14
2. Goes back to the question of verse 1
3. Both questions raise the topic of this chapter—the relationship between the Christian’s *position* under grace, and the Christian’s *practice* under grace

verse 16

1. “present yourselves”
2. We serve either “sin” or “obedience”
 - Obedience to God (verse 22)
3. The result of serving sin will be eternal death
4. The result of serving obedience will be righteousness of life (ultimately in glorification)
 - **Gal. 5:5** “For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness.”
5. No middle ground is possible. There is no escaping being a slave.

The point is, grace does not free us to live however we please

1. Either sin is your master, or obedience to God is your master
2. Your master is revealed by what it is that you give yourself to and serve
3. Claiming to be under grace will not save you from eternal death

God’s work: God has set you free from sin and made you a slave of righteousness (17-18)

verse 17

1. God intervened and saved us
2. God changed your heart, making you obedient “to the standard of teaching to which you were committed”
 - When God saved you, He placed you under the authority of the teaching of Christ and His apostles (along with the rest of the Scriptures)
 - No longer being “under the law” (15) does not mean that we are not under the authority of the Scriptures

3. In regeneration and conversion, God changed your heart, making you “obedient from the heart” to the Scriptures
4. This obedience was termed “the obedience of faith”
 - **1:5** “through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about **the obedience of faith** for the sake of his name among all the nations,”
 - Obedience that originates from faith in Christ
5. God has brought about a transfer of allegiance in your heart from sin to Scripture

verse 18

1. God has set us free from the power of sin so that it no longer is our master
2. “have become slaves of righteousness”
3. Every Christian has been made a slave of “obedience” (16), Scripture (17), “righteousness” (18), “God” (22)

Command: Present the parts of your body as slaves to righteousness (19)

19a “I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations.”

1. Paul has been using the human term “slave” to communicate something that is hard for us to understand
2. This term does not fully reveal the truth that Paul has been teaching, and can be misunderstood if isolated from the rest of Paul’s teaching
3. Yet it is a helpful term for communicating about the Christian’s new position in Christ

19b “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.”

1. Continues the thought of verse 16a
2. Our former condition
 - We willingly served impurity and lawlessness
 - This just led us deeper into sin and transgression
3. Our responsibility as someone who has been freed by God’s grace and has a new master
 - “presenting” is something that happens in your heart and has to do with the will
 - To present yourself to righteousness is to consecrate yourself

4. “sanctification”
 - Related to the word “holy”
 - Based on the idea of being set aside for God’s use
 - Here, a process of becoming holy in our conduct

Conclusion

Review

1. Truth: You are either a slave to sin or a slave to obedience to God (15-16)
2. God’s work: God has set you free from sin and made you a slave of righteousness (17-18)
3. Command: Present the parts of your body as slaves to righteousness (19)

Question: What do you find most helpful in this passage for your sanctification? Why?