

Romans 25 – Slaves: Of Satan or Christ

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Romans 6:15-23

Prologue: Life Replaces Death

Since, through Christ, we have died to sin, and Christ lives after death, so shall we live after death also

Since Christ was raised from the dead showing God approved of His sin payment, we also have hope that we will arise from the dead; indeed, the resurrection of our *new nature* from the death of our *old man* gives us hope for our bodily resurrection-This is our first fruit of life
(1Co 15:13-19)

Prologue: Baptism a Metaphor

- Repentance is the act of dying to *old man* (Self)
- Immersion is burial of self
- Arising from waters is the resurrection in *new nature*
- Water: metaphor of Spirit



Prologue: Christian Schizophrenic

The only true schizophrenic in the world is the Christian who has both the *new nature* and *sinful flesh*

Flesh is weak and always hostile to God (Ro. 8:5-11)

If one fights against the Spirit, grieves or quenches, then one seeks strength in the *flesh*, thus sinning (Ep. 4:30-32; 1Th. 5:19)

If one remains *weak* in the flesh, then you follow the Spirit avoiding sin; trials and testings train us to maturity in Christ to know the difference (He. 5:14)

There is no Choice, only Election

Paul is moving his readers, and the Church elders, into an *unambiguous* understanding of one's relationship to the spiritual powers: Christ and Sin (Satan)

Man *believes*, incorrectly, that he is a free moral agent able to determine his, or her, own destiny

{Enlightenment-Modernism-Postmodernism-Today}

Paul laid the groundwork with his quotes from the Old Testament (Ro. 5:10-18)

Emphasized by Christ Seeking Us

Paul further laid this foundation by emphasizing that Christ died for us while we were still in sin (Ro. 5:6-11)

Christ died for us while we were still *weak* (ἀσθενής, asthenēs), still in sin; we were not searching for Him

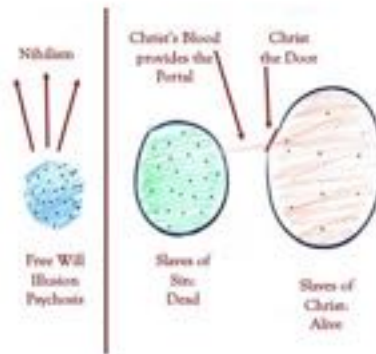
Christ saved every single sinner while each was hostile to God, rejecting Him and His truth

Jesus reconciled sinners to Himself based on His sacrifice; there was, and is, no self involved in salvation

Biblical Reality

Blue - Illusionary; nonexistent
Green - Closed sinner's domain
Red - Closed Believer's domain
Bridge - Christ bridges domains

Impossible Gulf separates the Lost from the Saved
(Luke 16:26)



Law of Excluded Middle

- Both spiritual domains are closed and cannot be transitioned by choice as they are non-empirical; beyond the power of created beings to change by choice
 - Only Christ transitions between the spiritual domains bringing whomever He chooses; i.e., salvation
 - Once Saved, one cannot leave Life's domain unless Christ removes you which He declared He will not and cannot because of the Father's will (Jo 10:27-30)

Lost Man's Question

- Paul asks (paraphrase): Are we allowed to sin since we are freed from the Law and Sin?
 - This question comes from the sinner's mind which does not understand God's separated domains (1Co 2:14)
 - Sinner can do nothing but sin; there is never good
 - Saved are freed from the old man; their new nature does not desire to sin, new domain; it is the flesh that sins as it remains in the old domain of sin (Schizophrenia)

Man Confuses Everything

- Paul's deafening answer: By no means! He gives a simple, clear metaphor illustrating the impossibility of legitimizing sin
 - He implies one choice: presenting one's self to either flesh or faith
 - You are the obedient slave of that which you follow, of that which you agree with at that moment: Worship - obedience to the source of one's momentary values
- One is obedient in a state of worship, following one's source of values
What one worships varies depending on faith or flesh obedience

Believers Once Slaves to Sin

- All people are conceived in and born as sinners, possessing the *old man*; or, dead due to offenses (Rv 5:12)
 - Once saved the sinner transitions with a *new nature* or heart and is alive unto Christ
 - This is apparent by embracing the truth of Christ, even though it reveals our weak (sinful) and prideful flesh

Speaking in Human Terms

Paul writes that he is using the slave metaphor because it was within their experience to understand

Grasping the metaphor of slavery, common in ancient times but certainly multivariate in practice, would help them grasp the spiritual truth he was teaching

Paul speaks from man's empirical perspective by using choice though in spiritual terms choice is not possible except as illustrated for the saved: Faith or Flesh (Ga 1:13-15)

Paul Encourages Spiritual Growth

Paul encourages believers to be as obedient to Christ now as they were to sin when lost

Sinners are extremely obedient to sin even to the point of rejecting all knowledge of God and His truths

Believers are new babes in Christ and unstable (1st 1:5-8)

Sin only breeds more lawlessness (sin); obedience to righteousness promotes sanctification (holiness in Jesus)

If Its Freedom You Want...

The sinner was free from the demands of righteousness before salvation

Sinners joke about not wanting to give up some vice, change some behavior, etc.

Sinners reveal in their *pet* sins and the results of the sins, though contrition is feigned if appropriate

Saved sinners are appalled by the results of the sinful lives and the types of sins they defended; if truly saved

The End of Sin...Death

- Sinners only produce death regardless of how *menial* their sins or how harmless they appear (Ro 3:23)
- Sinners casually dismiss their sin as trivial and engage in self-justification about how *good* they are
- Everything accomplished in life before salvation is as chaff and accounts for nothing but consignment to Lake of Fire (Ro 20:14-15)

Free From Sin...Life

Our condition in the spiritual domain is freedom from slavery of sin; i.e., believers are not bound to sin

Herein is the challenge for believers today: being set free from sin does not mean you are free (*non sequitur*)

One changes allegiances due to the change in natures; new nature does not willingly sin as the old man did

This results not only in being developed into holy ones but also obtaining eternal life

Paul's Summation

Paul summarizes his argument up to this point in one succinct sentence

Wages, what one is owed due to work, is death (Ro 4:6)

But, the χάρισμα, charisma, of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord

That is, God's gift of His nature in us is the first fruits seal of our salvation as we wait for the redemption of our bodies; His promise that we live in Him eternally

Epilogue: Biblical Reality

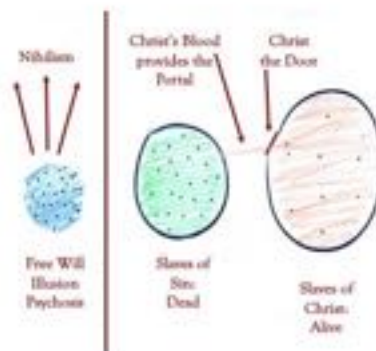
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Majoring in the Minors

Christians today love to major in the minor issues while trivializing the major themes of Scripture

Christians ignore the Bible's injunction to avoid endless arguments and arguing about trivial matters to avoid allowing Christ to mature them via testings

They appear to want to live in both domains, sin and saved, and pay no price for their sins

However, Christ is Lord, all will stand before His seat (2Co 5:10)