



8/29/25

As I was mesmerized by the stars this morning, watching them fade into the glory of the sun as it rose, I thought of the angels. Like the stars, they are bright and beautiful and glorious... but they bow to the majesty of the Son. His light shines brighter and more powerfully and more gloriously than any light... and the more I enter His presence, the more I reflect His light just as the moon, with no light of its own, reflects the sun. What an amazing picture God gives us every single day to comprehend His glory! "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims His handiwork" (Psalm 19:1). Amen!

God gives us constant reminders of His glory, and through His word He gives us constant reminders of His unfailing love. That's what this week's episode of Chosen and Cherished is all about. If you'd like to listen, here's the link... <https://summitpoint.org/chosen-and-cherished/>

*Blessings,
Jonna*

Romans 6:15-23 ~

The title of this passage that will be preached on Sunday is, "I Am Free to Worship." Hmm... free to worship. As a believer in Christ walking in newness of life, but at the same time having my old dead flesh still living in me, I have to wonder... Do I really think of worshiping God as an act of freedom? And if not, is it because I'm allowing my flesh to have too much power in my life? My flesh is hostile to God. My flesh considers worshiping anything other than my flesh as a death sentence. But my spirit delights in God. The minute-by-minute decision I have to make is, "Who will I serve?" This passage will help me understand the importance and the outcome of my decision.

Vs. 15-16 ~ "What then?" What then to what? What then to the fact that we are not under law but under grace... "Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace?" Are we to rebel against God because the law can no longer condemn us and we are under the undeserved

favor of God? "By no means!" May it never be. That would be crazy!!!

"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?" Am I really? Is this saying I can't just be true to myself, master of my destiny? That's right. I'm a born "doulos" through and through, a slave who chooses who I will serve... but always serving someone. Ephesians 2:2-3 tells me that when I'm "living for the passions of my flesh," I am "following the prince of the power of the air" (that's Satan). I have the ability to "choose this day whom I will serve" (Joshua 24:15), but I WILL serve someone.

I obediently serve whoever I present myself to, whoever I yield to, whoever I offer myself to. There are only 2 choices. I offer myself for sin... rebellion against God. Or I offer myself for obedience... offering myself to God.

Sin leads to nothing good... death. To stare into the face of death is awful... lifeless, drained, motionless. Nothing good comes from rebelling against God. God is not being cruel by calling me away from sin, just as a parent is not being cruel by keeping her baby from sticking her finger in a light socket. God is calling me to something better.

Obedience to God leads to righteousness. Righteousness... having God's divine approval, not needing anyone else's approval because I am already made right before God.

Vs. 17-18 ~ I love what Paul says here and pray that it could be said of me... "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, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness." I was once a slave of sin, with my heart committed to the passions of my flesh which wage war against my soul. But the Lord delivered me from the domain of darkness! And now my heart WANTS to obey God! I look at His word and I WANT to follow what He says. I WANT to commit myself to what the Lord teaches me because He has set me free from the condemnation of sin. My life in Him is secure. O Lord, please help me to be OBEDIENT to You BECAUSE You have set me free. Let me not be deceived! Freedom is NOT found in living for SELF, but in living for YOU.

Vs. 19 ~ Paul understood the weakness of my flesh, and so he spoke in "human terms" to help me comprehend his point. "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." Before I knew Christ as my Savior, I had no other choice but to yield myself in bondage to "impurity and lawlessness." But now that I am IN CHRIST, I have a choice... to yield to what is not holy and what goes completely against the heart of God, OR I can choose to yield myself in voluntary service to what pleases God (righteousness) and leads to sanctification, making me more and more pure... holy... like Jesus.

Let me not be deceived. I can never just stay in one place. I'm always moving in a direction. I can't choose SOME sin and think it will just stay there, not hurting anyone or anything. Serving

impurity and lawlessness leads to MORE rebellion more rebellion. It is a snowball effect. The more the snow rolls down the hill, the more snow it picks up until it becomes a boulder crushing everyone in its path.

The same is true when I yield to what pleases God. But there is no snowball. It's a ball of light. This is what 2 Corinthians 3:16-18 talks about... As I turn to God and fix my eyes on Him, the Holy Spirit transforms me to be like Jesus... one degree of glory to the next... with each degree of glory, I reflect the light of the Lord more and more, spreading His joy and love and hope to the people in my path. O Lord, this is true freedom. This is why I worship You. I've heard it said, "We all worship someone 24 hours a day." I serve who I worship. O Lord, let that be You.

Vs. 20-21 ~ When I was a slave to sin, before knowing Christ as my Savior, I was free FROM righteousness. I am always free FROM something and a slave TO something. Being free FROM righteousness made me a slave TO sin, and the only fruit that came from that sin led to death. As I look back at those things now (sadly, so many of them done as a believer in Christ), I wish I could take them back! I am ashamed of choices I made for SELF (and still struggle with making those choices). I proved over and over again that nothing good comes from them. But praise the Lord, that's not who I am anymore!

Vs. 22-23 ~ I have been set free FROM sin so that I am now free TO serve God Himself. Who is the source of righteousness, purity, and sanctification? The one who set me free FROM the law of sin and death. The fruit that comes from serving and worshiping the Lord ultimately leads to eternal life. He owes me nothing. I'm just a slave. He gives me everything... for all eternity. I am FREE to worship Him.

"For the wages of sin is death..." There is no gift from choosing to rebel against God, only the natural consequences of my choices... death. But with God, through the sacrifice of Jesus, I have received a gift... I could never have earned this on my own. "But the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Because I have died with Christ and been raised to new life IN CHRIST, I have been set free FROM sin. So I MUST consider myself dead to sin and alive to God. I have been brought from death to life.

My job is to yield myself to God so that I won't let sin have its way in my temporary body here on earth. I only overcome yielding myself to sin by God's grace... as I yield myself to Him so that He can do His work of sanctifying my mind, my desires, and my choices.

The more I yield myself to God, the more I will grasp the freedom of worship. I ALWAYS worship someone. I ALWAYS serve someone. Worshiping and serving sin give me no freedom, only deception and regret. Worshiping and serving the Lord bring life and peace and His pleasure and His holiness for all eternity.

The choice is obvious. O but Lord, the action isn't so easy. But I know by Your grace, You will help me overcome. "But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brothers and sisters, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, KNOWING that in the Lord your labor is not in vain" (1 Corinthians 15:57-58). Amen!!!