
AMEN Bible Study 2025

“Slaves(!) of God”

Romans 6:15-23
November 20, 2025

Introduction – The Question (v.15)

I. The Inescapable REALITY of “Slavery” (v.16-18)

A. “In Adam”, We’re bound in a Life-Draining Slavery [as we’ve seen thru ch.1-3,5]

1. We are “under Sin” ... “under Law” ... “under Death” ... “under Wrath”

B. “In Christ”, We’re bound in a Life-Giving Slavery

1. A New LIFE-ORIENTATION (v.16) – *“To Obey...Obedience”*
2. A New WHOLEHEARTEDNESS (v.17) – *“...from the heart”*
3. A New MIND (v.17) – *“standard of teaching...”*
4. A New THANKSGIVING (v.17) – *“thanks be to God...”*

C. Why the Shock Metaphor, “Slavery”?

1. New Humility
2. New Urgency
3. New Allegiance
4. New Grace
5. New Honor

D. Human Reality: “Ain’t Nobody His Own Dawg”

1. Slavery to Sin (In Adam)
2. Slavery to God (In Christ)
3. Enslaved to what we Love
 - a. “With this ring, I thee wed;
With my body, I thee worship;
With all my worldly goods, I thee endow” (Book of Common Prayer)

II. The Inescapable PROGRESSION of “Slavery” (v.19)

A. Progressin of Slavery to SIN

1. Slaves to impurity => lawlessness => more lawlessness

B. Progression of Slavery to RIGHTEOUSNESS

1. Slaves to Righteousness => Sanctification

C. Never “Still”, Always “Progressing”

1. C.S. Lewis: “[E]very time you make a choice you are turning the central part of you...into something a little different from what it was before.... [A]ll your life long you are slowly turning this central thing either into a heavenly creature or into a hellish creature.... Each of us at each moment is progressing to the one state or the other.”
(“Morality and Psychoanalysis,” *Mere Christianity*)

III. The Inescapable TELOS of Slavery (v.20-23)

A. What are the RESULTS of Slavery to Sin?

1. Q: Freedom to be myself?
A: Freedom to be anything *but* myself! (v.20)
2. Q: Legacy of Honor? (v.21)
A: Legacy of Shame
3. Q: Life to the Full?
A: Life to the Empty (v.23)
4. "Hollow Men" -- (part 1, poem by T.S. Eliot)
We are the hollow men
We are the stuffed men
Leaning together
Headpiece filled with straw. Alas!
Our dried voices, when
We whisper together
Are quiet and meaningless
As wind in dry grass
Or rats' feet over broken glass
In our dry cellar

Shape without form, shade without color.
Paralyzed force, gesture without motion;

Those who have crossed
With direct eyes, to death's other Kingdom
Remember us—if at all—not as lost
Violent souls, but only
As the hollow men
5. Getting Exactly What We Worked for all our lives (v.23) "*wages of sin...*"

B. What are the Results of Slavery to God? => "free gift...of eternal life

1. Note the changing characterization of our "Slavery" (v.16,18, 22)
Slave to Obedience => Slave to Righteousness => Slave to God
2. Q: Freedom to be myself?
A: Increasing Freedom to be my True Self in Christ
3. Q: Life to the Full?
A: "Life, Life, and more Life"! (cf. C.S. Lewis, *The Great Divorce*)
4. Getting exactly what Jesus worked for all His Life (v.23) "*free gift of God...*"

Conclusion

AMEN Action Steps

“Slaves(!) of God”

Romans 6:15-23

HEAR the Word

“Open my eyes, that I might behold wondrous things out of your law.”

-Psalm 119:18

1. If we're humanly wired to "slave" for somebody, or something, who/what do you want your ultimate life-allegiance to be towards? But if you ask your wife, children, parents or close friends what they see you "enslaved" to, what have they already said? Or would say? If you're married, what does your wife feel is her greatest competition for your attention?
2. To better diagnose your heart's deepest loyalties, ponder such questions as: (1) what do you find it most easy to spend money on, or save money for – vacations, fishing/hunting gear, luxury food/drink, cars, clothes, sports teams, etc.? Why is it so easy to spend on them? When you find yourself daydreaming or fantasizing, what are you dreaming of? When you're haunted by the worst nightmares or panic, what things do you fear the most?

PRACTICE the Word

“...Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on a rock”

-Matthew 7:24

1. How might you IMPROVE the orientation of your life (e.g. time, talents, money, relationships) to better reflect the ultimate allegiance you WANT your life to reflect?
2. Be as honest with yourself as you can be: if trying to reorder your life towards still greater allegiance to Jesus feels more like a "DUTY" you've GOT to do, rather than a "PLEASURE" you're EXCITED to do, what about Jesus seems to come up short? How is he seemingly "disappointing" your hopes and desires? How is he seemingly "boring" to your heart? Be as concrete and specific as possible. And consider whom you can be honest with to seek answers to the deepest questions and suspicions of your heart.

RETELL the Word

“Go home to your own people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you...”

-Mark 5:19

1. Try to better get to know an unbelieving friend. What does he seem to hope for most, or fear the most? What is he willing to drain himself dry for? And how is he unwittingly dehumanizing himself in the process? How might Jesus and His gospel answer his deepest longings with a far greater satisfaction?