

ROMANS: PART 34
MARCH 31, 1996

Whose Slave Are You?
Romans 6:15-23

The Principle: You can only serve one of two masters. Vs 15,16. Cf. Rom 6:1,2a.

1. The Question:
 - ♦ "Sin" here refers to a life characterized by sin (not a Christian's struggles). I Jn 3:8,9.
 - ♦ God forbid! Perish the thought! You still do not understand the effects of the Gospel!
2. The Principle: You always serve your master.
 - ♦ Whatever master you place yourself under -- you *are* a slave to that master.
 - ♦ There are only two masters: sin & God/obedience.
 - ♦ Your master is evident by what you do. Lk 6:43-49; Jn 8:32-36,42-44; I Jn 1:6; 2:4

The Proof: When you were converted you really were emancipated & enslaved. Vs 17-18.

1. Your state **prior** to conversion: "*A slave to sin.*"
 - ♦ Slave means *slave*. Bondage. You had no ability to understand, desire, or come to God.
 - ♦ II Cor 4:3,4; I Cor 2:14; Jn 3:19; Rom 3:11; 8:7,8; Jn 6:44; II Tim 2:24-26; etc.
2. The **Nature** of your conversion: "*Obedied from the heart/nature.*"
 - ♦ Conversion is more than a mere *decision*.
 - ♦ You gave God a true obedience issued from your very nature. Evangelical obedience.
 - ♦ Jn 6:44,45; Rom 1:5; 16:25,26; Acts 6:7.
3. The **Means** of your conversion: "*form of teaching/doctrine*". God's Word.
 - ♦ You believed the Gospel (Rom 1:16-18):
 - ♦ Justification through faith alone, in Christ alone, by grace alone.
4. The **Agency** of your conversion: "*you were delivered over*" God's sovereign grace.
 - ♦ Delivered over (παράδομαι). Cf. Rom 1:24,26,28; 4:25; 8:32. Given over by Another.
 - ♦ God sovereignly & mercifully changed your heart -- enabling you to respond.
 - ♦ Jn 3:1ff; 1:12,13; Acts 13:48; 16:14.
5. The **Effects** of your conversion: "*Set free from sin*" you became "*slaves to righteousness*"
 - ♦ You were once a slave to sin -- now you are a slave to righteousness.
 - ♦ Free from its dominion (not its presence or temptations).
 - ♦ You're now under righteousness
 - ♦ Your faith produces obedience. James 2:17-20; Romans 1:5; 16:18,19,26; I Pet 1:22.
6. The **Source** of your conversion: "*Thanks be to God*"

The Application: Therefore Give Your Members Over To Your Lord. Vs 19

1. **Clarification:** The analogy of slavery falls short. We serve as "*sons*"
2. **Give yourself** over to the Lord because He *is* your Lord!
 - ♦ Follow Him completely: He is your one and only Lord.
 - ♦ Follow Him fearlessly: He saved you, He will change you, & will keep you.
 - ♦ Follow Him lovingly: In love He drew you to Himself when you could not come.

The Encouragement: Remember the Fruit that each Master Yields. Vs 19b-23

The Fruit of Sin	The Fruit of God & Righteousness
Sin leads to further sin (Vs 19) You did not control it -- It controlled you. It <i>totally</i> controlled you (Vs 20)	Righteousness yields further righteousness (Vs 19) Obedience drives you toward your sanctification.
Fruitlessness! (Vs 20)	Fruitfulness! (Vs 21)
Eternal Death -- Hell (Vs 16b,21b,23)	Eternal Life -- Heaven (Vs 23)
These Are The <u>Wages</u> of Sin	This A <u>Free Gift</u> (Not Wages) in <i>Christ Jesus Our Lord</i>