

**Week of June 28, 2020**

**Romans 6:12-23 (NRSV)**

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions.

<sup>13</sup> No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness.

<sup>14</sup> For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

<sup>15</sup> What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means!

<sup>16</sup> 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?

<sup>17</sup> But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted,

<sup>18</sup> and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.

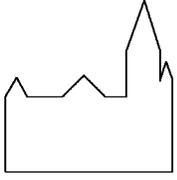
<sup>19</sup> I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification.

<sup>20</sup> When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness.

<sup>21</sup> So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death.

<sup>22</sup> But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life.

<sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.



### Group Leader

Remember: you don't need to use all of the questions. Go with what works. Give people a chance to think before answering, but if a question falls flat, move on. Let the discussion go where it needs to go, as long as it remains centered around the lesson. Give the participants page 1. Use this page for yourself.

### Gathering questions:

- A. What are your best and worst habits?
- B. Describe a time when you were given freedom and abused it?

### Bible Study Questions:

1. Is sin an act, a state of being, or a power? How do you think Paul is presenting the idea of sin?
2. Which comes closer to your belief: that you *choose* sin or that you *succumb* to sin?
3. "Sanctification", as a theological term, refers to being made holy. Considering verses 19 and 22, to what extent do you consider sanctification to be the work of God? What role, if any, do you play in your own sanctification?
4. Verse 16 implies that we will either be slaves of sin or slaves of righteousness. What is your reaction to this idea?
5. How are you accountable to your loved ones? How are they accountable to you?
6. Imagine that you were offered a magic pill that would cause you to spend the rest of your life without ever making a choice that is not the better choice in the eyes of God. Would you take the pill? What non-optimal choices are you fond of?

Closing prayer: particularly invite prayers about choosing to submit to good