



OKOTOKS EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

SLAVES TO RIGHTEOUSNESS

ROMANS 6:15-23

NOVEMBER 10, 2019

SERMON OUTLINE

We Harness our Freedom in Christ

1. By R_____ our Bodies ... for a greater P_____

2. By E_____ Temptation...
through God's powerful A _____

We Harness our Freedom in Christ

for the P_____ of the P_____

What should I do with what I've heard today?

MAIN POINT

When we are slaves of righteousness, we are free from the control of sin.

THINKING THINGS THROUGH

Connect the sermon to the study.

1. What are some ways you have changed significantly as you've matured and gained life experience (or ways you've observed this in another person)?

2. What would you say is the biggest difference when you compare your life now to the time before you knew Christ?

Leader: Most of us have times we look back on with embarrassment because of ways we have acted in the past. The life experience and maturity we have accumulated in the days since make our actions seem inconceivable to us now. We cringe because we can't imagine acting that way today. The same kind of division is introduced in our lives when we believe the gospel.

SERMON BASED GROWTH GROUP

While we used to be slaves to sin, as Paul calls it, we are now slaves to righteousness. Our committed relationship to sin cannot coexist with the righteousness of Christ because He has set us free. Although we may look back at childhood memories and cringe, through Jesus Christ we can see our past sin as a distant memory that no longer has any hold on us. We are now dead to sin and alive to God. Christ has broken us free.

DIGGING DEEPER

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

> HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ ROMANS 6:15-18.

3. Paul's rhetorical question in verse 15 was meant to confront a misunderstanding of God's grace. What are some ways we might misunderstand the purpose of God's grace in our lives?

4. If we offer ourselves to God as servants of righteousness, why would it be a contradiction to also offer ourselves to sin?

5. In Matthew 6:24, Jesus said a person can't serve two masters. Why is it innately impossible for us to be both slaves to sin and slaves to righteousness?

Leader: Paul taught that when believers are servants of righteousness, they are free from the control of sin. Believers are free to offer themselves as servants of righteousness as an act of obedience to the One who frees them. The believer was once a slave to sin, but through faith in Christ has become a slave to righteousness, which leads to sanctification.

6. Why is it impossible to break free from sin before we are born again by God's grace?

Leader: Apart from Christ, we cannot do anything but sin. That doesn't mean we are as bad as we possibly could be, it simply means that we are constantly in violation of the law to "love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength" (Deut. 6:5). Before the Holy Spirit transforms us, all our deeds are done to bring ourselves glory instead of the One who made us.

SERMON BASED GROWTH GROUP

> HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ ROMANS 6:19-23.

7. Paul wrote that being a slave to impurity leads to ever-increasing wickedness while being a slave to righteousness leads to holiness. How have you experienced growth in holiness as you submit your life to Christ?

8. What are the benefits and rewards of being slaves of obedience to God? Do we reap these rewards only in the future, or do we benefit today as well (see verses 22-23)? Explain.

9. How are you offering yourself in obedience to the Lord as a result of His grace working in you?

Leader: Paul declared that those who are enslaved to God can expect their obedience to reap benefits or bear fruit. At this point, Paul was not speaking about the fruit of the Spirit (see Gal. 5:22-23), although growing Christians certainly reveal the fruit of the Spirit. Here Paul was equating the fruit of obedient service with sanctification. The result of living for God is spiritual growth. The word translated *sanctification* literally means "to be set apart for special (divine) use." For Paul, sanctification is demonstrated in practical ways as believers live in the victory of God's grace.

10. In verse 23, Paul called death a wage and eternal life a gift. Compare and contrast a wage with a gift. How are they similar? How are they different? What is the significance of Paul calling eternal life a gift?

Leader: Paul reminded his readers that death is what one earns by being a servant of sin. By contrast, God offers the gift of eternal life to those who are servants of righteousness. This gift is based on God's unmerited favor and is not earned or bought by our actions. We become servants of righteousness as a result of salvation in Jesus, not as a means of gaining that salvation.

DOING LIFE TOGETHER

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

SERMON BASED GROWTH GROUP

11. What habits of your former way of life continue to have a hold on you? What actions do you need to take to see the transforming power of God lead you toward holiness in this area?

12. How might you focus your life on obeying God as a slave of righteousness through prayer, time in the Word, and other disciplines? What role does community play in our journey toward becoming slaves of righteousness?

PRAYER

Thank the Father for providing salvation as a free gift through faith in His Son. Ask God to help you represent Him as you live as His servant in the world.

MEMORIZE

¹⁸ You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness. – Romans 6:18

SPOTLIGHT ON THE PASSAGE

ROMANS 6:15-23

6:15-23. These verses are another of Paul's extended analogies. People have a choice about which master they will serve.

6:16. Paul used the figure of slaves. Whoever you obey, you come under his power. Obedience to sin brings death. Sin pays a wage to his subjects, and it is death (cp. v. 23). Obedience to God brings righteousness and the gift of eternal life.

6:17. Paul thanked God for the work of salvation that came to the Roman Christians.

6:18-19. Slavery and redemption are common biblical metaphors for spiritual death and salvation. The Hebrews were once in bondage (literal and spiritual) in Egypt. God broke the bondage so they could come out from Egypt and worship Him (Ex 7:16; 12:29-42). Similarly, the Roman Christians were once in spiritual bondage to false gods, but God liberated them so they could be slaves to righteousness.

6:20-23. As slaves of God, believers produce fruit (see Jn 15:1-8). This is the work of sanctification or holiness in their lives, and the final product is eternal life. Lest the figure be misunderstood as a payment for merits earned, eternal life is a gift of God through Christ. One master (sin) pays an earned wage of death; the other master (God) pays in unearned grace,

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resulting in eternal life (Jn 17:3).