

“Holy To The Lord”

Romans 6:15-23

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Teaching Aim: To demonstrate people are slaves to whomever or whatever is the controlling factor in their lives. To realize a radical change will take place in the way we live our lives after coming to faith in Jesus Christ. To understand, in Christ, we are called to live our lives in *“holiness to the Lord,”* we are no longer to be slaves to sin.

DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD’S WORD (BIBLE STUDY)

Part I: You are slaves to whoever or whatever controls your life (Rom. 6:15-16)

1. Webster’s Dictionary defines a *“rhetorical question”* as *“a question put forward to make an effect, not to receive an answer.”* Another way to put this is, *“A question so obvious that it doesn’t even require a response.”* In what way is the rhetorical question found in **verse 15** like the one found in **verse 1**? What was Paul’s point in both cases? Why do so many people make the mistake of looking upon God’s grace as a license to sin? Is it? What is Paul’s response to his own rhetorical question?
2. In God’s eyes we are either slaves to sin and Satan, or we are slaves to God and His righteousness, there is no middle ground (**vs. 16**). Before coming to faith in Christ, did you consider yourself to be a slave of sin? Why or why not? Do you think most unbelievers would be surprised to learn that they are serving Satan rather than simply doing their own thing? Why? (See **John 8:42-44; 2 Cor. 4:3-4**)
3. Why was slavery an illustration that would connect with Paul’s readers in Rome? How was slavery in the Roman Empire different from the slavery we commonly think of in our own American history? Which of the two do you think was the worst? Why?
4. How does one determine whom his or her master is? What will living a sinful lifestyle ultimately lead to? (See **Matt. 6:24; 13:30**) On the contrary, what does living a life of holiness and obedience to God lead to? How would you define the word *“righteousness?”* Why is it important for every Christian to live his or her life in a righteous lifestyle honoring God?

5. Righteousness can simply mean “*doing what is right in the eyes of the Lord.*” This can also refer to the “*practical righteousness*” that believers live following their conversion to Christ. According to Jesus Himself, what should be of first importance in every believer’s life? (See **Matt. 6:33**) Is this of first priority in your own life?

Part II: The radical transformation of the believer in Christ (Rom. 6:17-19)

1. What is Paul thankful for in **verse 17**? What are you the most thankful for when it comes to your salvation and all that God has done for you? The word “*doctrine*” seems to be offensive to many in the Christian church today. Should it be? What does the word “*doctrine*” mean? Why would “*correct teaching*” ever be offensive to born-again Christians? According to **verse 17**, how had the Romans responded to Paul’s teachings? How do we take something to heart today? Honestly, have you taken to heart the teachings of God and His Word? If not, why not? What is the end result for each Christian who believes in correct Bible doctrine (**vs. 17**)?
2. What does it take for a person to be set free from sin and judgment (**vs. 18**)? (See **John 3:16; 14:6; Acts 16:31**) What does the believer who has been set free from sin become a slave to? Do you consider yourself to be a slave (or servant) of righteousness? What are some ways that you are currently serving God in ministry?
3. According to **verse 19**, what does uncleanness and lawlessness lead to? Have you experienced this in your own life? How can the people we hang around with positively or negatively affect the way we live our lives? (See **1 Cor. 15:33; Pro. 13:20**). Have you ever hung around with a bad crowd? If so, how did it affect you?
4. What happens to our character when we present our bodies to be slaves of righteousness (**vs. 19**)? What does the word “*holiness*” mean? How should holiness affect our everyday living as Christians? (See **Eph. 4:17-23**) Do you think other people would describe your spiritual walk as being one of holiness and righteousness? Why or why not? What are some practical steps that you can take to become more like Jesus?

Part III: Changed from being slaves of sin into being slaves of righteousness (Rom. 6:20-23)

1. **Verse 20** is perhaps the toughest verse in the chapter to understand. What does it mean to be “a slave of sin” (**vs. 20**)? How can an unbeliever be “free in regards to righteousness” while at the same time being a “slave of sin” (**vs. 20**)? From God’s perspective, do people have any inherent righteousness within themselves before coming to faith in Christ? What is “imputed righteousness” and why is it so important to every believer? (See **Rom. 3:10-12, 23**)
2. What kind of spiritual fruit did you bear in your life before coming to faith in Christ (**vs. 21**)? Was it good or was it bad? What does the Bible teach will happen to people who never repent of their sin & refuse to faith in Jesus Christ? (See **Rev. 20:11-15**) What does the word “repent” mean? Have you repented from some of the things that you did in your past before coming to faith in Christ? According to **verse 21b**, what will result from those actions if not dealt with? What kind of fruit should we be producing as Christians today? (See **Gal. 5:22-23**) Does “the fruit of the Spirit” accurately describe what people see in your lifestyle?
3. According to **verse 22**, what have we been set free from? How are we set free? (See **John 3:16; 3:36; Rom. 5:8-9; 1 Cor. 15:3-4; Acts. 16:31**) Who should be our “Master” now that we have been set free from sin through faith in Jesus Christ? According to **verse 22b**, what should the fruit of every believer lead to? As a result, what can every born-again (or regenerate) believer in Christ look forward to?
4. When we go to our jobs each day, we usually expect to receive a paycheck in return for the work that we perform. Is God obligated by any of our works to pay us back with salvation? Why or why not? (See **Eph. 2:8-10; Tit. 3:5**) When we follow Satan as our master, what kind of compensation can we expect in return for our labor (**vs. 23**)? Is there a difference between a person earning a salary and a person receiving a gift? If so, what is it? What is the greatest Christmas gift ever given? (See **Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:21; John 14:6; Acts 4:12**) Was the gift free for Jesus?

5. Salvation is *“by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone,”* there is nothing we can do to earn our salvation. According to **verse 23**, what is the wages of sin? What free gift is offered to those who believe in Jesus Christ? Have you received Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord? If not, why not do so right now in the quietness of this moment through prayer? (See **1 John 1:9; Rom. 10:9-11**) If you have received Christ, why not recommit your life to Him today?

MINER’S CORNER ~ *Manna to live by!*

- Being under grace does not give us a license to sin, as Christians we are called to be holy.
- We are a slave of whoever or whatever is controlling our lives.
- We are set free from sin by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone.
- After coming to faith in Christ, we should see a radical change in the way we live our lives as we become more and more like Him.
- A lifestyle of sin will lead to more sin and ultimately to death.
- A lifestyle of righteousness because of faith in Jesus Christ will lead to a holy lifestyle and eternal life.
- As born-again Christians, we are a work in progress and will continue to be throughout the rest of our earthly lives.