

# ROMANS: TRANSFORMED BY GRACE

(Romans 6:15-23)

**Main POINT: As Believers who are walking in new life, we are to remember that we have been redeemed from sin & slavery to sin – in order to now be a forever servant of Christ**

**-Where do you stand with Jesus this morning? You dead spiritually? Or ALIVE? Slave to what?**

\*Verse 23: Gospel summed up in one verse: “For the wages of sin is death, but the gracious gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Your Choice: Sin/death **OR** gift/life-Jesus

\*\*\*Ch. 6 Summary: How do we defeat sin habits in our life??

**A.** As Believers who are walking in new life, we are to remember our death to our old life -and how we were **TRANSFORMED** into NEW LIFE. **(when saved? How saved? WHO saved????)**

**B.** Salvation was not simply a transaction, but a **TRANSFORMATION** (= New Nature/creation)

**C.** Though Jesus declares that we who are saved are ***already*** Justified, righteous, & holy – He allows us to live out our humans lives in feeble bodies prone to weakness and sin (temptation).

-We are living in the **ALREADY** and NOT **YET** reality of Christian existence.

**D.** God uses our physical weakness, spiritual frailty, and constant temptation to **PUSH** us into His gracious & uplifting arms. We become strong as we are **WEAK** IN Christ. We are victorious over sin as we are humble, helpless, and dependent solely on Christ to be our strength.

**E.** We are called (in our weakness and temptation) to run to Jesus and the Spirit’s help daily to conquer temptation and sin in our life – and present our hearts and bodies as **TOOLS** of righteousness!

**Vs. 15: What then? Are we to sin because we are not under the Law but under grace? Far from it!** [No, may it never, no never be] -i.e. Are we free to do as we want/sin since Jesus perfectly fulfilled the LAW of God (which we never could); are we “off the hook” to behave and pursue holiness in our lives as Believers? Free to whatever???? Emphatic NO!!!

**-Not a *have to*, but a *get to/want to*!**

**16** Do you not know that *the one* to whom you present yourselves as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of *that same one* whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness? -Paul is making the suggestion that none of us is really “free” anyway (our autonomy & the idea of unlimited free will) is an illusion.

=We are all beholden to something or someone.... **1)** Our own flesh/sin nature **OR 2)** to Christ as His servant **3)?????** Not really a third option except complete disobedience to Jesus/flesh -AND Paul is arguing here that there is NO third option for the Believer. We are not to continue in sin that Christ’s grace would increase.

**17** But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to *that* form of teaching to which you were entrusted, **18** and after being freed from sin, you became slaves to righteousness. **19** I am speaking in human terms [simply analogy everyone can understand] because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented the parts of your body as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness, resulting in *further* lawlessness, so now **present your body’s parts as slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification.** [Your mind, mouth, hands, heart, your sexuality, your abilities, skills, capacity, your intelligence: your whole person]

-In **slavery**, a person is taken by force, subjugated, and compelled to obey by brutal violence.  
=**Choice is Obedience or death.** Paul compares our sin nature to slavery for a vivid image...

-**In Sin**, we are given to our sin nature and are **already** slaves to sin (in our depravity, we are not in control of our own body and we obey our lusts = we give into sin easily without conscience or conviction. **Sin own us.** = Consider the lost! (We should take pity on the lost & never be surprised when the lost act lost; **God's love/forgiveness/grace IS foolishness to them**).  
-1 Cor. 1:18 "For the word of the cross is folly/foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."

-**IN Christ**, we die to our old sin nature; we die to our slavery to sin; we die to having to sin and being helpless to stop sin in our life. With our OLD life of sin now dead, we can live in freedom, hope, and the daily power of God's Spirit who leads us to life/righteousness!!

-BUT...we are trading one master for another. **A.** Master is decay, rot, destruction, chaos, & death  
**B.** Master: beneficent, loving, gracious, perfect, All-good, endearing, forgiving, life-giving, & has your best interest in all ways at all times at heart. **Are you willing to trade Death for Life?**

<sup>20</sup> For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in relation to righteousness [=could not be righteous so you didn't care about righteousness/pleasing God]. <sup>21</sup> Therefore what benefit [spiritual fruit] were you then deriving [getting] from the things of which you are now ashamed? (Now that you are a Believer and know that old lifestyle as a slave to sin displeased God & brought only destruction and death in your life) **For the outcome of those things is death.** <sup>22</sup> But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive [get] your benefit [spiritual fruit], resulting in **sanctification**, and the outcome, **eternal life.** <sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin is death, but the gracious gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## APPLICATION

-Paul is helping us realize that the practical steps to DEFEATING SIN HABITS in our lives is to REMEMBER: 1) What has happened to us when we were saved/transformed =**Old life died:**

-2 Cor 5:17 "IF in Christ, they are new creation; OLD has passed away and new things have come"

2) Who we have now become as Believers in Christ; **We are UNITED w/ Jesus =ONE w/Him!!**  
=**we go where Jesus goes and Jesus is not & does not lead us into sin and temptation.**

\*Our identity is one who is ALIVE in Christ & NOT acting like I'm living in death; living in slavery  
-John 8:36 "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

3) What sin-crushing power is readily available to us; **resurrection power (death/life; sin/holy)**  
Eph. 3:16(NLT) "I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources He will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit."

4) Who is with us every step of the way in life & in temptation; **-Holy Spirit living w/in us!**

-Heb. 4:15 "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin."

1 Cor. 10:13 "No temptation has overtaken you except *something* common to mankind; and God is faithful, so He will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it."

5)What are we called to do until we go to heaven. = **To LIVE for God, holy, separate, useful, avail.**

-Col 1:9-11 "And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,10 so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;11 being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy;"