

Free From Slavery

Message 6

The Possibility of Freedom

Romans 6:1-23

Introduction

go to class if not required? papers? exams?

why do good if not required?

2 errors:

antinomianism – revel in licentiousness

legalism – prevent licentiousness

this is a key to spiritual growth

you won't live for Christ if you don't have a good reason to.

United With Christ

1st reason: we are 'dead to sin, alive to God' – thus makes no sense to live in sin.

'we were baptized into Christ' (done to us)

We died to sin. 2

Christ died for us as our substitute – He bore sin's penalty instead of us (ch 3);

and also as our representative – we get the credit for having died (ch 5).

“Paul is referring not to a death to the *power* of sin, but a death to its *guilt*.”¹

We were baptized into Christ's death and resurrection. 3

Water baptism

* signifies union w Christ

“... baptism does not by itself secure what it signifies.”²

Christ's death and resurrection applied to us – not a re-enactment.

Thus we get the credit for having died and risen.

Our old self was crucified with Christ. 6-7

something done to us.

ctr Gal. 5:24 “And those *who are* Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.” – something we do

v 7 “justified”, not “freed” – i.e. the penalty (i.e. death) has been paid.

We will live with Christ 8-10

We can't go back to the old life.

We must count ourselves dead to sin but alive to God. 11

We must accept and remember that our first life has ended. It died with Christ. We are now living a new life.

“Once we grasp this, that our old life has ended, with the score settled, the debt paid and the law satisfied,

¹ John Stott, *Romans, God's Good News for the World* (InterVarsity Press: Downers Grove, IL, 1994) p. 172.

² *Ibid.*, p. 173.

we shall want to have nothing more to do with it.”³

E.g. a married person living as single.

E.g. a prince living as a pauper

E.g. a citizen living as a slave

“So the major secret of holy living is in the mind.”⁴

Therefore, we must offer ourselves to God. 12-14

Since our first life is dead over and we are now living a new life, it makes no sense to live as before.

If you are under grace, it makes no sense to live under sin.

“Present yourselves to God” – it’s natural now to do good.

There *is* struggle against sin, but Christ won, so we simply get on His team.

Enslaved to God

2nd reason: we are ‘free from sin, enslaved to God’ – thus it’s treasonous to live in sin.

‘we turned from sin to God’ (we did it)

Surrender leads to slavery. 16

can’t serve two masters

Conversion is an exchange of slaveries. 17-23

different masters

different lives

different fruits

different rewards

Conclusion

Why go to class? Why write papers and take exams? Because you are a Lehigh student. You are becoming an engineer, or teacher, or doctor. Why live like a bum when that is not what you are?

Shall we keep sinning?

Remember who we are: united with Christ, slaves of God.

Must go through life reminding ourselves of this.

Our lives should be obviously different from unbelievers in all aspects. We used to live like them, but now we have entered an entirely new life. If you don’t get this, you will always be weak and struggling.

Why is this a problem? Sin is enticing. We forget that it leads to death. Maybe you even deny sin leads to death. We forget that life is better with God. We want the fun of sin, but the reward of righteousness, but as Jesus said, you cannot serve two masters. One will own you, and you will get the wages he offers – either death from sin, or life from God.

“...God’s grace not only forgives sins, but also delivers us from sinning. For grace does more than justify: it also sanctifies.”⁵

³ Ibid., p. 179.

⁴ Ibid., p. 180.

⁵ Ibid., p. 167.

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Are you thinking it's not that simple? Come next week.

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