

The Letter of St. Paul to the **ROMANS**



OPENING WORSHIP

To begin your Bible study, read together **Psalm 103**. The full and free forgiveness that we have received causes us to break out in song and praise.

INTRODUCTION

Salvation is a free gift. Does this mean that we can treat God's gift as trash? Does God's free grace become a license for loose and licentious living? Can we continue living in sin?

We used to be enslaved by sin. We've been set free from that slavery. But now we've been made slaves to another master: the righteousness that is ours through Jesus Christ.

A NEW MASTER

Read Romans 6:1-14 and consider:

Paul has just finished presenting God's grace and salvation as a free gift, accomplished by Jesus Christ and acquired by us through faith. He explains the peace that is ours and the strength that we enjoy in times of testing (Romans 3:21-5:21). Now he shifts gears to address those who might be tempted to take advantage of God's grace. Why can a Christian not continue living in sin? (See also **1 John 3:6**; **Hebrews 10:26**.)

What imagery does Paul evoke here with his reference to Holy Baptism?

How does Paul relate Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection to our daily walk with Christ?

Consider verse 14. How does Christ our Master dominate a Christian in the following areas:

In our thoughts? (See also **2 Corinthians 10:5**.)

In our words? (See also **Ephesians 4:29**.)

In our conduct? (See also **1 Corinthians 9:27**.)

Consider: The first of 95 theses that Martin Luther nailed to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg said, "When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ commanded, 'Repent!' he willed that the whole life of the believer be one of repentance." How does this thesis relate to this section of Scripture?

Read Romans 6:15-23.

What is your impression of the institution of slavery?

Describe what it's like to be enslaved by sin. Consider and discuss different aspects of slavery in sin and its consequences.

How does the term "*slavery to righteousness*" (v. 19) grab you? How is slavery to righteousness different from slavery to sin?

Compare slavery to sin vs. slavery to righteousness

	Slavery to sin	Slavery to righteousness
Who is the master?		
What is the motivator?		
What is the end consequence?		
How does it impact our behavior?		
How does it impact our decision-making?		

A person who is a slave does not belong to himself, and therefore he is not free to live only for himself. How does **1 Corinthians 6:19,20** fit with the concept of “*slavery to righteousness*”?

What does it mean for you that “*you have been set free from sin*”? (v. 22)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Read Romans 7:1-6. The purpose of these first verses is not to provide detailed instruction on marriage and adultery, but to illustrate something that Paul’s listeners already knew and understood: the law of obligation in marriage. A person cannot pursue another obligation until he is released from the first obligation. How does this relate to the larger discussion of slavery to sin or righteousness? (v. 4)

What is the difference between serving “*in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code*”? (v. 6)

For reflection: How will all of these concepts touch your life today:

Freedom in Christ

Freedom from sin

Slavery to righteousness

VERSE TO REMEMBER

Romans 6:1,2 *What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning, so that grace may increase? By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?*

For next time read Romans chapters 6 and 7.

Where do you have opportunities to let your light shine, as you live in righteousness?