

**Subject: *Servants of Righteousness***

**Scripture: *Romans 6:15-23***

Jesus said: “No man can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other or he will love the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon (riches).”  
Joshua said: “Choose you this day whom you will serve, but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” We are called to serve the Lord. But what exactly does that mean?

The Bible is many things: a book about God; a book about us; a book of God’s promises; a book of God’s commands; and it is a book that tells us who we are and what we are to be. You could say that the Bible is our resume and our job description. Christians are called to be “servants of righteousness.”

Being servants of righteousness is not very appealing to the world, but it is to Christians. It is who we are.

The Book of Romans describes who we are *before salvation* and who we are *after salvation*. This book tells us we are sinners by nature and by choice, but we can be saved or justified by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone.

At the end of Romans 5 Paul writes that where sin abounds, grace much more abounds. God’s grace is always greater than our sin. But even though that’s true, God’s grace is never a license to keep on sinning, thus Paul asks the questions in Romans 6:1 and 15 and proceeds to answer them. Paul is dealing with the Christian teaching of sanctification.

When we are justified God credits us with the perfect righteousness of Christ and does not count our sin against us any more. After we are justified we are sanctified. Being justified and being sanctified are not to be confused.

- *Justification* takes place at a moment in time
- *Sanctification* is a lifelong process

Justification and sanctification are not to be confused and they are not to be separated. If a person is truly justified, he will also be sanctified. Sanctification is not optional. In the last part of Romans 6, Paul tells us about our role as servants of righteousness.

### **1. Christians obey a new master (vs. 16)**

We are servants to the one we obey. We did obey sin that leads to death, but now we obey our new master (righteousness).

### **2. Christians have exchanged one master for another (vs. 17-18)**

Verse 17 describes our conversion experience. We were the servants of sin, but we have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine (teaching) that was delivered (given) to us. Verse 18 describes the results of our conversion to Christ. We were made free from sin and we became the servants of righteousness.

Jesus described the bondage of sin. See *John 8:31-36*.

### **3. Christians are obligated to our new master (vs. 19-21)**

Paul explains this in human terms that we can understand. Just as we served sin and yielded our bodies to one sin after another, so now we yield our bodies to righteousness and holiness. Sin is not who we are anymore. Sin is not who we belong to.

Before we were saved we were “free from righteousness.” But now we are willing servants of righteousness. We love what we once hated and we now hate what we once loved.

### **4. Christians will be rewarded by our new master (vs. 22-23)**

The old master sin pays the wages of death. Our new master gives us the gift of eternal life.

Our whole Christian life is all about righteousness.

It begins when we realize that righteousness is something we do not have.

**Romans 3:10** *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one.*

Then we turn from our unrighteousness and believe in Jesus for His righteousness.

**Romans 10:9-10**<sup>9</sup> *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.*<sup>10</sup> *For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

Then we begin to live as servants of righteousness (Romans 6).

We are members of God’s kingdom, a kingdom of righteousness.

**Romans 14:17** *For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.*

We are looking and longing for our eternal home, a place of eternal righteousness.

**2 Peter 3:13** *Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.*