

## **Rom. 6:20-23 (LD 1, Q/A 2) “Need to Know”**

**For the Children:** In Luke 17, the Lord Jesus heals 10 lepers. This was a picture of how the Lord heals our sin. But only one of the 10 was thankful. He responded by praising God. He remembered how bad his disease had been, how Jesus had made him well again, and so he responded with gratitude. That is a good summary of how our lives should be: we remember how bad our sin is, how only Jesus can provide a solution to it, and how to show gratitude. **Questions:** How can we show gratitude for the salvation we have from the Lord Jesus? Why is it important that we often hear about our sin? How did the Lord Jesus deal with our sin?

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### **Introduction:**

#### **First Point: The Need**

- 1) Slaves of Sin: Sin is like a cruel slave-owner. The natural man is under the power, guilt and condemnation associated with it. This state involves freedom from righteousness. But that “freedom” is a terrible bondage. It involves being an “enemy of righteousness” and therefore of God.
- 2) The Consequences: The consequences of this bad slavery include shame (v. 21) – though this is suppressed by the unbeliever. It also leads to death (physical, spiritual and eternal). This slavery brings “no benefit” to the sinner – literally, no (good) fruit.
- 3) Why We Need to Know This: We need to know this so that we seek the solution to it – and keep on seeking it, and being thankful for it. There is no comfort and joy in this bondage to Satan, but these things are found in the Lord.

#### **Second Point: The Solution**

- 1) The Free Gift of Christ: The solution to the problem of sin is found in being “enslaved” to God. But God is a kind Master, and His slaves enjoy great freedom, blessings and privileges. The “burden” of slavery to Him is light. It is called “slavery” not to suggest harshness, but to show the totality of the service we owe to God. This solution is found only “in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Only through Him and His work can we become slaves of God.
- 2) The Effect: What we have in Christ is a free gift, earned by Him – as opposed to the “wages” sinners earn for themselves, which is death. His gifts include freedom (from the guilt, power and condemnation of sin), eternal life; and the removal of our shame – which is replaced by great peace of mind. The Catechism refers to the “joy of this comfort.” These things are benefits (good fruit) that those in Christ receive.
- 3) Why We Need to Know This: We need to know of this solution to sin found in Christ, or we would have no comfort and joy – only despair. The super-abundance of the gifts the Lord gives create gratitude within us, especially in contrast to what our sin would otherwise deserve.

#### **Third Point: The Response**

- 1) Holy Service: It is implied that as slaves of righteousness, we should respond with holy living, service and obedience – sanctification is, after all, a result of being freed by Christ. When we call Christ our “Lord and Saviour,” this also implies both gratitude for salvation and submission to our Lord and King. This is something that should increase, as we learn more about our sin and Christ’s saving work. The apostle explains this to combat the idea that the believer doesn’t need to worry about ongoing sin (vss. 1, 15).
- 2) Why We Need to Know This: Ongoing sin can undermine our enjoyment of salvation, undermine assurance and make us lose sight of the comfort we receive from God. In the worst case, the absence of sanctification would mean that one does not know Christ and is not saved at all. Therefore, we need to respond to God’s grace in Christ by grateful obedience and service. We need to know from God that He requires this service and what it entails.

### **Conclusion:**