

## Your New Life

*Living the Christian Life, Lesson 6*

*Living the Christian Life* is a Bible study series that explores Paul's teaching about Christian growth and sanctification in Romans 6:1–8:17.

### Introductory Thoughts

After a lengthy discussion of the need for and basis of justification by grace through faith in Christ (i.e., salvation or conversion), Paul now explains how this same truth should transform our mindset and lifestyle as Christians (i.e., sanctification or Christian growth). The believer's close identification with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection places him or her in a new position. He is no longer a slave to sin but serves Jesus Christ instead.

### Passage: Romans 6:20-23

#### In English (NKJV)

- v.20 For when you were **slaves** of **sin**, you were **free** in regard to **righteousness**.
- v.21 What **fruit** did you have then in the things of which you are now **ashamed**? For the **end** of those things is **death**.
- v.22 But now having been **set free** from **sin**, and having become **slaves** of God, you have your **fruit** to **holiness**, and the **end**, **everlasting life**.
- v.23 For the **wages** of **sin** is **death**, but the **gift** of God is **eternal life** in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### Key Words and Insights

*Mounce's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old & New Testament Words* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2006) together with an interlinear Bible, like *The NKJV Greek English Interlinear New Testament* (Thomas Nelson, 1994) is an excellent way to get accurate definitions for your Bible study based upon Greek and Hebrew meanings.

*Slave, sin, free, righteousness, death, and holiness* are words already used in Rom 6, so we have already defined them in previous lessons. As you study this passage, you should review the meanings of these words even though they are not listed on this study guide.

- *Fruit* (καρπός):
- *Ashamed* (ἐπαισχύνομαι):
- *End* (τέλος):
- *Everlasting/eternal life* (αἰώνιος ζωή):
- *Wage* (ὀψώνιον):

- *Gift* (χάρισμα):

### **Questions for Meditation and Reflection**

1. What does it mean to be “free in regard to righteousness.”
2. What were the “things of which you are now ashamed?”
3. How is the end result of things “death?”
4. Explain what it means to be “free from sin.”
5. Explain what it means to be a “slave to God.”
6. How is holiness the “fruit” of living the Christian life God’s way?
7. We often quote Rom 6:23 when we are explaining the gospel to a nonbeliever. Yet Paul presents this verse in a discussion about sanctification (spiritual growth and Christian living), not evangelism (witnessing). What does this verse teach us about the Christian life?
8. How does Rom 6:23 answer the question Paul asked in this chapter (Rom 6:1, 15)?

### **Questions for Personal Application**

1. In what ways did your formal lifestyle and choices before salvation result in death?
2. In what ways are you becoming more like Christ and prioritizing God’s will as you live the Christian life God’s way?
3. How does experiencing eternal life “right now” influence the way you view your life?
4. What truth or question stands out to you from Romans 6?