

“By Grace Ye Are Slaves”
Romans 6:15-19

Introduction:

1. Please Turn Back With Me In Your Bibles:
 - To Romans 6 - Where:
 - We’ve Been Exploring:
 - One Of The Greatest Blessings:
 - Of Being A Christian!
 - And That Is - Freedom From Sin!
2. Even As We Saw Last Week:
 - Back In 6:14 - “For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace!”
 - When You Believe In Jesus Christ:
 - As Your Personal Savior From Sin:
 - He Translates You From One Kingdom - The Kingdom Of Darkness & Death:
 - To **His** Kingdom - Which Is A Kingdom Of Light & Life!
 - And All Of This Flows From:
 - The Amazing Grace Of God:
 - Which - Even Today:
 - Is A Refuge That Protects You From The Raging Storm Of Sin & The “Strength Of Sin” Which Is “The Law!” (1 Corinthians 15:56)
3. Well - As The Apostle Paul:
 - Did Earlier In This Chapter:
 - He Wants To Make Sure That:
 - We Understand What God’s Grace:
 - Is All About!
 - Because - If You Misunderstand:
 - The Life Of Grace:
 - It Means That You Will Miss Out On:
 - The Very Purpose Of The Gospel!
 - And So - To Prevent:
 - Any Misunderstanding:
 - He Adds - In 6:15 - “What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid!”
 - And So - With These Words:
 - Paul Wants You To Know That:
 - God’s Grace Is Not A Brace:
 - For Sin!
 - The Gospel Of God’s Grace Was Never Meant:
 - To Give You A License To Sin!
 - Even Though - I’ve Known Some:
 - Who Have Thought Of God’s Grace In This Way!
4. Yet - How Should We React?
 - As Paul Did!
 - “God Forbid!” - Or “May It Never Be!”
 - Even As He Did In 6:1-2 - “What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? / God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?”
 - God’s Grace Was Never Meant To Be:
 - Brace For Your Sin!
 - So - This Thought Should Never:
 - Be Thought Or Said Or Acted Upon By God’s People!
5. So Then:
 - What **Does** It Mean:
 - To Be “Under Grace?”
 - Well - It Means That:
 - Since You Are:
 - Free From Sin:
 - Your Old Master!
 - You Are Now:

- Free To Serve:
- Your New Master!

- And - The Illustration That Paul Uses:
- For Your New Service:
- Is That Of Slavery!

6. And So - Paul Continues:

- 6:15-19 - "What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid. / 16 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants/slaves to obey, his servants/slaves ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? / 17 But God be thanked, that ye were the servants/slaves of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. / 18 Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants/slaves of righteousness. / 19 I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants/slaves to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants/slaves to righteousness unto holiness!"

- When Paul Wrote These Words:

- He Wrote Then To A Church:

- In The Most Powerful City In The Western World At That Time:

- Rome - The Capital City Of A Vast Empire!

- But - Within The City Of Rome Itself:

- Anywhere From 30 - 40 Percent Of The Population:

- Were Slaves!

- And - Even Though There Were Different Kinds Of Slaves & Different Ways To Become A Slave:

- Sometimes Voluntary, But Most Of The Time Involuntary!

- Yet - Slavery Was Often Very Demeaning & Hard & Wrong!

- But - Even In The Church Of Rome:

- There Would Have Been Slaves:

- And These Words:

- Would Have Carried Special Meaning To Them!

7. Because - In Effect:

- Paul Is Saying To Them & To Us This Morning:

- "By Grace Ye Are Not Only Saved" - But:

- "By Grace Ye Are Slaves!"

- And So - **This** Is The Meaning Of Grace!

- And It Begins With:

1. ***A Principle To Ponder – About God's Grace!***

- A Principle To Ponder:

- Found In 6:16 - "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants/slaves to obey, his servants/slaves ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?"

- **IE:** In Roman Times - A Person Could Volunteer Themselves To Become A Slave! Now - We Might Think That To Be Preposterous Today! But Back Then, It Might Have Made The Difference Between Life & Death For Someone! Perhaps Someone Was Deep In Debt Or Was Unable To Make Ends Meet! So, They Might Give Up Their Personal Freedom, Even If It Was Just For A Limited Time!

- **IE:** Another Way Of Looking At This Is Through The Eyes Of The Roman Military, And Even Our Own! Our Nephew - When He Re-Joined The Navy - I Joked With Him That His Life & His Time No Longer Belongs To Him, But To Uncle Sam! But, In A Way, Military Service Is A Form Of Voluntary Servitude! As Paul Wrote These Words, Most, If Not All, Of Rome's Military Were Volunteer, Professional Soldiers - Who Committed Themselves For 20 Years Of Service!

- And So - Paul Wants Us To Think About:

- This Principle:

- Of Voluntary Servitude:

- And How It Involves A:

- Reporting For Duty!

- Whenever You Would Offer Yourself Up:

- To Be A Servant / Slave:

- You "Yielded" Yourself To Someone Else, And, In The Same Way:

- That We Saw In 6:13 - "Yield Yourselves!"
- It Meant That You Were Now:
 - Available:
 - To Your New Master:
 - To Do His Wishes! And:
 - You Were Now:
 - Accessible & Allegiant:
 - To Your New Master!
- In Effect - You Would "Report For Duty!"
 - **IE**: Remember In My High School Class - Three Brothers - After Graduation, Each Joined A Different Branch Of The Military! And Up Until They Enlisted, They Had The Choice Of Who They Would Serve! Interesting To Hear Why They Made Their Choice! Air Force - Easier Basic Training!
 - But - Once They Joined - It Also Involved:
- Reason For Duty!
 - And That Was - As We Find In 6:16:
 - For Obedience!
 - "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey!"
 - This Is The Expectation:
 - Of A Servant & Of Slave!
 - You Are No Longer Your Own!
 - Your Work Belongs To Another!
 - Your Time Belongs To Another!
 - Your Life Belongs To Another!
 - And That Becomes The:
- Reality Of Duty!
 - If You Present Yourself As A Servant:
 - You Become A Servant!
 - "His servants ye are to whom ye obey!"
 - This Is The Principle That Paul Wants To Get Across!
 - As Paul Describes It In Another Place:
 - "Ye Are Not Your Own!"
 - Where You Go!
 - What You Do!
 - Even - What You Eat!
 - Are Not Your Own Choices Any Longer!
 - This Was The Reality:
 - Of Roman Slaves In The Past:
 - And - This Is - To Some Extent:
 - The Reality Of Soldiers & Sailors Even Today!
 - But - This Same Principle:
 - Applies To The Spiritual World As Well!
 - So - You & I Need To Think About:
 - Just **Who** You Are Yielding Yourselves To Obey Today!
 - Because - That Will Reveal The:
- Results Of Duty!
 - 6:16 - "Whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?"
 - The Bible - And Even Jesus Himself:
 - Describes Your Spiritual Life:
 - In Terms Of Slavery & Servitude!
 - Every Person Is A Slave:
 - To Something & To Someone!
 - No One Is Truly:
 - "Independent" - Though We Might Like To Think That We Are!
 - But - The Difference Is:
 - Your Master!
 - If Sin Is Still Your Master:
 - And You Are Yielding Yourself To:
 - The Desires Of The Devil:

- The Inevitable Result Is:
 - Death!
 - **IE:** In WW2 - During The Height Of the Battle Of Stalingrad - Between Russia & Nazi Germany
 - The Life Expectancy Of A Russian Solder Was 24 Hours!
 - Their Master Was Harsh, The Battle Was Fierce, And The Inevitable Result Was Death!
- What A Hopeless Experience!
 - Yet - If Sin Is Still Your Master:
 - This Will Be All You Have To Look Forward To As Well!
- But - If You Yield Yourself To - As It Says Here:
 - The Master Of “Obedience” - Which Is:
 - Following After the Desires Of God:
 - With All Your Heart:
 - Then - The Inevitable Result Is:
 - Righteousness!
- And That Is A Hope-Filled Experience!
 - Because It All Flows From:
 - God’s Grace Through Faith!
- So - You Too Need To First Ponder This Principle:
 - This Morning!
 - 6:16 - “Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?”
 - So - Just Who Is Your Master?
 - Who Are You Yielding Yourself To Today?
 - Well - I Trust You Are Yielding Yourself:
 - To The Desires Of God - Because Then:
 - There Can Be:

2. ***A Praise To Proffer – For God’s Grace!***

- A Praise To Offer To The Lord:
 - 6:17-18 - “But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. / Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness!”
 - Here - Paul Offers Praise & Thanksgiving:
 - To God - For The Work Of His Grace:
 - In The Lives Of His People!
 - “But God Be Thanked!”
 - For Christians:
 - God’s Grace Was Not Given To You:
 - To Keep Following Sin:
 - But To Free You From:
 - The Bondage Of Sin!
 - And - We Need To Thank Him:
 - For All That He Has Done & Continues To Do:
 - For Us! Because - There’s Been:
- A Release By God’s Grace!
 - A Release From Sin!
 - “But God be thanked, that ye were the servants/slaves of sin!”
 - **IE:** Even In Our Sordid History Of Slavery, There Are Stories Of Slaves Being Set Free! Either By Their Masters, Or Even By Others Who Bought Them At The Slave Market In Order To Set Them Free! Imagine The Gratitude Of A Slave Set Free!
 - And - Christian:
 - This Is What Jesus Christ Came To Do For You!
 - To Release You & To Free You:
 - From Your Slavery To Sin!
 - And He Did So By Redeeming You:
 - With The Price Of His Own Precious Blood!
 - But - Even More - There’s Been:
- A Response To God’s Grace!
 - A Response To The Gospel!

- 6:17b - “But ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you!”
 - Or - The “Form Of Doctrine To Which You Were Delivered” - Passive Voice!
- **IE:** In Some Of The More Recent Wars & Conflicts - Militaries Have Bombarded Their Enemies With Weapons Called “Propaganda Bombs!” That Spew Out Offers Of Peace For Surrender! “Propaganda” Is Often A Negative Word - But It Simply Means The “Propagation” Of Some News Or Views! And In A Sense, The Gospel Of Jesus Christ Is God’s Own “Propaganda Bomb” That He Lobbed Into This World - To Offer Eternal Peace And Release For Surrender!
 - And - What Did You Do To Become A Christian:
 - As A Slave & A Servant Of Sin:
 - When You Heard The Gospel?
 - You “Obeyed From The Heart That Form Of Doctrine!”
- This Means That:
 - You Obeyed The Call Of God:
 - To “Believe On The Lord Jesus Christ!”
 - Now - This Call May Come To You:
 - In A Different Way & With Different Words:
 - As It Has For Christians Down Through History!
- But - The “Form” Of The “Doctrine” Is The Same!
 - As Paul Describes In 1 Corinthians 15:3-5 - “For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; / And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: / And that he was seen!”
 - And - When You Believed, You Obeyed!
- And You Obeyed “From The Heart!”
 - With A Heart Of Fullness:
 - Of Love - You Now Could Love Him:
 - Because He First Loved You!
 - With A Heart Of Fervency:
 - With A New Allegiance To Him:
 - As Your New Master! And:
 - With A Heart Of Faith!
- And All Of This Was:
 - According To & On Account Of:
 - God’s Grace!
 - Because - It Wasn’t Only That The Doctrine Of The Gospel Was:
 - “Delivered Unto You” As It Is Stated In The King James Translation!
 - But - It Was **You:**
 - That Was Delivered Over:
 - To The Doctrine Of The Gospel:
 - By God Himself!
- Its As If He Took You By The Hand:
 - And Led You To The Light:
 - That You Could Not See:
 - Because Of The Blindness:
 - Of Your Heart!
 - But Then - God Himself:
 - Opened Your Eyes!
 - And You Grasped Onto The Hand That Was Already Holding Yours!
 - You Responded With The Obedience Of Faith:
 - And Became Forever His!
- And Now - You Can & Should Give Praise & Thanks To God Along With Paul!
 - **IE:** Imagine What It Must Have Been Like For Those Boys Who - Back In 2018 - Were Trapped In That Cave In Thailand For 18 Days! They Were Led To The Light Of Day By Their Rescuers! You Could See Their Relief And Joy! Us Too!
 - But Even More - We Can Now Praise God For:
- A Repossession By God’s Grace!
 - 6:18 - “Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants/slaves of righteousness!”
 - **IE:** Having Worked In The Banking Industry For Some Years - Got Familiar With The Repossession Process - Interesting Stories! But - Because The Owner Or Buyer Stopped Making Payments - The Bank Took The Collateral Back!

- In A Similar Way - This Is What God Does For You - When You Turn To & Trust In The Lord Jesus As Your Savior!
- No Longer To You Belong:
 - To Sin:
 - As Your Master!
 - You Have Been Set Free!
 - But - At The Same Time:
- You Now Belong:
 - To Righteousness:
 - Which Is The Desire Of God For You:
 - As Your New Master!
- So - We See From This:
 - That There Is No Middle Ground:
 - For Any Person In This World!
 - Noone Is A Spiritual “Switzerland!”
 - You Are Either:
 - A Slave Of The Devil’s:
 - And To Sin - Or:
 - You Are A Slave:
 - Of God’s:
 - And To Righteousness!
- God Has - By His Grace:
 - Repossessed You:
 - And Now - You Belong To Him!
- Now - Even Though This Sounds & Seems:
 - Like A Harsh Way:
 - To Describe Your Relationship:
 - To God And His Ways Of Righteousness!
 - Yet - It Does Capture:
 - The Kind Of Devotion & Loyalty:
 - Submission & Obedience:
 - That God Deserves:
 - For Saving You!
 - And - Being A “Slave To Righteousness” Is:
 - A **Good** Kind Of Slavery!
 - Because - Being A Slave To Sin Is:
 - “Rigorous And Relentless, Leading To Death!”
 - Whereas - Being A Slave To God & His Righteousness:
 - Is “Joyous And Satisfying, Leading To Life And Peace!”
- Are You Praising God Today?
 - As The Apostle Paul Did?
 - “But God Be Thanked!”
 - O Thank Him For:
 - Your Release!
 - Your Redemption!
 - Your Repossession By The Lord!
 - And Then - As Paul As Already Described For Us:
 - In This Chapter - He Reiterates That There’s Still:

3. ***A Practice To Pursue – By God’s Grace!***

- The Same Practice That We Saw Back In 6:13:
 - “Yield Yourselves Unto God!”
 - Here - 6:19 - “I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness!”
 - Paul Wants You To Keep Yielding Yourself Unto God:
 - As His Slaves!
 - And So - Here - Paul Reminds Us Of:
- The Meaning Of Your Service!

- When He Says In 6:19:
 - “I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh!”
 - He Doesn’t Mean That He Is Not Speaking:
 - The Words Of God! Rather:
- He Is Describing The Nature Of Christian Service:
 - Using An Illustration:
 - That We Can Understand Better:
 - Because We Are Still Weak In Our Minds & In Our Flesh!
- And He’s Referring To:
 - The Illustration Of Slavery!
 - By Using This Illustration:
 - He Is Not Condoning:
 - Slavery!
 - Neither Is He Making Light Of:
 - The Conditions Of Slavery!
 - Instead - He Uses It To Drive His Point Home:
 - That When You Belong To God:
 - You Belong To Him:
 - Totally!
 - And That Involves:
 - Total Commitment:
 - To Him!
 - A Total Obligation:
 - To Him!
 - And - A Total Accountability:
 - To Him!
 - Just Like A Slave!
 - And So - Just Like A Slave:
 - Paul Wants To Also Remind You Of:
- The Manner Of Your Service!
 - “For as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity!”
 - When You Belong To & Served Sin:
 - You Did So Completely:
 - And With All Your Heart!
 - You See - Sinners Are Not:
 - Just Held Captive By Sin:
 - As If They Have No Choice!
 - No - Sinners Are Captivated By Sin:
 - And Render Themselves As Voluntary Slaves!
 - But - If You Are Now Saved:
 - Paul Doesn’t Want You To Think About:
 - What You Did:
 - When You Sinned!
 - He Wants You To Think About:
 - The Manner Of Your Service!
 - It Was Complete & Total!
 - 7:14 - “Sold Under Sin!”
 - Now - You Need To Be:
 - “Sold Under God!”
 - Which Leads To:
 - The Mission Of Your Service!
 - 6:19 - “Even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness!”
 - God Wants You!
 - All Of You!
 - To Yield Yourself:
 - And To Pursue After:
 - His “Righteousness Unto Holiness!”
 - And - He Wants You To Do This:
 - Without Delay - Every Day!

- Decisively!
- Deliberately!
- Because - God's Righteousness & Holiness:
 - For A Christian:
 - Is Still Worthy Of Your Pursuit!
 - Not Merely In:
 - A Passive Way:
 - As If It Will Come On Its Own!
 - But In:
 - An Active Way!
 - To Cultivate The Fruit That Is Grown Of The Spirit!
- Now - Even Though This Pursuit Of Righteousness:
 - Is Not A Saving Righteousness:
 - That Only Comes Through Christ:
 - And His Justification By Faith!
 - It Is A Sanctifying Righteousness:
 - That Will Continue To Grow & Lead To More & More Holiness:
 - In Your Character & In Your Conduct!
- Even As We Are Told In:
 - Hebrews 12:14 - "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord!"
- Are You Still Pursuing:
 - Righteousness & Holiness:
 - In Your Life As A Christian?
 - This Is What It Means:
 - To Be A Slave Of God:
 - Living Under The Grace Of God!

Conclusion:

1. To Be A Slave Of God & His Righteousness:
 - Is Not A Term Of:
 - Shame & Degradation:
 - As It Might Have Meant:
 - In Rome & Even In Our Own Early History As A Country!
 - No - Now It Is A Term:
 - Of Honor & Hope!
2. So Remember Today:
 - The Principle, The Praise, And The Practice:
 - That Comes About Because:
 - You Have Become A Slave To:
 - And A Servant Of:
 - The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - Remember:
 - It Is By God's Own Grace:
 - That Ye Are Now His Slaves!

- * Whose Slave Are You Today?
- * Do You Understand Why Paul Used Slavery As An Illustration Of Service?
- * Are You Totally Committed In Your Pursuit Of God & His Righteousness?

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