

“The Gift Of God”
Romans 6:20-23

Introduction:

1. In Matthew 6:24 - Jesus Said:
 - “No Man Can Serve Two Masters!”
 - Not Only Is This True:
 - In The Natural World:
 - In Which We Live:
 - It Is Also True:
 - In The Spiritual World!
2. And This Is Why:
 - In Romans 6:
 - Which Is Where We Will Return:
 - In Our Bibles This Morning:
 - Romans 6!
 - This Is Why - In Romans 6:
 - The Apostle Paul Describes:
 - Our Spiritual Relationships:
 - With Both Sin And With God:
 - In Terms Of Slavery & Even Voluntary Servitude!
 - But - You Cannot Be:
 - A Servant Or A Slave:
 - Of Both - At The Same Time!
 - You Are Either A Servant Of Sin **Or** You Are A Servant Of God And His Righteousness!
3. Well - In Romans:
 - The Primary Audience For Paul:
 - Are Christians:
 - Who Have Been Justified By Faith:
 - In Jesus Christ!
 - And That Is Why He Called On Them:
 - **And** - He Calls On Us:
 - At The End Of 6:19b - To - “Even so now yield your members servants/slaves to righteousness unto holiness!”
 - But - This Is A Different Kind Of Slavery & A Different Kind Of Service Entirely!
 - Because - When Jesus Called On Us:
 - To - “Take My Yoke Upon You” - In Matthew 11:
 - How Does He Describe His Yoke?
 - “For My Yoke Is Easy, And My Burden Is Light!”
4. Well - In The Last 4 Verses Of Romans 6:
 - Paul Wants You To Remember:
 - What It **Was** Like:
 - When You Were Living Under The Yoke Of Sin:
 - And - What It Now **Is** Like:
 - To Live Under The Yoke Of God!
 - And - Just How Much Better:
 - God’s Yoke Is!
 - 6:20-23 - “For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness. / What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death. / But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. / For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord!”
5. In Four These Verses:
 - Paul Compares The Only Two Kinds:
 - Of Spiritual Service There Can Be!
 - Because There Is Absolutely Noone In This World:
 - Who Is Independent:

- Of A Master!
- You Either Belong To:
 - Sin & The Devil - Or:
 - You Belong To:
 - God & His Righteousness!
- And So - Paul's First Focus Is On:

1. *The Service Of Sin!*

- In 6:20-21:
 - "For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness. / What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death!"
 - At The Beginning Of 6:20:
 - Paul Restates What He Says About Us:
 - Back In 6:17:
 - "Ye **Were** The Servants / Slaves Of Sin!"
 - Now - One Of The Reasons:
 - Paul Uses The Illustration & Description Of Slavery:
 - For Our Past Spiritual Condition:
 - Is Because The Roman Church Would Have Understood Slavery!
 - And - More Than Likely:
 - In That Church:
 - There Were Some Members:
 - Who **Were** Slaves!
 - But - There Would Probably Have Been:
 - Other Members:
 - Who Actually **Owned** Slaves!
 - But - With Slavery In Mind:
 - We Need To Remember:
 - What Our Past Service:
 - Was Like!
 - "Ye Were The Servants Of Sin!"
 - And - It Was A Very Sad & Shameful Condition!
 - Because - Paul Then Goes On To Describe:
 - The Freedom Of A Servant Of Sin!
 - Yes - As A Servant Of Sin:
 - You Were Free:
 - But - It Was A Sad Freedom Indeed:
 - Because - 6:20 - "Ye Were Free From Righteousness!"
 - I Think Paul Uses This Word:
 - "Free" - Because:
 - This Is What Sinners Often Think & Feel About Themselves!
 - That By Sinning, They Are Free!
 - **IE:** But - In Truth - Sinners Are Like Animals Born & Bred In A Zoo! They Know Nothing But The Confines Of Their Cage Or Enclosure! And - To Them - That's Their Life & Freedom - But In Reality - They Are There To Serve As Objects Of Interest And Intrigue To The Public!
 - And That Is The Truth About Sin As Well! **Sin Is Slavery!**
 - And - If There Is Any "Freedom" In Sin:
 - It Is A Freedom:
 - "**From** Righteousness!"
 - And - As We See From Other Parts Of Scripture:
 - Those Who Are Servants Of Sin:
 - Are Ignorant Of True Righteousness!
 - They Are - As **We** Once Were - Deceived!
 - Because - In A Sense:
 - **Sin Even Becomes A Sinner's Righteousness!**
 - Even As We Find Happening In Isaiah 5:20 - When People Start To "Call Evil Good, And Good Evil" - And - "Put Darkness For Light And Light For Darkness" - And "Put Bitter For Sweet And Sweet For Bitter!" - They Are Even Become - "Wise In Their Own

- Eyes, And Prudent In Their Own Sight!”
- What A Sad Condition:
 - For A Sinner To Be In!
 - And - You Need To Remember:
 - What Your Freedom Was Really Like:
 - When You Were A Servant Of Sin!
 - And Then:
 - 5:19 - Keep Yielding Yourself:
 - To God As His Servant:
 - “To Righteousness Unto Holiness!”
- But Then - Paul Describes:
- The Fruit Of A Servant Of Sin!
 - And He Asks Us A Question:
 - That We Are To Think About:
 - And Then Answer!
 - 5:21a - “What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed?”
 - For The Word “Fruit” - Other Translations Have:
 - “Benefit” - But The Greek Word:
 - *Is* Karpos - Fruit!
 - Because Sin Does Yield Fruit!
 - Remember What Paul Wrote:
 - In Galatians 6:7-8 - “Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. / For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting!”
 - There Is Fruit When You Sin:
 - Because - Sin Is Like The Seed Of A Weed:
 - That Is Sown Into The Ground!
 - But - What Kind Of “Fruit” Does Sin Produce?
 - Well - Typically - When You Plant A Fruit Tree - You Want Fruit:
 - That Is Abundant & Fresh & Sweet & Nourishing!
 - But - The Fruit Of Sin:
 - Is Always Rotten & Wilted & Sour & Poisonous!
 - Though Sin May Look Like:
 - The Fruit That Allured:
 - Eve & Adam In The Garden:
 - In That It Seemed “Good For Food” & “Pleasant To The Eyes!”
 - Yet Consider What The Fruit Was Really Like!
 - It May Have Been:
 - Sweet As Honey:
 - In Their Mouths!
 - But It Became:
 - Bitter:
 - In Their Bellies & To Their / Our Souls!
 - In Fact - Didn’t The Fruit Of Their Sin:
 - Lead To Their Shame?
 - What Was The First Thing They Did:
 - After They Ate Of That Forbidden Fruit?
 - Genesis 3:7-8 - They Hid!
 - They First Hid Themselves From Themselves - When They “Sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons!”
 - And They - They “Hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden!”
 - We Need To Remember:
 - That The “Pleasures Of Sin” Only Last:
 - For A “Season!” (Hebrews 11:25)
 - Because Then:
 - Your Sin Will Always:
 - Entice You Further!

- And Entrap You & Engulf You & Enslave You!
- This Is The True Fruit Of Sin!
- And - Its Fruit Can Be Identified:
 - By How You Now Feel About It As A Christian!
 - 6:21 - "Whereof Ye Are Now Ashamed?"
 - Have You Ever Wondered:
 - About Your Past:
 - How Could I Have Done That?
 - Why Did I Do That?
 - There Are Times In Our Lives - Even As Christians:
 - When We Should Reflect On Our Past!
 - And - Even Though You Are Free From The Guilt Of Your Sin:
 - You Are Not Entirely Free From Its Shame!
 - Because - True Shame Over Sin:
 - Is Like That "Godly Sorrow" That "Worketh Repentance To Salvation Not To Be Repented Of!" (2 Corinthians 7:10)
 - Shame For A Christian Should Always Humble You & Bring You Back To The Cross At Which You Kneled And Received Christ!
- But - What A Sad Condition:
 - For A Sinner To Be In!
 - And - You Need To Reflect On:
 - The Kind Of Fruit Your Sin Produced:
 - When You Were A Servant Of Sin!
 - "What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed?"
 - The Fruit Of Shame:
 - And Pain & Sorrow:
 - And Even More!
 - The Fruit Of Sin:
 - Can Be Seen In Its Effects:
 - On Your Body, Your Mind, Your Spirit, Your Will, And Your Very Soul!
 - There Is No Good Fruit:
 - In Sin!
 - So - Instead:
 - 5:19 - Keep Yielding Yourself:
 - To God As His Servant:
 - "To Righteousness Unto Holiness!"
 - Especially When You Realize:
 - The Finish Of A Servant Of Sin!
 - At The End Of 5:21 - "For The End Of Those Things Is Death!"
 - The Final Results:
 - Of Your Sin:
 - And - The Finish Line:
 - For The Sinner:
 - Is Always Death!
 - Physical, Spiritual & Eternal Death:
 - Separation From God:
 - Forever!
 - James Puts It This Way:
 - In James 1:13-15 - "Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: / But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. / Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death!"
 - So - Even Though:
 - God Designed Death:
 - As A Punishment For Sin:
 - The Devil Uses It:

- To Keep His Slaves Entrapped - Until:
 - They Are Finally Separated From Any Hope That God Offers!
- This Is What It's Like:
 - When You Are A Servant / Slave Of Sin!
 - This Is What It *Was* Like:
 - For You - If You Are A Christian!
 - Because - Paul Doesn't End Things Here!
 - He Does Want You To Remember & Reflect & Realize:
 - The Sad Condition:
 - Of Your Past!
 - But Now - He Wants You To See Just How Much Better Things Are, Since You Are Now In:

2. *The Service Of God!*

- 6:22 - "But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life!"
 - "**But Now**" - Paul Writes!
 - Oh That These Words Were True:
 - For All Of You Today!
 - "**But Now!**"
 - May The Description:
 - Of Your Service To Sin:
 - Be In The Past! And:
 - May The Description:
 - Of Your Service To God:
 - Be In The Present!
 - "**But Now!**"
 - How Can This Happen?
 - By Admitting That You Were:
 - A Willing Servant To Sin!
 - By Realizing That:
 - There Is Now Good Fruit In Your Sin! It Only Yields Shame & Separation From God!
 - By Believing The Gospel:
 - That Jesus Lived / Died / Rose From The Dead For You!
 - Call Upon Him! "God Be Merciful To Me A Sinner!"
 - Romans 10:10 - "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation!"
 - And Then - This "**But Now**" Will Apply To You!
 - No Longer Are You:
 - Servants Of Sin!
 - Because - **Now**:
 - You Have "Become Servants To God!"
 - And - With God As Your New & True Master:
 - Just Look At:
 - The Freedom Of A Servant Of God!
 - 6:22a - "But Now Being Made Free **From Sin!**"
 - This Is True Freedom!
 - This Is Real Liberty!
 - Sin Is No Longer Your Master!
 - Its Grasp On You:
 - Is Gone!
 - **IE**: You've Been Released From The Zoo Of Sin - And Have Been Given Freedom In The World Of God's Righteousness!
 - And Now You Can Live:
 - For God!
 - For His Glory! And:

- For His Goal!

- Remember This Morning:

- The True Freedom You Now Have:

- As A Servant Of God!

- Because:

- Along With Your Freedom:

- You Will Discover:

- The Fruit Of The Servant Of God!

- 6:22b - "Ye Have Your Fruit Unto Holiness!"

- As A Christian:

- Your Fruit Will Be:

- **Good** Fruit!

- Not Rotten - Like The Fruit Of Sin:

- But Fresh!

- Not Sour - Like The Fruit Of Sin:

- But Sweet!

- Not Poisonous - Like The Fruit Of Sin:

- But Nourishing!

- This Is The Kind Of Fruit:

- Promised By God To Those:

- Who Belong To Him!

- Psalm 1:1-3 - "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. / But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. / And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper!"

- This Is The Kind Of Fruit That Is Promised!

- This Is The Kind Of Fruit:

- That Is Produced By God:

- In And Through His Servants!

- Galatians 5:22-23 - "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, / Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law!"

- This Is The Kind Of Fruit That Is Produced!

- This Is The Kind Of Fruit:

- That Is Pleasing To God:

- John 15:8 - "Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples!"

- And - Now That You Belong To God:

- Not Only Will You Bear:

- This Kind Of Fruit:

- **You Are This Kind Of Fruit:**

- To The Lord!

- So That Now:

- You Can Bear Your Fruit:

- "Unto Holiness!"

- **IE:** Like A Tree That Blossoms In The Spring - To Be More Beautiful To The Eyes Of God - To Be More Plentiful With Your Fruit - And To Bring More Glory To The Branch That Bears You Up - The Lord Jesus - Who Is Your Vine!

- The Fruit Of The Servant Of God:

- Will Yield A "Harvest Of Holiness":

- That Reveals Just Who You Are!

- Is This What You Are Pursuing:

- With All Your Heart & Life Today?

- 6:19 - "Even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness!"

- Let This Fruit Be Your Quest!

- Especially When You Consider:

- The Finish Of The Servant Of God!

- 6:22c - “And The End Everlasting Life!”
 - This Is The Finish Line:
 - For The Servant Of God!
 - Keep This End:
 - In View!
- Because - This Is What It’s Like:
 - When You Are A Servant To God!
 - And We Need To Remember:
 - The Glorious Condition:
 - Of Our Present Occupation:
 - As God’s Slaves!

Conclusion:

1. And Then - We Come To:
 - Romans 6:23 - Which Is Likely:
 - A Verse You Have Memorized!
 - And If You Have:
 - It Is For Good Reason!
 - Because With This Verse:
 - Paul Provides A Summary Statement:
 - Of All That He Has Said Before:
 - But - Especially - Tying Together the “End” Results Of:
 - Serving Sin & Serving God!
 - “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord!”
2. You Need To Realize:
 - That When You Are A Servant Of Sin:
 - There Is A Payment:
 - For Your Sin!
 - There Is A Wage!
 - There Is A Just Recompense!
 - And - Even Though:
 - Your Sins May Take On Different Forms:
 - The Payment Is Always The Same:
 - It Is Death!
 - And - This Should Be No Surprise!
 - This Is What Sin Has Always Promised To Pay!
 - In Genesis 2:7 - God Said To Adam & Eve - “But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die!”
 - So Death Is The End:
 - Of The Sinners So-Called:
 - Freedom & Fruit!
 - This Is Your Finish Line!
 - 3. **“But!” (6:23)**
 - If You Are Now A Servant Of God’s:
 - There Is A Present:
 - And A Gift:
 - That God Has Reserved For You!
 - **“Eternal Life!”**
 - This Gift:
 - Is A Gracious Gift:
 - Because It Is Completely Undeserved!
 - This Gift:
 - Is A Generous Gift:
 - Because It Is Completely Unearned!
 - And - This Gift:
 - Is A Good Gift:
 - Because It Is Completely Provided:

- "Through Jesus Christ Our Lord!"

- Because Of:
 - The Mission Of Jesus:
 - To Rescue Us!
- Because He Is:
 - The Messiah - The Chosen One:
 - To Redeem Us!
- Now - You Have The Privilege:
 - To Claim & To Call Him:
 - Your Own Master - Your Lord:
 - And Serve Him With All Of Your Heart!

4. And - "Eternal Life" - Awaits You:

- In The End – As Your End!

- But Its Not Really An End, Is It?

- It's A Beginning!

- A Beginning To:

- A Never-Ending Life:

- In An Eternal Home!

- 2 Corinthians 5:1 - "We have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens!"

- A Beginning To:

- A Never-Ending Life:

- With An Eternal Happiness!

- Isaiah 35:10 - "And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away!"

- A Beginning To:

- A Never-Ending Life:

- With An Eternal Harmony!

- 2 Thessalonians 2:16 - Because - "Our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace!"

- And - A Beginning To:

- A Never-Ending Life:

- With An Eternal Holiness!

- Romans 6:22 - "But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life!"

5. What A Gift! What A Present!

- "The Sinner Who Has Fled To God In Christ For Refuge Receives the Most For The Least: Life Everlasting For Nothing!" (William Hendrickson)

- And If It Belongs To You Today:

- Won't You:

- 6:19 - "Even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness!"

* Who Is Your Master Today? Sin Or God?

* What Is The Fruit Of Your Service? Good Or Bad?

* What Do You Have To Look Forward To? Death Or Eternal Life?

* Are You Living For God Today?

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