

LESSON 14: ROMANS 6:16-7:25

Slaves of Righteousness

1. According to Paul, between what two masters must a person choose (v. 16)? What insights does he provide which help in making this choice? What benefits do people think they gain by self-serving actions? However, what is the real result for the person enslaved to sin?
2. In what ways is the Christian's relationship to God like slavery? In what ways is that relationship not like slavery? (See also John 15:15; and Romans 6:17, 22-23.) What do you think is the significance of Paul's use of the word "wholeheartedly" in verse 17?
3. Why does Paul speak of slavery to "obedience" (v. 16), to "righteousness" (v. 18-19), and to "God" (v. 22)? How are these kinds of slavery connected?
4. What is sanctification? How does it relate to these verses (vv. 15-23)? What do you think is the significance of Paul's noting "sanctification and its end, eternal life" (v. 22)? What would you say to the person who asked, "What is required to live a holy life?" Again, what is significant about Paul's contrasting the "wages of sin" vs. the "gift of God" (v. 23)?

Struggling with Sin

1. How is the principle "that the Law has authority over a man only as long as he lives" illustrated by marriage (v. 1-3)? What does Paul mean when he writes "that we may bear fruit for God" (v. 4)?
2. What effect did the Law have on behavior and holiness (v. 5)? How are "sinful passions aroused by the law" (v. 5)? Contrast this with the effects of your new life in Christ. How did the death mentioned in verse 4 deliver us from the power of sin? (Compare with Romans 6:6 and 7:5-6.)

3. What is the difference, practically-speaking, between “the old written code” and “the new life of the Spirit” (v. 6)?

4. What did the Law reveal about Paul’s life? What good purpose does the Law fulfill? What does Paul mean when he writes of “the commandment that promised life” (v. 10)? (See Leviticus 18:5; Ezekiel 20:11, 13, 21; and Luke 10:27-29.)

5. Explain the statement, “Apart from the Law, sin lies dead” (v. 8)? What point is Paul making in verses 7-11? How is it possible to be set free from subjection to the Law?

6. What conclusions does Paul make about the Law (v. 12)?

7. In chapter 6, Paul stated that Christians are no longer slaves to sin. Yet in verse 14, he claims that he is “sold under,” or a slave to “sin.” How can this seeming contradiction be explained? How does Paul describe the battle within?

8. Count the number of times the pronoun “I” appears in verses 14-23. What significance does this give to Paul’s words in verse 24? How can your anguish and frustration with sin be beneficial? What place might it have in conversion? Why is it significant that Paul says “who” and not “how” in verse 24?

9. How does Jesus Christ deliver you from punishment for your sin, and provide you with power that is greater than the power of sin? What truth in 7:14-25 seems most significant to you in your present circumstances?