

Monday, May 22, 2023 • Read Romans 6:20–23

Questions from the Scripture text: What had we been (v20)? Of what? And when we were slaves of sin, what was our relation to righteousness? What does v21 ask about? What does it call the works that we had done as slaves of sin? What is their end? But what is the believer's condition now (v22)? Of Whom have they become slaves instead? Now what kind of fruit do they have? With what end? How does sin result in what end (v23)? But what other end may we have? By what mechanism? Whose free gift? In Whom does the free gift come? What is He to us?

Why must Christians pursue righteousness? Romans 6:20–23 looks forward to the sermon in the midweek meeting. In these four verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **Christians must pursue righteousness because they have a new Master (Christ), who gives them new fruit (holiness), with a glorious new end (everlasting life).**

New master. we used to be slaves of sin (v20a). When we were slaves of sin, we didn't have to do anything righteous, because "master sin" never told us to do what is righteous. Now, we have been set free from sin (v22a). But we have a new master. We have become slaves of God (v22b). We are no longer free in regard to righteousness (v20b), because Master God always commands righteousness.

Sometimes, you may hear someone misuse the phrase "Christian liberty," which means liberty from the mere opinions of men to serve God alone as Master. Sometimes, people use the phrase to mean that they are free to interpret the Bible however they wish, and even free to live however they wish without being confronted, rebuked, or disciplined. But such freedom is that freedom "in regard to righteousness" that is a "freedom" only of the slaves of sin. If you are a true Christian, your new Master constantly commands you to do righteously, because He has already made you to be righteous in your standing and new nature. Christian liberty is the liberty to do righteously because your Master commands it.

New fruit. Why would a Christian want to go back to his former master? That's the gist of the question in v21. What was the fruit of what that master had commanded? In the short term, the fruit of sin seemed desirable, but now that we have been delivered from bondage, we are ashamed of what we used to do. Its fruit was shame, humiliation, disgrace. But the new ways of our new Master have brought new fruit: holiness (v22). Consecration to God. Transformation into a condition in which we actually find Him and His presence enjoyable.

New end. The stench of the rotting fruit of sin transmitted where that sin was taking us: death. Death is the end of the things that master sin commanded (v21b). But eternal life, not death, is the end of being under Master God or doing the righteousness that He commands (v22b). And there is a difference between how each master produces the end of the slave. Sin paid out death as a wage. God gives eternal life as a free gift. How can this be? How can He give us such a gift for free? Because it has been merited and purchased by another: Christ Jesus. In union with Him, everlasting life is a free gift. Therefore, we love the life that we have in union with Him: a life of living righteously.

Who is your master? What does he want you to do? What fruit can you expect from doing these things? What end is this taking you to? How does this encourage you in doing righteousness?

Sample prayer: Lord, we thank You for purchasing us out from under our old slavery. And we thank You all the more for taking us to Yourself as a good Master, who have given us to live in a way that produces holiness and ends in everlasting life. We thank You most of all for doing this by way of union with Christ Jesus, Your Son, our Lord. In His Name, we ask to walk as those who are Your slaves for righteousness, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP32AB "What Blessedness" or TPH466 "My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Roman 6, verses 20 through 23. These are God's words. For, when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. What fruit did you have, then and the things of which you are now ashamed, For the end of those things, is death. But now having been set free from sin.

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 four. The wages of sin has death. But the gift of god is eternal life. In christ jesus, our lord. So far the reading of godson's part.

I did errant word. Last week's portion ended in verse 19 with a command. To present every aspect of who we are as slaves. Of righteousness and to holiness. This new slavery that we have been. Brought into. Um, with the wonderful fruit that it produces. Which is holiness. And yet.

There are some, there may be some who Uh, with in the remaining sinfulness. I think that. Uh, being able to sin more. Uh, sounds good to them. And so, what the apostle does now, with the spirit does now, and these four verses As he compares our condition from before.

Uh, being united to christ by faith. And being justified through faith in jesus christ to our condition. Now that we are United to christ by faith. And he urges us to consider. The blessedness of our new master, our new fruit, and our new end. First then. Our new master, we have a new master he says when you were slaves of sin, You are free in regard to righteousness.

You never did anything righteous when you're a slave of sin, why? Because master sin never told you to do righteousness. And so you are completely free from righteousness. But you have a new master and that master is really master. God, not just master righteousness, verse 22. Now, having been set free from sin and having become slaves of god.

Now, we are no longer free from righteousness. We are free for Righteousness, we've been freed from slavery to sin. And our slavery to god, is what we would have considered freedom before. To or ought to have considered freedom before. To be. Righteous. Thank god, we have A new master now, there are There are those who do not like to think of god as master and those who do not like to think of righteousness as freedom.

And those who don't like to think of god as their master. Or righteousness is freedom. Are just showing that they are still under master sin. They haven't come. Uh, the new master, sometimes you'll even hear people. Use a phrase, christian liberty or misuse of the phrase, christian liberty. The phrase, christian liberty is one that we use to talk about the doctrine that got alone is the lord of the conscience.

And that we are free from the opinions of men. So that we may be holy. Devoted to serving our lord, our master Um, the lord jesus christ. For instance, christian liberty is why, the church must not Uh, observed man-made, holy days because if it does, it forces upon Uh, many in the congregation that which comes from an opinion of men.

It's not a command of god And so, the church must not practice. Anything that god has not commanded because it impinges upon the christian liberty of the congregation. But there are some people who use christian liberty to say you should let me do whatever i want. Don't instruct me from the bible.

Don't correct me from the bible, don't rebuke me from the bible and certainly don't discipline me according to the bible. But this is not liberty at all. Christian liberty is not liberty to do what we feel like or liberty to sin. It is liberty from our former master mastercid.

That is liberty for. Righteousness, under our new master, Master gods, we have a new master Huh, we recognize and rejoice over the fact that our master now. There's such a better master and we are glad to serve him and present our members present every aspect of who we are.

As slaves of righteousness unto the holiness. Next thing that this message tells us that we have is not just that we have a new master but new fruit He asked the question, what fruits did you have? Then when you were a slave of sin? And the things of which you are now ashamed, Why it would a Christian wants to go back to his former master?

And have that rotten fruit. When you are a slave of sin, perhaps you thought. That. The things that you did were enjoyable. Uh, but you recognized once they were done, especially you recognized once you came into the life of christ. That that was not something enjoyable. That was. Uh, rotten and corrupt and foul.

You look at At the results of what you have done. In your sin. And you are ashamed of it disgraced humiliate. Can't believe i would give my life. Uh, to doing that. And so that's the fruit that slavery of sin. Produces in the short term. It may seem desirable.

But now that we have been delivered from our bondage to sin. We're ashamed of what we used to do. And we realize that it's fruit it's what has lasted from it or come from, it is humiliation and disgrace. But there is new fruit. Now, in our new life, When he asks, the what fruit question and verse 21.

There's a parallel. In verse 22, when he says having becomes slaves of god, you have your fruit unto holiness, The fruit of being a slave of god, the fruit of walking in righteousness as you become more and more, holy And the bible, we know that this holiness is Uh, what makes us fit for heaven?

We are enabled. Uh, to Find god himself and god's presence. Enjoyable. An unholy person does not enjoy the presence of god. He hates the light because his deeds are evil. But the righteous person, the holy person loves the presence of god. In fact, he loves light rather than darkness, that may be seen that his deeds are done and got Without holiness, we cannot see the lord.

If we are going to see him as he is then we will be liking. We remember those things. From john 3 and Hebrews 12. And first, john three, And so, this is the fruit now of obeying god. They're being God does not easy. There's a great battle with remaining sin with remaining fleshlyness.

But it is fruitful and it's fruit is pleasant. The more we obey, the more we enjoy coming before him. Oh, how we dread sometimes, this is one great. Um, Detriment of remaining sin. Because if we've been sinning, we are slow to come and pray and read. We don't like To participate in the family worship, or the public worship.

If we have unrepented of sin before, god Uh, we cannot abide his presence and how much more When we think about, Uh, the immediate and intense glorious presence of god and what we often. With the scripture referred to, as heaven. And so, the new ways of our new master, have brought this new fruit.

Holiness. Consecration to god. Transformation into a condition. In which we actually find him and his presence enjoyable. A great motivation to. Present, every aspect of who you are as a slave of righteousness. Because it produces the fruit of holiness. Well, not only do we have a new master Um, who in who commands us?

In. Ways or onto things that produce new fruit, but this new fruit comes to us Along the way to a new destination or an u-end. Uh, you remember. And, or you look at verse 21, And the fruit. Uh, that we had of those things of which we are now ashamed.

And the end of those things was like it's fruit, you could smell the end coming. By looking at the results in life of sin sin brings misery, Sin destroys relationships and destroys us physically sin destroys us mentally. That never delivers on its promise of pleasantness. Indeed. If we pay attention.

We can see and smell and detect in sin. The foreshadowing, the forerunner. Of what its end is, it ends in death? So verse 21 concludes the end of those things. Is death. Verse 23 tells us the wages of sin is death. That is where we were going like, pilgrim.

Before he comes to faith in jesus christ. As in the city of destruction, there's a road. That leads to destruction the the way of sin, but then, there is the high. Way of holiness that leads. Uh, not to death but everlasting life. We have a new end. He says verse 22.

Having become slaves of god, you have your fruit unto holiness. And the end everlasting life. And so the new path, our new master has put us on and which we enjoy the new fruit. That we in that we produce on this new path, as we walk it, it has a destination to.

It has a terminal And determinates in everlasting life. You have your fruit to holiness in the end everlasting life. So on the one hand, their sin, which leads to death, And slavery to on the other hand slavery to god. Which leads to everlasting life. So sin, as a master will pay you a wage.

But the wage isn't pleasure, like you thought. The wages death and it is even the second death everlasting death, the lake of fire. Prepared for the devil and his angels. God however, doesn't pay us a h. Because what god wishes to give those who are in slavery to him.

Is higher and better and greater than they could ever earn. And so, the everlasting life that he gives us. There's not given to us as a wage. It's given as a free gift. It has been earned by another. Jesus christ. His son. The one who by right? Uh, all of the blessedness of god belongs to him.

He is the heir. It is his by right, but it is also As all representative now, His by merit. He has merited. He has earned. He has one The blessedness of god himself. For all those who are in him. And so there are those two destinations and verse 23.

Just as the destinations were first mentioned at the end of verse 21 for sin death, the end of verse 22 for Um, For being a slave of god, everlasting life. But when verse 23 sets, these two destinations next to one another, We find that there's a great difference in how How the master brings us into them.

Send send gives us what we deserve, what we've learned. And serving it. And that is that But god has master. Doesn't pay us a wage. He gives us the free gift. That has been earned and is commensurate with has a value corresponding to Christ jesus, our lord. Those everlasting life.

That's the third, great reason, isn't it? To present every aspect of who we are. Everything we have our time. Oh, all of our abilities, all that we are. As slaves of righteousness on the holiness. Because we have a new master and here's a better master. He is worthy of serving.

And he's put us on a path and gives us commands. Gives us tasks that produce new fruit. Fruit. That is holiness fruit that makes it pleasant to be in the presence of god. Fruit that fits us suits us, prepares us. For the blessedness of heaven. Onto a new end.

The end of everlasting life and everlasting life. That is so great. That it was unearnable by us. It is rightly Jesus Christ's. But go out our new master has put us into him. And gives us that end as a free gift, won't you? Present yourself as a slave. Of god.

For righteousness. Amen, let's pray. Thank you, father for this portion of your word. And how it speaks to us. So plainly To persuade us. Oh lord, we should not need any persuading but we thank you for your patience with us. And you're willingness to do everything for us to give us every advantage.

And help. That we That we might have in order. To present ourselves unto you a slaves were righteousness. Prepared lord that indeed we would that your spirit would write the truth of this. On our hearts that we would delight. That you are in your master that we would. Marvel at and enjoy the goodness of the fruit.

Of the life into which you have brought us and that we would look forward to our end. Which is in Jesus Christ. We asked us in his name, amen.