

Slaves to Righteousness

For Paul, the event of Baptism has brought about a total change in our lives. Our alliances have shifted, therefore, to continue to indulge in our past sins are not in accord with our new vocation and life.

Vs. 12-14 – The end of Sin’s reign

Sin is more of a power or energy that creates in us all types of evil desires and wickedness. Those evil desires become what defines us, i.e. Adulterer, thief, liar, murderer, gossip, etc. But a change has occurred, at Baptism!!.

Vs. 12. Our mortal bodies must be put to death, cf. Rom. 8:13.

Our mortal body, include all of our limbs, but as well our thoughts, emotions, imagination. We must not offer them to sin, rather, to God. Vs. 13

“righteousness”, go back to Rom. 6:3-7 and contrasts the wickedness mentioned before. “Present”, as in Rom. 12:1

Vs. 14 goes back to Rom. 5:20-21. When the Law reigned, sin reigned, but the law has now been surpassed by Grace, and it brings eternal life through Christ, cf. vs. 23 and 5:21. The Law is part of Adam’s world. Christians wanting to go back to the Law, Paul doesn’t understand that. We are not under the law, cf. Gal. 3:23; 5:18. We are justified by faith Rom. 3:28.

God's righteousness is not revealed in the law, Rom. 3:21; Phil. 3:19.

Vs. 15-19 Slavery and Freedom

Not being under the Law, does not mean that we are free to do what we please. We follow the Law of Christ, cf. Gal. 6:2. (Carry each other's burden). Paul has already told us what our end will be if we persist in our life of sin, Rom. 2:5-11.

Vs. 15. This question, if following Jesus means that we promote sin, seems to be a recurring question, cf. Gal. 2:17.

Vs. 16. Obedience, cf. Rom. 5:19.

Vs. 17. "Heart", not an outwardly observance, cf. Rom. 2:25-28, specifically vss. 28-29. Our problems come from an unregenerate heart, cf. Rom. 1:21, 24. We have been given a new heart, Deut. 30:6; Ezek. 36:26.

Vs. 18. Exodus theme.

Vs. 19. Paul is careful how he frames the question. 40% of Roman population was under slavery. Same caveat seen on Rom. 3:5, I Cor. 9:8, Gal. 3:5. Holiness denotes a process rather than a state.

Vs. 20-23. The Gift of eternal life.

Vs. 20, we were slaves, and cannot serve two masters, cf. Mat. 6:24; Lk. 16:13. Sin controlled us, righteousness does now.

Vs. 21. Sin and death, one brings the other. Sin is the fruit (karpon) that brings death.

Vs. 22. Recap of previous verse.

Vs. 23. Wages of sin, our master paid us according to our deeds, but because he owed us that, but God gives us a gift, that we didn't deserve or asked, eternal life, in Christ Jesus, ONLY through him. Cf. Rom. 5:23.