

The Book of Romans

The Gospel of God

Why use the image of slavery?

1. This analogy is necessary because of our natural weakness in understanding these realities
2. It vividly communicates the total belongingness and obedience to sin on the one hand and righteousness on the other

¹⁵What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? May it never be!

¹⁶Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?

¹⁷But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were handed over,

¹⁸and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

(I am speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh).

¹⁹For just as you presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness, resulting in *further* lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification.

²⁰For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness.

²¹Therefore what benefit were you then deriving from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the outcome of those things is death.

²²But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life.

²³For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

(Romans 6:15-23)

Slaves of Righteousness

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Slaves of Righteousness

1. Who we were (*freedom that was slavery*)

- we were completely under the rule of sin ("slaves")
- we were "free" from the power and influence of righteousness – incapable of obeying (cf. 8:7-8)
- we produced shameful deeds (impurity/lawlessness) which result in death

Slaves of Righteousness

2. Who we are (*slavery that is freedom*)

- we are freed from slavery to sin and enslaved to God/righteousness
- we produce fruit that leads to holiness, and the outcome is eternal life

Slaves of Righteousness

3. What we must do

- we must offer our natural faculties in service to righteousness with the same dedication that we once offered them in service to sin
- this leads to living that is increasingly God-centered and world-renouncing (true freedom!)

Slaves of Righteousness

➤ Logic of Romans 6:

- having been freed from sin, we must constantly fight against sin
- only those who have been freed from sin can now fight against it