

2. What does Paul do as he remembers what the grace of God has already accomplished in the believers' lives? v. 17
 - a. What is every believer's condition before he or she responds to the gospel?
 - b. Upon hearing God's Word, how do true believers respond?

To *obey from the heart* means literally, *wholeheartedly*, or *out from the heart—inwardly* and *genuinely*. Those who hear God's Word and believe it in their hearts, commit themselves to obeying the truths in Scripture.

3. Once free from sin, what do believers become? v. 18

In verse 19, Paul tells his readers, "*I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh.*" He must have had a little twinge using the analogy of slavery when speaking of Christianity because God does not put His children in bondage, but Paul needed an illustration they would readily perceive. Once again Paul reiterates his point that before becoming Christians, they had voluntarily turned themselves over to be slaves to sin. But now they were to offer themselves as *slaves of righteousness to holiness*.

Selah . . .

It is possible to be a slave to sin and not realize it. Think for a moment about what held you captive before you came to Christ. Was it a *thing*—or possession; was it some form of bad *habit*? Paul says you obey the thing which enslaves you. What affect did this have over your life?

Once out from under the authority of sin, believers are not to allow themselves to fall back under sin's control. F.F. Bruce said, "To make being under grace an excuse for sinning is a sign that one is not really under grace at all."

- ❖ Personal: Now that you're a believer in Christ, are you still allowing something that is bad for you to hold you in its control? Would you acknowledge it here, confess it before God, and ask for His forgiveness and cleansing today? Then obey Him in the next thing (no matter how small) He asks you to do.

Memory Verse: “Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one’s slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?” Romans 6:16

Word Wealth:

Using the resources you have on hand (i.e., additional Bible translations, dictionary, Bible dictionary, concordance, etc.), write a definition for the words below.

slave (6:16–18; 20, 22) _____

obey (6:16–17) _____

fruit (6:22) _____

wages (6:23) _____

You are free to choose which master you will serve; you are, however, not free from the consequences of that choice.

Romans 6:20–23 Enslaved to Righteousness

Paul has presented his readers with two types of slavery, one which leads to unrighteousness and death, and one which leads to righteousness and eternal life! In the end all of us fall into one category or the other. In the closing verses of chapter 6, Paul speaks of the fruit of both types.

Read Romans 6:20–23.

Paul causes us to pause and consider who and what we were before becoming believers and to contrast this with our lives since we accepted Christ. He states that when we were slaves to sin, we were free from the control of righteousness, but the end was death! On the other hand, when we died to sin and became *enslaved to God*, we were free from the control of sin and the result is righteousness that leads to eternal life.

1. Share a personal example of the *fruit* of a sinful life. v. 21

2. Now share a personal example of the *fruit* of a holy life. v. 22

For Group Discussion . . .

In John 15:16, Jesus said: “*You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.*”

- According to the above verse, for what purpose did Jesus choose *you*?

- What do you think He meant by the words, “*that your fruit should remain?*”

- ❖ In Galatians 5:22–23, Paul lists the *fruit of the Spirit*. Write these below in the space provided. Go back over the list and highlight the fruit that is currently evident in your life.

Did you realize that Jesus chose and appointed *you* for the purpose of *fruit bearing*? Go ahead and ask Him for the fruit you long most to exhibit to others and note it here. Trust Him for the answer and allow Him to work in your circumstances to bring it about.

Remind yourself often in the coming weeks to *remember who you are!* Remember too that *the wages of sin is death*—these wages can be earned—but eternal life is God’s gift to you. It is a free gift but it cost Him everything! Will you let your life your life exhibit your praise?

My Romans Road

Listen . . . Learn . . . Live . . . God's Truth!

Take a look back at this week's lesson. Briefly recap what you learned this week and how you intend to live it out.

1. What lesson in your study became real to you this week?

2. How do you intend to apply this lesson to your daily life?

Memory Verse:

Write down what you learned about God from this week's memory verse.

Write out the verse from memory.

Prayer Request:

Write out your most earnest prayer request and lift it to the Lord.
