

# Romans 6: Battle Sin and Win!

## Romans 6:19-23

### **Romans 6:19**

*(KJV) I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.*

*(NIV) I am using an example from everyday life because of your human limitations. Just as you used to offer yourselves as slaves to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer yourselves as slaves to righteousness leading to holiness.*

Just as Jesus employed parables in order to connect and relate to his audience, Paul here calls to mind the word picture of servants and slaves. As believers we should never hover high above those we are witnessing, teaching or preaching to. When Jesus washed His disciples' feet, the matter was settled then and there that we are each first humble servants of the Most High God—and secondly servants of one another. Listen to what Jesus said after washing each of His disciples' feet:

### **John 13:13-17**

*Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you. Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him. If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.*

With that image of a slave and servant in their minds, Paul's Roman audience would know exactly the important point he was about to make—you are servant to whomever or whatever you obey. Sin made demands of us that, as unbelievers, we had to carry out. At that time as children of disobedience, there were no alternatives. Now we are filled with the Holy Spirit and, being recipients of God's grace, we can say no to sin:

### **Titus 2:11-12**

*For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world*

Thankfully, God has clearly delineated the difference between flesh and spirit, and set them against each other, so that in every moment of every day we can choose—by the power of His Spirit—to obey Him. Galatians 5:16-17 elaborates:

### **Galatians 5:16-17**

*This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.*

**\*QUESTION FOR MEDITATION:** In your walk with God, are there any gray areas in which the line between flesh and spirit is not so clear? How have you dealt with these areas in the past? How will you deal with them now?

**\*STUDY POINT:** Conduct a personal Bible study looking at two passages in the Old Testament and two passages in the New Testament that illustrate how God deals with sin in our camps—then versus now. Be sure to write out Scripture references.

Romans 6:19 presents Paul as a spiritual coach, giving strategy in understandable terms to his team. He wants them to reason his words out. And because he loves them dearly, he wants them to understand the point he is about to make: with the same time, energy, and resources you used to invest in ever-increasing sin, now invest in practical righteousness leading to holiness. No wonder Paul wanted his audience to understand. This is a power-packed exhortation from the Holy Ghost!

### **Romans 6:20**

*(KJV) For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness.*

*(NIV) When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness.*

We were free, alright. Free to destroy ourselves and those around us with our sin! Continuing with this servant/slave word picture, Paul makes the point that pre-Christ we served sin and were therefore free from bondage to our Creator God. This freedom is celebrated every day by most of the world—those who believe there is no God, and therefore no accountability for sin:

### **Psalm 14:1**

*To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David. The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good.*

The spiritually blind simply cannot see their need to serve a different master—the person of the Holy Ghost must do His work:

### **John 6:44**

*No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.*

### **John 16:8**

*And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:*

After Paul reminds his readers of the master of sin they used to serve, he points out that sin produces bad fruit. You and I know just what he means—the trail of destruction left behind a life of sin unchecked is palpable, even pathetic. And given the sin nature we were all born into, we all—to some extent—have to live with the physical, emotional, and spiritual consequences of sin. In the next verse, Paul challenges the believers with a question:

**Romans 6:21**

*(KJV) What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death.*

*(NIV) What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death!*

So, the fruit of sin is shame, and then at the end—death. Perhaps Paul is presenting a reality check to his readers here: is sin really worth it?

**Romans 6:22**

*(KJV) But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.*

*(NIV) But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life.*

But now. Our present-day reality as believers—following up from Paul's earlier oft-repeated point that we are dead to sin—is that Jesus is our new master. We are now in bondage to Him, and the fruit that we produce by being connected to Him is “holiness, and the end everlasting life.” Beloved, please note that our bondage to sin—and by extension Satan—was a tormenting, abusive alliance that could only end in death. The reason we never saw anything wrong with sin was, quite simply, everyone around us was doing it:

**Proverbs 14:12**

*There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.*

The world around us serves only its master—sin. In 1 John, John exhorts believers not to love this sinful, sensual world system:

**1John 2:15-17**

*Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.*

Bondage to God and His Son Jesus Christ is a win-win situation: abundant life and love while we are here on earth, and life eternal with God our Father forever and ever! Also, our relationship with God through Jesus is not one of slavish adherence, but of intimacy and friendship:

**John 15:15-16**

*I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that*

*you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.*

Ultimately, friends, the best reason to want to bear good fruit is that we glorify God through it:

***John 15:8***

*Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.*

***Romans 6:23***

*(KJV) For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*(NIV) For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

This powerful verse—a mile on the Romans Road—teaches us that if we choose sin as our master, we can count on getting paid a wage, sooner or later, and that wage is death. We very definitely deserve and have earned it!

But the gift of God is eternal through Jesus Christ our Lord. How great is this? Salvation is a gift from God that we freely receive—a gift that pays glorious, eternal dividends! I've made my choice which master I want to serve—Jesus—and I pray you have made the same decision to accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour of your life.

And beloved, that is the non-secret of battling sin and winning! We have to know and understand God's Word, reckon it to be non-negotiable reality in our hearts and lives, and then yield to the truth through our every lives!

Amen.

~ Reverend Darren McClelland