

## The Christian's Necessary Pursuit of Holiness (Sanctification)

### Part 2

#### Romans 6:15-23

#### Introduction

1. The theme of the passage is, slavery (Rom.6:16,17,18,19,20,22)
  2. Slavery is used by Paul to demonstrate the radical nature of being "apart/separated from Christ," or being "in Christ"
  3. The structure of the passage is one of contrast (Rom.6:16; Matt.25:31ff; 6:24)
    1. We are slaves to sin,
    - Or,
    2. We are slaves of Christ
  4. By nature we were all in bondage (slavery) to sin (6:17,18,19,20,22). See too (Jn.8:43-44; Gal.4:8; 2Cor.4:4; Col.1:13. See too Eph.2:1-3; 4:17-19; Col.1:21; 2:13; Titus 3:3)
  5. What are the consequences of pursuing the world's so-called, "freedom"? (6:16,17,18,19,20,21,22,23)
    1. The world's lifestyle is, "Free from the control of righteousness" (6:20)
    2. The world's lifestyle is, spiritual bondage (6:16,17,19,20)
    3. The world's lifestyle is that of shame (6:21)
    4. The world's lifestyle is slavery to impurity, and ever-increasing wickedness (6:19)
    5. The world's lifestyle is, fruitlessness (6:21)
    6. The world's lifestyle results in death (6:16,21,23) (Physical and spiritual)
  6. How can we be delivered from slavery to sin? (Rom.6:17,18,22,23; See too Col.1:13-14, 21-22; Eph.2:4-5)
    1. We cannot free ourselves from slavery to sin, by our own efforts
    2. Only God can make spiritual slaves free (Rom.6:17,18,22,23. See too Eph.2:4-5)
    3. How does God make the spiritual slaves free? (6:23)
      1. Spiritual freedom/life is a gift from God (6:23) (all of grace)
      2. The gift is bestowed only because of the Person and representative work of Christ (6:23)
- 1. What are Christians to learn about this new freedom and transformation? (6:17,18,22)**
1. Christian transformation is radical and sincere (6:17)
  2. Christian transformation is in accordance with apostolic truth (6:17; 1Cor.3:11; 4:1; 11:2; 11:23; 15:3; Eph.2:20; Phil.3:17; 1Thess.2:4; 1Tim.1:11; 2Tim.1:13,14; Jude 3; Acts 2:42)
- Acts 2:42** tells us that, "they devoted themselves to the apostolic teaching"
- Apostolic tradition is;**

"the form"; "the pattern"; "the good deposit"; "the teachings"; the "gospel" "the foundation"; what was "received from the Lord" and "passed on"; "sound doctrine"

### 3. Christian transformation is through the believer being poured into the mould of truth (6:17)

1. "The word, "form"
2. The nature of the rebirth

### 4. Christian transformation results in human responsibility (6:17,19b,22)

1. It is God's grace transforming people (6:17a)
  2. We are accountable to God for growth (6:17,19b,22; 1Cor.6:19-20)
    - Intellectually
    - Love
    - Will
    - Attitudes
    - Lifestyle reorientation (1Cor.6:19b)

## 2. Practical examples of transformation

### 1. The church at Rome

Tacitus (the Roman historian) wrote, "So, to get rid of this rumour, Nero set up as the culprits, and punished with the utmost refinement of cruelty, a class hated for their abominations, who were commonly called Christians. Christus, from whom their name is derived, was executed at the hands of the procurator Pontius Pilate in the reign of Tiberius.... Arrest was first made of those who confessed (to being Christians); then, on their evidence, an immense multitude was convicted, not so much on the charge of arson; but because of hatred of the human race. Besides being put to death they were made to serve as objects of amusement; they were clad in the hides of beasts and torn to death by dogs; others were crucified; others set on fire to serve to illuminate the night when the day-light failed. Nero had thrown open his grounds for the display, and was putting on a show in the circus, where he mingled with the people in the dress of a charioteer or drove about in his chariot" (H. Bettenson. *Documents of the Christian Church. The Neronian persecution: Tacitus, Annals 15.44*)

### 2. Paul's conversion and service

1. His mind was transformed (his eyes were opened)
2. His will was transformed
3. His focus changed dramatically
4. His heart was changed (Phil.3:7a; 1:21a)

### 3. Lydia

In Acts 16:13ff we have the story of Lydia

## Conclusion (6:23)

"For the wages of sin is death, but the (free-ESV/NASB) gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (6:23)