

‘Live As Slaves To God’ – Romans 6:15-23 (20/1/2008)

In the OT, after entering/taking possession of the ‘Promised Land’, Joshua assembled all the tribes of Israel at Shechem. He summoned the elders, leaders, judges and officials of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. Joshua said to them... *“Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your forefathers worshipped beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”* (Joshua 24 v1, 14-15)

In Romans 6:15-23, Paul puts forward a similar argument which, to paraphrase, could be stated as: “Choose this day whom you will serve...whether sin leading to death or righteousness leading to eternal life!”

Question: Since we are not saved by keeping the law but by God’s grace, does that mean we can live any way we want to? *“Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace?”* (Romans 6v15) – There are two choices:

Choice Number One: To Enjoy the Pleasures of Sin... But...

- A. It Leads to Enslavement and Death (6:16, 17)
- B. It is Never Satisfied (6:19)... Ever-Increasing Wickedness
- C. It Leads to Shame (6:21)
- D. It Deceives: And Its Recompense is Death (6:23)

Choice Number Two: Heartfelt Obedience to God Because...

- A. It is Not An Option for a Christian (6:15)
- B. It Leads to Righteousness (6:16, 18)
- C. Willing Obedience is Pleasing to God (6:17)
- D. It Leads to Freedom from Sin (6:18)
- E. It Leads to Sanctification (6:19)
- F. It Leads to A Clear Conscience (6:21)
- G. It Leads to the Enjoyment of Eternal Life (6:22)

Just as you used to offer the parts of your body in slavery to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer them in slavery to righteousness leading to holiness. – Romans 6v19

Definitions...

Grace: God's generosity, kindness, undeserved favour.

Righteousness: The standard of goodness required to be right with God. This standard is perfection and sinless-ness. Only Christ has ever achieved this standard.

Sanctification: the process of being made holy, becoming more Christ-like... until one day when we will be changed into his perfect likeness.