

The Book of Romans
6:15-23
1/2/2018 Wednesday PM

Introduction

- Last week we looked at **Romans 6:1-14**.
- Really vv. 15-23 repeat a lot of what Paul said in the previous verses.

Romans 6:15-23

¹⁵What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! ¹⁶Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey--whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. ¹⁸You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.

¹⁹I put this in human terms because you are weak in your natural selves. 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. ²⁰When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. ²¹What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! ²²But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life.

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

- **v.15** – What does it mean to be “under grace”?
 - Where the Eternal Covenant was made between the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, the Covenant of Grace is made between God and Man.
 - This Covenant of Grace is where God promises eternal salvation to Man based upon the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross.
 - This is called a Covenant of Grace because it is initiated by God, due to no part and worthiness of man, and is unmerited favor received from God.
 - In this covenant, Jesus would become man (**John 1:1,18; Heb. 2:9**), be the mediator of a better covenant (**Heb. 8:6**), and being under the Law (**Gal. 4:4**) fulfills the Law perfectly (**1 Pet. 2:22**).
 - Therefore, the righteousness accomplished by Christ is given to the believer so that he has the righteousness that is not his own, but that of Christ (**Phil. 3:9**).
 - The believer's responsibility is to have faith in the work of Christ (**Rom. 5:1; Eph. 2:8-9**), a righteousness derived in the New Testament times by faith, just as it was in the Old Testament times (**Rom. 4:1-11**).
 - The manifestation of the Covenant of Grace was progressively disclosed. It began in the Garden of Eden after Adam and Eve sinned and God promised a redeemer (**Gen. 3:15**), to Abraham the promise to bless the nations (**Gen. 12:2-3**), the covenant of the Ten Commandments given to the Israelites at Mount Sinai (**Exodus 34:28**), and believers in the New Covenant (**Jer. 31:31-37**) which is fulfilled in Christ (**1 Cor. 11:25**).
- Being under grace and not under the law should not mean to us that we are free from any rules or regulations.
- We simply are no longer under the confines of the Mosaic Law as a way to redemption.
- **Vv.16-23** – In these verses Paul reiterates the same type argument that he was making in **vv.1-14**.
- Here he is drawing using the imagery of being a slave.
- We once were slaves to sin which leads to death, but through Jesus Christ we are slaves to righteousness which leads to “the gift of God” which is “eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
- **Which are you under, the law or grace?**
- **Do you operate and act that way?**

Next Week's Study
Romans 7:1-6