

Romans 6:12-23

12. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.

A. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body

1. **Therefore** connects with what has been said before. Therefore, since we have died with Christ and have been legally set free from sin, so we can now not let sin reign in our mortal body.

a. The principle of sin is resident in our physical bodies. [[Romans 6:12](#), [7:5](#), [7:18](#), [7:23](#), [7:24](#), [8:3](#), [8:10](#), [8:13](#), [8:23](#)] Although sin resides in our mortal body, we do not have to allow it to reign there!

b. Our mortal body can be controlled by our immortal spirit through the Holy Spirit. [[Galatians 5:16](#)]

c. The spirit will have ascendancy through meditating the New Covenant truths and praying in the Spirit without ceasing [an ongoing practice throughout our day].

2. do not let sin reign

a. God has called us to reign in life through the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness. [[Rom. 5:17](#)]

b. Many Christian allow sin however to reign over them. God has given His Word, Spirit, grace, and righteousness that by them we might reign in life. If we would but give time to the Word [by meditating] and the Spirit [by praying in the Spirit] we would find abundant grace and the gift of righteousness powerfully working in us to cause us to reign.

c. So, in Romans 6 Paul gives us the steps to freedom from sin. First, you must have a revelation knowledge that your old man was crucified with Christ thus legally freeing you from sin. [[Rom. 6:6-7](#)] Second, you need to count on that fact in your immediate situation when it feels like your not dead to sin! You need to count on the fact that you are indeed dead to sin. Third, you must take your spiritual authority given to you in Christ and use it against the sin attacking your soul. All three steps are vital. You cannot walk in victory over sin if you do not know your old man was crucified with Christ and you are legally free from sin. You cannot walk in victory if you do not count on that fact in your immediate need. Lastly, you cannot walk in victory over sin if you do not take your authority over sin. This third step is the least known or acted upon step in walking free from sin. Many Christians know their old man was crucified with Christ and even count on that in their immediate need, but that is where they stop and sin still defeats

them! That is because they are allowing sin to **reign** in their body. To reign means to exercise authority over. Sin and Satan has no legal right to reign over us unless we allow them to! This means that instead of them reigning over them that we need to exercise our authority in Jesus Christ and reign over them!

- d. What does that look like? Let's give an example. Say, you have a temptation to smoke. First, verbally acknowledge that your old man was crucified with Christ and you are legally free from sin. Next, verbally acknowledge that you count on the fact that you are indeed dead to the sin of smoking right now. Lastly, use your authority in Christ over sin and temptation. Say, "Sin and the desire to smoke, I forbid you to rule in my body because Jesus is Lord over my body! I say no to you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ!!!"
- e. Each time the temptation comes verbally acknowledge you have been crucified with Christ, and you are dead to that sin, and take your authority over in the name of Jesus. You will see it make a big difference!
- f. Notice that nothing we talked about here has anything to do with your will power trying to overcome sin. If you do that you will experience one defeat after another. You will experience condemnation, guilt, and shame and only strengthen the addictive cycle. Jesus broke your addictive cycle by His finished work on the cross and resurrection! You just need to believe it and stand in faith in your authority in Christ!
- g. If you find that you find relief each time you do this but the temptation just keeps coming back then that is a sign that you have some unresolved issue of guilt, shame, or pain that you have buried inside you. You need to ask the Holy Spirit to bring to light the hidden things of darkness that have been hidden in your soul. Please, don't just go looking around in your own heart for it, because it is dark in there! Let the Holy Spirit bring things to light in His time! When the Holy Spirit brings it up and out in the light you need to release it to the Lord and receive His love, forgiveness, and healing. Often the revelation of who we are in Christ can only be planted deep in our hearts if we remove what has previously been planted in us first. Often what was first planted in our hearts is what controls and dictates our life. That is why Christians can hear the truth of their identity for years and they are not changed by it. It is because the lies that had been planted previously have not been removed by the Word, the ministry of the Holy Spirit, and your cooperation in letting them go.

Unresolved pain, shame, guilt, bitterness, and unforgiveness is at the root of addictions. Once the pain, shame, guilt, bitterness, and unforgiveness is dealt with then taking these three steps in Romans 6 are much easier and have greater effect.

3. mortal body

- a. All humans die physically because of sin in the body. [[Romans 8:10](#)]
- b. Physical death speaks of the utter failure of the flesh.
- c. Jesus calls physical death as failing! [[Luke 16:9](#)] Many people look at people that die early as if they failed. However, we must see that the fact we shall all die physically [fail] because of the universal failure of the flesh. Fallen flesh must die. However, if we are born again, we are victorious in our spirit even when our flesh fails! So never look at someone as a failure as a Christian if they die early. It just means their flesh failed just like yours will! However, their spirit is triumphant in Christ and they are with God in glory. What victory we have in Jesus. Death [failure] is swallowed up in victory. [[1 Cor. 15:54](#)]

B. that you should obey it in its lusts.

1. **should obey**- Gr. **hupakouo**- *to hear under; to heed or conform to a command*

- a. Sin is a bully. It will always try to command you to heed it and conform to it. When we were unsaved sin had mastery and legal right to rule over us. However, once we accepted Christ our old man that was under legal dominion of sin died and we were born free as a new creature under the ownership of Christ and grace.
- b. Sin still tries to command us around and convince us that things have not changed. It still tries to get us to believe we live under the same regime! We do not! We must renew our mind in this area.
- c. The word obey in the Greek also has the idea of believing the words of another. We obey who we believe. If someone yelled there was a fire and to get out of the building, you would not hesitate if you believed that person. Sin is always trying to make us feel desires in our flesh that are contrary to our new nature to convince us that we have not changed and we are the same old sinner and must heed sin's call. This is just a big sham! It is a big shame that we believe the deceitful lusts that sin works in our physical members. Paul tells us we will be corrupted by deceitful lusts. Fleshly lusts are deceitful because they convince us that we are not a new creature, dead to sin, alive to God, and filled with the power and presence of God Himself.
- d. We will struggle against the lusts of the flesh to the degree we

operate under law. Being under law is trying to independently to perform and achieve for God. The more we try to produce holy living by our soul power the more sin is strengthened against us and the principle of sin will produce all manner of deceitful lusts in us through the law. [1 Cor. 15:56, Romans 7:8]

- e. We are called to obey righteousness by faith in God's grace.
[Rom. 6:16] Whoever we obey will have dominion over us.
[Romans 6:16]

13. And do not present your members *as* instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness to God.

A. And do not present your members

- 1. **present-** Gr. **paristemi-** *to stand beside; to place at one's disposal*
 - a. This verb is in the present active imperative which means to stop doing what you have been doing. Stop presenting your members..
- 2. **members-** speaking of the body in which sin dwells.

B. as instruments of unrighteousness to sin

- 1. **instruments-** Gr. **hoplon-** *weaponery; tools*
- 2. **of unrighteousness-** wrong
- 3. **to sin-** stop handing over your bodies to sin to perform wrong things.
- 4. This is an impossible command if it were not for the second command of this verse.

D. but present yourselves to God

- 1. **present-** aor. imperative- but start right now presenting yourselves to God for Him to work through.
 - a. Note previously that we are stop presenting our bodily members to sin. Here in respect to God we are to present ourselves [not just our bodies]. This means we present our spirit/soul to Him. Again, we are simply to offer them for His use, not come up with the power to work God through them. This is not a call to use our will power to perform, but merely offer to God for His power to work in us!
 - b. The presenting is for us to do. The power to perform evil is in sin and the power to do good is in God. Both will work in us if we yeild to them!
- 2. **as alive from the dead**
 - a. Our spirit is alive from the dead. We are told to present ourselves [spirits] to God.
 - b. If we will yield our spirit and body to the Lord He will work in us the power of righteousness. This power enables us to do what we could never do by our own will power. This is grace at work in us!

3. and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.

- a. notice the word AND. Sin desires your bodily members to do it's work. If sin can have your body it will work on your soul. God wants and needs your heart before He can work in you. Once He has your heart he will have your body.

14. For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

A. For sin shall not have dominion over you

1. **For-** this verse is connected to the last. Sin shall not have dominion over us when we present ourselves as alive from the dead and our members to God as instruments of righteousness.
2. **dominion-** Gr. **kurieuo-** *exercise lordship over*. In the original creation we were called by God to have dominion over all the earth. [Gen 1:27-28] In the new creation we are called by God to reign in life. [Romans 5:17]

B. for you are not under law

1. If we fail to present ourselves to God and our members to him then we are in pride and fall under the sway of law. The law is a system of living that is independent of God. If you try to be moral by our will power, then sin will have dominion over you. The law is the strength of sin. [1 Cor. 15:56] The more we try to act independently of God the more sin will be strengthened against us.
2. We died to the law through the body of Jesus [the substance of the law]. We were born again united to Christ so we can now bear fruit from abiding [trusting] in Him.
3. **under-** Gr. **hupo-** *this word has the idea of being under the influence of something.*

C. but under grace

1. To be under the influence of grace we must humble ourselves. We need to present our selves daily to God and the members of our body to fill and use. When we do this we submit ourselves under the influence of grace.
2. Those that use grace as a cover sin are misguided. Many believe that if they live in sin they are under grace. This verse exposes that lie of satan. This verse plainly states that if we are under grace sin will not have dominion over us.
3. We are dead to the law, but we are not called to live lawless [Gr. **anomia**]. We operate under higher laws now. These laws govern the new creation. We should operate in the laws of faith, God's love, and the spirit of life in Christ Jesus. [Rom. 3:27, James 2:8, Rom. 8:2] These laws lift us up out of sin and death!

15. What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not!

A. **What then?**- What conclusion can be drawn from this.

B. **Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace?**

1. This is the conclusion multitudes make concerning the grace of God.

They come to the wrong conclusion that being under grace means then they can live in sin with no consequences.

C. **Certainly not!**

1. This reasoning is faulty on several points

a. First grace does not free you from the consequences of your actions. Your actions will always have consequences tied to them. What you sow you will reap. Do not be deceived dear one! [Gal. 6:7]

b. The grace of God in salvation pays the death penalty for you so that when you sin as a Christian you are not cut off from God. However, natural consequences are not magically removed from you. David received grace from God when he sinned with Bathsheba and was not cut off from Him, but David did suffer consequences from his actions.

c. Many that teach and follow grace only focus on one side of grace which is the legal side of grace. They see that God has legally taken away His judgments from their sins. However, they fail to see or neglect the practical side of grace. The grace of God has given to us in the new birth actual righteousness, holiness, power, and virtue to live a God honoring life. When we live in sin we fail to tap into these realities that lay within our reborn spirits.

d. Being under grace means grace teaches us to deny ungodliness and teaches us to live godly and righteously in this life. [Titus 2:11-12]

e. Being under the influence of grace actually empowers us to live free from sin. Grace does not free us to live in sin, but frees us from sin! Grace is not just unmerited favor, but it is also God's empowering presence in our lives.

16. 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?

A. **Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey**

1. **Do you not know-** Gr. *eido ou-* *to perceive not-* Being ignorant does not stop universal or spiritual laws. Walking off a building ignorantly will not

stop the law of gravity! Neither does being ignorant of presenting yourself to sin stop sin from ruling over you.

2. **present yourselves**- Gr. **paristemi**- *to place at one's disposal*.

a. It is our choice who we will present ourselves- either to sin or to obedience. If we find ourselves controlled by sin, we have had our ransom from sin paid. All we must do is to repent- change our mind and direction- and we can submit to the obedience of Christ by faith and come under the control of grace!

3. **obey**- Gr. **hupakoe**- *to hearken under; to act upon what your hear because you believe it*

a. The terms obey and believe are used interchangeably in the New Testament. We will obey who we believe.

b. If we believe we are the same old sinner we were then we will obey sin. If we believe we are the righteousness of God in Christ then we will be under obedience to God.

B. whether of sin leading to death

1. Sin leads to death. [Rom. 6:23]

2. For a Christian when they sin there will be death working in our circumstances, relationships, body, and soul, but not their spirit. Our spirit has been perfected and sealed. [Heb. 10:14, Eph. 1:13] We are a spirit. Our spirit is not contaminated when we sin. [1 John 3:9] If we renounce Christ then our spirit will be cut off from God. However, when a Christian commits sin they are not cut off from God because the penalty for our sins- past, present, and future has been paid by Christ's finished work on the cross. The blood of God has been shed for us and frees us from spiritual death. However, when we sin corruption takes place in the natural. [Gal. 6:8] This corruption comes from the FLESH, NOT GOD! Sin can literally kill you physically.

3. Sin can lead to a hardened heart which leads us then to depart from the living God and renounce Him. [Heb. 3:12]

C. or of obedience leading to righteousness

1. Many misread this statement. They seem to think it means that we are to obey righteousness. That is NOT what this verse says! It actually says we are to obey obedience! How in the world can we obey obedience? Before we look at that, lets ask the important question of whose obedience is being spoken of here? Are we to obey our obedience? That does not make sense. If this is not talking about our own obedience, then whose does it refer?

a. The obedience we are to obey in this verse is the obedience of Christ! It is the perfect obedience of Christ seen in His perfect adherence to the Law as our representative and His obedience to

go to the cross that saves us! [Phil. 2:8]

- b. We are saved and blessed through perfect obedience! It is not our obedience though because our's will never be perfect. The only obedience that was perfect was Christ's!
- c. Again the word obey has the concepts of belief and trust in it. When we believe and trusts in Christ's obedience for us then we our obey [believing, trusting] obedience!
- d. Here are verses that use the word obey with the idea of believing. [Rom. 1:5, Rom. 2:8, Rom. 16:26, Gal. 3:1, Gal. 5:7, 2 Th. 1:8, Heb. 5:9, 1 Pet. 4:17]
- e. We are told to take every thought to the obedience of Christ. [2 Cor. 10:5] When we are assailed with accusation from the accuser we are to take all those thoughts to the perfect obedience of Christ in our behalf. We will disarm the enemy with the obedience of Christ! If we try to take accusations to our own obedience we will be defeated! There will always be fault found with our obedience, but not Christ's!

2. Faith in Christ's obedience and finished work for us will always result in righteousness being made manifest in our lives! Faith in Christ's obedience for us is God's way of making us right in every area! This is the gospel!

17. But God be thanked that *though* you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered.

A. But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin

1. God be thanked- Gr. *charis de to theo-* *but by the grace of God*

- a. The word thanked here is in the usual word for thanksgiving which is eucharisteo, but it is the word charis- grace.
- b. It is by the grace of God that though we were servants of sin, that we were given the message that set us free!
- c. It is also by the grace of God that we had faith to believe and be saved. [Romans 12:3, Eph. 2:8, 2 Pet. 1:1]

2. that though you were slaves of sin

- a. **slaves-** Gr. *doulos-* *bond slave that could only be freed by a ransom price.*
- b. We became slaves to sin by Adam's transgression. Adam and Eve sinned against God's clear command and entered into slavery. Slaves are in slavery. Slaves give birth to slaves. We all who were born of Adam were born slaves of sin. Slaves cannot free themselves because slaves don't earn wages to be able to pay the ransom price for their freedom. Only a free person that has

the means can redeem a slave out of slavery. That is why no world leader past or present could redeem us. Buddha couldn't. Mohammed couldn't. Krishna couldn't. We couldn't. Only one born free that had the sufficient riches could pay the ransom price. There was only one person in history that could fit and foot that bill, Jesus Christ! Jesus Christ was born of a virgin outside of the curse of sin. His blood came from His Father. Jesus died in our behalf and shed the blood of God for us to pay the ransom price that freed us from slavery from sin!

B. **yet you obeyed**

1. This reveals the need for our cooperation in acceptance of salvation. Universalism is on the rise today which says Jesus redeemed all of humanity and therefore all of humanity is in Christ and will be saved. This is heresy. God played the part in saving us, but we play the part in receiving it. Death was forced upon us all, but God will not force life upon us. Satan forces, God out of love gives us a choice. Salvation is a gift to be accepted or rejected. A forced gift is no longer a gift. [[Romans 6:23](#)]
2. Again we see the word obeyed- **hupakoa** is linked with the idea of believing. How did we believe the form of doctrine that delivered us? It was by believing it from the heart and acting upon it. We are saved by God's grace through our accepting faith.
3. [[Phil. 2:12](#)]- You have always obeyed [believed], now work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

C. **from the heart**

1. Biblical saving faith comes from the heart and not just mental assent. Some have redeemed theologies but not redeemed hearts.

D. **that form of doctrine**

1. **form**- Gr. **tupos**- *Eng. type- a figure formed by a blow or impression*
 - a. Those who accept the gospel do so because it made an impression and a lasting mark upon their hearts.
 - b. The gospel is the power of God. It has force and leaves a mark on those for good [who accept it] and for bad [upon those who reject it] but it does not leave you the same.
2. **doctrine**- Gr. **didache**- *teaching, instruction- the act or the matter*
 - a. The gospel can be preached- to unbelievers
 - b. The gospel can be taught- to believers
 - c. Here Paul is not referring to the gospel preached to them that they initially received Christ. He is referring to his teaching them as Christians on how to live by the gospel. You do not teach the gospel to unbelievers. You preach the gospel to unbelievers. Christians are able to receive doctrine.

- d. The teaching they received is the form of doctrine that these Romans had already been taught concerning Christ and the Christian's identification with Him and His finished work. The Romans were not unaware of some of the things Paul was teaching in Romans 1-6 up to the this point. Although we have been taught something does not mean we can't hear it again, or go further in depth into it. No doubt Paul was doing both in this letter.

E. to which you were delivered

- 1. **delivered-** Gr. **paradidomi-** *to give over into (one's) power or use; to deliver to one something to keep, use, take care of, manage; to deliver verbally*
 - a. The gospel has been verbally delivered over into our power of use.
 - b. The gospel has been delivered and entrusted to our keep, use, care and management.
 - c. God is not responsible for the keeping, use, care, or the management of the gospel once it has been entrusted into our lives. It is up to us to mine the gospel for it's riches, meditate on it daily, confess it, and use it to bring forth fruit in our lives and the lives of others. It is up to us to preach it, teach it, and live it. This is why some Christians are fruitful and others are not. God left us with the responsibility of what we do with the gospel.

18. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

A. Having been set free from sin

- 1. Being set free from sin in practice hinges upon:
 - a. Believing from the heart the gospel that when Christ died as our representative, we died with Him. What is true of Christ, is now true of us. When He was crucified, died, buried, was raised, ascended, and enthroned on the right side of the Father, so were we! Believing this from the heart is what sets us free.
 - b. We must understand we **HAVE BEEN** set free already from sin. If we do not believe this then we will still try to set ourselves free or beg God to do it for us. It has been done by the finished work of Christ. Believing, confessing, and acting on this will cause us to be free in practice.

B. you became slaves of righteousness

- 1. Slaves either had cruel or good masters. Once we believe the gospel

we are delivered from the cruel bondage to sin and are handed over unto the incredibly good master of righteousness.

2. Once as unbelievers, no matter how many good things we did we were still in the prison of sin and sinners by nature. Now that we are born again, no matter if we sin, we are still in the grip of righteousness and are righteous by nature.
3. In practice we will be slaves of who we yield to. As an unbeliever we could never truly yield to righteousness. As a believer you can now either yield to sin by unbelief or righteousness by faith.

19. I speak in human *terms* because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members *as* slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness *leading to more* lawlessness, so now present your members *as* slaves of righteousness for holiness.

A. I speak in human terms- Gr. anthropinos- according to man

B. because of the weakness of your flesh-

1. **weakness-** Gr. *astheneia*- *want of strength, weakness, infirmity. or capacity.*

2. **flesh-** Gr. *sarx*- *the flesh, denotes mere human nature, the earthly nature of man apart from divine influence, and therefore prone to sin and opposed to God*

a. As a Christian this is where our main problem lies. The principle of sin resides in the body. The control of sin in our body is called the flesh. Our flesh is weak. [Matt. 26:41] Our flesh is what gives us the most problems as a believer. The lusts of the flesh war against our soul. [2 Pet. 2:11] Victory is found in two ways. First is the renewing of the mind through the Word of God and the second is being strengthened by the Spirit of God. One of the main ways the Spirit fills us with power and strength in our inner man is by praying in the Spirit.

b. The flesh cannot comprehend spiritual things. Paul here is speaking to spiritually immature people. The book of Romans is not for the spiritually advanced, but foundational for our spiritual growth. Because most Christians are body-flesh ruled they must be taught using natural examples to help them grasp spiritual truths. Jesus did this in His ministry and with his disciples. We can develop spiritually so that the Spirit can impart deep spiritual truths to us by revelation instead of merely using carnal examples. [1 Cor. 2:13-14]

C. for just as you have presented your members as slaves of uncleanness

1. **presented**- It is our choice who or what we present our members to.

2. **uncleaness**- Gr. **akatharsia**- *impurity*

a. Addictions are the manifestation of being enslaved to uncleaness [impurity]. All addictions involve being enslaved to natural created things. We were created to rule over creation. We can rule over the natural by the influence of the supernatural. This is the reason the Holy Spirit was sent. We will be strengthened in our inner man through praying in the Spirit. The influence of the Holy Spirit will free us from what is unholy!

b. A person who does not spend time reading, studying, or meditating on the Word and does not pray in the Spirit is subject to the slavery of the flesh and to uncleaness. Only the divine influence of the Spirit of Christ within can cause us to walk in victory over the flesh. [Gal. 5:16]

c. A Christian's flesh is the same as an unbeliever's flesh. There is no difference. What is different about a Christian to an unbeliever? A Christian has the life and Spirit of Christ within them. By exercising faith in the Word and by praying in the Spirit the divine influence of Spirit will empower a Christian to walk above the control of the flesh. [Romans 8:2]

D. **and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness**

1. **lawlessness**- Gr. **anomia**- *without law*

a. A Christian has died to and been freed from the law of Moses. The law of Moses was fulfilled in Christ. Christ is the end of the Mosaic Law because it was His shadow. He is the real substance! We no longer are to endeavor to govern our lives by the adherence to external rules, but now by the divine influence of Christ within us.

b. We are free from the Mosaic law, however, we are not called to be lawless! We are to be governed by different laws! We now are to be governed by the law of love [James 2:8], the law of faith [Rom. 3:27], and the law of the Spirit of life [Rom. 8:2] in Christ Jesus!

c. Unfortunately many Christians have a misunderstanding of grace. They think grace frees them from the law, but also that they are free from all laws. If a Christian rejoices in being forgiven and made righteous apart from their works, but fails to operate in the laws of love, faith, and the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus, they will continue to be controlled by the flesh. All this does is makes the person feel less condemned about their sinful lifestyle! We are called to live above sin by the divine influence of God within us!

d. Lawlessness leads to more lawlessness. This is another way of saying that addictions get worse over time, not better and the

often lead to other addictions! The word addiction comes from the Greek word *adikia*- which is translated as unrighteousness in the New Testament. Addictions are broken by walking in the power of righteousness. This comes by the revelation of who we are in Christ through the Word and by being strengthened by the Holy Spirit in our inner man.

E. so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for holiness

1. **slaves of righteousness**- We can be controlled by the influence of God's Spirit instead of the flesh. This will lead to being controlled by righteousness instead of unrighteousness. This is when addictions are broken in your life! We have no choice on being controlled in our lives. It is our choice however what influence will control us- whether the Spirit or the flesh. There is no in between. Either you are controlled by the flesh or the Spirit. [Gal. 5:17]
2. **for holiness- unto holiness-** Gr. **hagiasmos**- *consecration, purification, sanctification of heart and life.*
 - a. Holiness is produced not by us, but by the presence and working of the Holy Spirit in us. He does this by our choice to expose our hearts to the Word of God and by praying in the Spirit.

20. For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness.

A. For when you were slaves of sin

1. An unbeliever is a slave of sin, not matter what good things he outwardly does. His works are tainted by the flesh.

B. you were free in regard to righteousness

1. **free-** Gr. **eleutheros**- *unrestrained*- All of an unbelievers actions are unrestrained or free from the control of righteousness [the divine influence of the Spirit]. This means that whatever an unbeliever does, it cannot be come from or produce righteousness because it arises from the flesh and not the Spirit.

21. What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death.

- A. Fruit-** Fruit is only produced by the Spirit of God. [Gal. 5:21-22]. The flesh only produces works [Gal. 5:19-20]. No matter how good an action looks that an unbeliever does it is fruitless and is actually shameful! The righteousnesses of man are filthy rags [menstrual rags] which are shameful. [Isa. 64:6]

B. For the end of those things is death

1. Both good and evil works of an unbeliever end in death- separation from

God.

22. But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.

A. But now having been set free from sin

1. One of the biggest things we must realize before we can be set free from sinful habits is to know that NOW we have been set free from sin. Every scheme of man tries to get free from sinful actions. Well they don't call them sin but they call them problems, weaknesses, or mistakes. God calls them sin! To walk free from sin we need to call sin exactly that-sin. Then we also need to have the revelation that we have been set free from sin already! We are not trying to get set free. All these spiritual gymnastics people go through to get free from sin is the main reason they stay bound. We will experience freedom when we realize we are free in Christ! By our identification with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection and being filled with the power of His Spirit we will walk free from sin. This will be done not by will power but by God's power!

B. and having become slaves to God

1. If you are born again you are a slave to God. Say this! If that is too strong for you, then say "I am a servant of God." I like the stronger term "slave"! What a wonderful Master! I don't mind being a slave to this Master, and neither would you! God loves to serve his servants! The whole kingdom of God is based upon loving service to others.
2. You are a slave [servant] of God right now. Stop trying to be one and just be one. All this trying to become is hindering the life of God from just flowing out of you. The servanthood of God wants to flow out of you to others. Let it!
3. If you are bound to sinful habits regularly say, "I am a slave of God". You cannot have a revelation that you are a slave of God and be the slave of sin at the same time!

C. you have your fruit to holiness

1. **fruit-** Gr. karpos- The Christian life is not to be lived by will power or the energy of the flesh. It is to be lived by trusting in the life and Spirit of God within you. Fruit comes forth from abiding not striving.
 - a. fruit comes forth from a seed, light, and water. We are born again from the seed of the Word of God. [1 Peter 1:23] God seed abides in us. [1 John 3:9] We also need light. This comes from the revelation of the Word of God. [Ps. 119:130] We also need water. Those that are baptized in the Holy Spirit, rivers of living water will flow from their inner belly [spirit]. [John 7:38] By meditating on the Word and praying much in the Spirit we see fruit gradually developed in our lives. The river of life in heaven

have all manner of fruit growing from it's water in all seasons!
[Rev. 22:2] So it will be with us!

2. **holiness**- notice holiness is a fruit, not something you obtain by hard self effort. As we are occupied with the person of Christ, His Spirit in us will produce holiness. The Holy Spirit was sent into the heart of the believer to produce holiness. That is why He is called the "Holy" Spirit. He is what makes us holy and produces holiness as we draw from Christ.

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

A. **For the wages of sin is death**

1. **wages**- Gr. **opsonion**- *a soldier's pay, allowance-that part of the soldier's support given in place of pay [i.e. rations] and the money in which he is paid; metaphorically wages: hire or pay of sin*

- a. All humans are in a war. Most do not know it. Satan's soldiers are unbelievers who unwittingly are being used against God in warfare. Believers are also soldiers but they serve Christ. They are in His army. [Eph. 6:13-17] Sadly many Christians are also ignorant they are in a war. Many are being taken captive by the enemy although they belong to God.
- b. the pay for serving in Satan's army is death. There will be no survivors left of Satan's army after all is said and done and the last battle is fought- the battle of Armageddon. They all along with Satan will find their end in the lake of fire- the second death.
- c. Unbelievers live on the basis of merit. Unfortunately all they will merit is death and eternal judgment.

B. **but the gift of God**

1. Salvation is a gift not obtained by merit. God offers salvation and eternal redemption through the gift of His grace through Christ's finished work and it has to be received by accepting faith.
2. Notice salvation is a gift, not something that is issued! A gift must be received willingly. Many today are turning the grace of God into universalism. This teaching says that since Jesus died for everyone's sins then all people are saved and redeemed whether they believe or not. They basically are teaching that salvation is issued to people. No! A thousand times NO! Salvation is a gift that must be freely and willingly received. If it is forced upon people it ceases being a gift and it becomes something issued to them. This teaching is nothing more than extreme Calvinism which teaches in the total sovereignty of God. In regular Calvinism only a privileged few called the elect are made to be saved. With universalism they go all the way and God makes every one

get saved- even Satan! This teaching is heresy and should be avoided like the plague!