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| 1  Romans 6:15-7:6 Sermon Outline  12/29/24  “Whose Slave Are You?”  **INTRO:**  Read story = California man = sign “I’m a slave of Jesus Christ”  Back side = “Whose slave are you?”  Provocative question = assumes we are slaves of someone  That is Paul’s question too in this text:  “Whose slave are you?”  Reality: “If not a slave to Christ, then slave = Satan = sin + Law  That is why “try harder”/willpower doesn’t work  Only solution to get out of this = die | 2  That is what today is about  **REVIEW:**  Now looking at it from perspective of forest = Ch. 1 = Gospel = God has revealed His righteousness in the gospel  But unfortunately most of humanity rejects this righteousness  Ch. 1-3 = humanity’s rejection of this righteousness = gets worse and worse  Worshipped the creation rather than Creator  Wrath  But good news end of chapter 3 = God has provided a way to escape this wrath through His Son  Justification = declared righteous in His sight  Ch. 4 = saved by grace alone in OT? |
| 3  Ch. 5 = assurance of being saved from wrath of God  1) Experientially love of God has been poured out through H.S.  2) Christ greater than Adam  Ch. 6 = sanctification = how a believer is made more and more holy and set apart like God  “How then shall we live as justified people?”  2 weeks ago = Rom. 6:1-14  But 6:1 = distortion  Message of grace alone faith alone so offensive to works righteousness = distortion  If grace covers me, it doesn’t matter if I sin  In fact since grace is magnified in covering sin, why not sin it up!? | 4  But Paul: “May it never be!”  Whole point of grace = you would stop sinning!  In fact believer = cannot continue in sin, impossible  1 John 3:9 “*Everyone who has been born of God does not sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God*…”  Apostle John = not saying believers don’t sin  Believers no longer characterized by sinful living  If you have seed of God abiding in God, even if you are sinning big time, you will desire to stop because you know its wrong  You are a new creation  Paul ended section 2 weeks ago in verse 14  “*sin shall not be master over you for you are not under Law, but under grace*.” |
| 5  In this section Paul = not only died to sin but you died to Law  In fact, to die to sin is to die to the Law + vice versa  And we will see why  Let’s begin  VV. 15-16 “*What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? May it never be! Do you not know that when you go presenting yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?*”  Pause: What does it mean = Under the Law/Grace  Under the Law = living to satisfy the demands of Law with your own righteousness  Under Grace = living out the heart of the Law through Christ’s righteousness | 6  Paul uses analogy = slavery V. 16  Just like that sign implied, we are slaves of someone  Jn. 8:34 “*truly, truly I say to you, he who sins is a slave to sin*.”  You have never not been someone’s master  Well Paul I’ve never felt like I’ve been enslaved to anyone…  Doesn’t matter how you feel, the Bible says you are either a slave to sin or a slave to righteousness  Obey sin = death  Obey righteousness = eternal life  But Paul bursts out in thanks! V. 17  “*But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you obeyed from the heart that pattern of teaching to which you were given over, and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.*” |
| 7  Thanks be to God that it was up to us to escape slavery! It was up to God to deliver us!  Going back to John 8 Jesus, the Son of God, says  “If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed!”  We were given over to the pattern of teaching = truth = sets us free = now we have become slaves of righteousness  But Paul = caveat V. 19  “*I am speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh*…”  = knows analogy falls short = not exact 1 to 1 correspondence  Jesus John 15:15 = “no longer do I call you slaves”  In this case slavery to Christ = freedom itself | 8  Paul continues in verse 19  “*For just as you presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness, leading to further lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, leading to sanctification*.”  We manifested sinful desires through = different members of our body  We have lust in our heart = so we gaze at someone illicitly  We delight in making someone look bad = open ears to gossip  We are harboring bitterness = use mouth = sword/death  We harbor revenge and vengeance in our heart = hands and feet shed blood  But now as “new man” = use “members” in a whole different way |
| 9  Eyes = purity  Ears = Listen only to the truth  Mouth = speak life and grace  Hands/Feet = Help others and save life  “Members” = “weapons”  Verses 20-22  “*For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness*…(*Therefore what benefit were you then having from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death*). “*But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you have your benefit, leading to sanctification, and the end, eternal life*.”  V. 20 Meaning: Paul is saying in our state of being in bondage to sin = we thought = freedom  We thought slavery to righteousness was slavery and slavery to what we wanted to do = freedom | 10  V. 21 = parenthesis = Name a single benefit of living a sinful life. What benefit?! What freedom is there in sin?  We should be ashamed of our past life  Illust: Many movies and shows even as a believer I watched that now I am ashamed to speak about  V. 22 Paul says the true benefit of your life in found in being enslaved to God  Because at the end of the day V. 23  “*For the wages of sin is death, but the gracious gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord*.”  Sin promises Life and Satisfaction if you “work” for this sin = lie  ILLUST:  Like drugs = chasing the first high = chasing the dragon |
| 11  The dragon will continuously viciously bite you and take a chunk of your life of you until there is nothing left  Wages = death  Gal. 6 “*Do not be deceived, God is not mocked, for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.**For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption.*”  That’s how sin works  Gift = Eternal life  You don’t earn it, you don’t get eternal life because of how much you sinned, or how little you sinned = you are gifted that  Now, in case don’t understand Paul uses = another analogy = marriage  7:1 “*Or do you not know, brothers – for I am speaking to those who know the law – that the law is master over a person as long as he lives*?” | 12  Don’t you know that the Law governs you like a master over a slave as long as you live?  ILLUST: We are surrounded by and operating by the fixed laws of the universe  Law of gravity according to Wikipedia = “states that every [particle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Particle) attracts every other particle in the universe with a [force](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Force) that is [proportional](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Proportionality_(mathematics)#Direct_proportionality) to the product of their masses and [inversely proportional](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Proportionality_(mathematics)#Inverse_proportionality) to the square of the distance between their centers.”  = I don’t know what that means = not a physicist = all I know = if you try to violate the law of gravity = there is a penalty and consequence  Similarly = Marriage is governed by the law of marriage  And it’s no different when it comes to the Law that governs our morality and desires  The Law = we need to reflect and represent the image of God in the way we conduct our lives |
| 13  Consequence of violating that Law = physical death and ultimately spiritual death  This is what Paul says concerning the reality of marriage  V. 2 “*For the married woman has been bound by law to her husband while he is living, but if her husband dies, she is released from the law concerning the husband*.”  Simply: Death severs the marriage bond  “Until death do you apart + as long as you both shall live”  Thus V. 3  “*So then, if while her husband is living she is joined to another man, she shall be called an adulteress. But if her husband dies, she is free from the law, so that she is not an adulteress though she is joined to another man*.” | 14  Penalty for violating that Law = she shall be called an adulteress = she will have to live with that stigma and the potential consequences that come with joining another person  But if the husband dies, the wife is free to remarry  That’s what happened to us in being “married to sin” so to speak We were married to sin, we died, and we are resurrected to marry Christ  VV. 4-5  “*So, my, brothers, you also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ, so that you might be joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God*. *For while we were in the flesh, the sinful passions, which were aroused by the Law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death*.”  We needed to be released from the Law of our “marriage to sin” = Sin and the Law partnered = produce in us death |
| 15  How?  In our sin = see Law = freedom killer + fun killer  On top of that = we hate being told what to do = hate submitting to a higher authority  We want to be our own gods, dictating alone what we will do  For Example:  7th Commandment = “You shall not commit adultery”  For our protection, blessing, and joy = One man and one woman = life  Prevents sorrow upon sorrow = but what do we see in our unbelieving state?  “God is withholding something good from us, he doesn’t want us to enjoy this!”  That’s why Mark Twain hated the 7th commandment | 16  Through the Law = end up more tempted and with more knowledge of different ways we can sin and be our own gods  Sin is like a terrorist that hijacks the jet plane of the Law and manipulates and forces it to steer into the ground = “crash and burn,” death, destruction, eternal misery  While pic = unbeliever  Pic believer = different  V. 6  “*But now we have been released from the Law, having died to that by which we were constrained, so that we serve in newness of the Spirit and not in oldness of the letter*.”  Shocking statement to Jew = Law does not set free = actually bondage  Sin is like prison guard |
| 17  Law = rope of a well  The rope is designed to bring life-giving water in a bucket by pulling the rope up  But this twisted prison guard takes the rope, attaches pieces of bone and metal and turns it into a whip to scourge you  That’s what Paul is talking about when it comes to the relationship of sin with the Law  1 Cor. 15 “sting of death is sin, but the power of sin is in the Law”  You feel the power of sin the prison guard as he whips you over and over again with the flesh-tearing whip of God’s Law  Now Paul has clarified and will clarify again so that there’s no misunderstanding = Law is not sinful/evil  Rom. 7:12 = Law is holy, righteous, and good!” | 18  But good news = you have been released from the Law if you have died with Christ  So that…“*you might serve in the newness of the Spirit and not in the oldness of the letter*.”  Oldness letter = Law/Mosaic Covenant = 10 commandments + 600 + laws  Gentile = law that is already on their conscience  When we treat the Law as standard WE can fulfill instead of standard that CHRIST fulfills,  Law turns into 2 Cor. 3 = “ministry of death/letter that kills”  To obey the Law by our own strength is hopeless endeavor = only ends in death  But if we view Law’s demands/obligations = only Christ can fulfill and that only Holy Spirit can apply to us, = able to fulfill Law as Law intended |
| 19  Holy Spirit not only applies Christ’s righteousness TO US but does it INSIDE OF US as he permanently indwells us  You see that’s the superiority of the New Covenant over the Old  The Spirit did indwell with Israel, but not in each person, but in the temple  But now the Spirit permanently indwells each believer because we are the temple of the Holy Spirit, because there is no temple anymore  And some how…some way…having the Holy Spirit indwell New Testament believers assists and empowers us to walk more faithfully and consistently to God than the saints of old  This is one of the most difficult doctrines in all the Bible.  What did the Holy Spirit presence indwelling the temple mean for Israel? | 20  How does that relate to a saved Israelite’s sanctification and walk with the Lord?  What does the Holy Spirit now permanently indwelling believers mean?  How does that relate to our walk with the Lord, how does it relate to our daily sanctification in the Lord.  I know that might sound a bit off to your ears, but I don’t know how else to explain Ezekiel 36:26-27  “*He will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. He will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to do My judgments.*”  What God is implying by saying that He will put His Spirit in His people in the new covenant is that His people currently doesn’t have that  The old covenant did not have permanent indwelling of Spirit = which is major difference between New Co |
| 21  Even some of the best scholars on the Holy Spirit I read I think are confused about aspect of the permanent indwelling of the Holy Spirit  So while there is much more careful study that needs to be done on this subject to bring greater clarity, what is clear is what Paul says in Romans 8  Rom. 8:3-4  “*For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, so that the righteous requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.*”  How is Law practically fulfilled in us? = LOVE  Rom. 13 “*Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law. For this, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,”* | 22  *and if there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this word, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does not work evil against a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the Law*.”  If you truly love your spouse, you won’t commit adultery.  If you truly love someone, you won’t murder.  If you truly love your neighbor you won’t steal from him  But only way you can do that = you have been shown that love first  If God’s love has been poured out into your heart through His Holy Spirit which was given to you  And how is that love expressed = obedience  The Law = written in our hearts by Spirit  Not obedience out of duty or demand but out of delight  That’s why Ez. 36 heart of stone = heart of flesh! |
| 23  We need to have a heart transplant surgery = stone-cold, lifeless heart = into a beating, living, tender heart that beats to the love of God  We are in desperate need of a heart change:  You can even see people’s hearts through their faces!  You’ve seen that right? Maybe someone is in pain, hungry, and in need, tortured or on the verge of death and a person that was supposed to help them and be compassionate towards them – looks at them with a lifeless, cold stare and walks away, saying nothing  But yet on the flip side you can see a living, beating heart of flesh through the face of someone you know has touched by the love of God and the mercy of God  We need the Holy Spirit to write the external law of God internally in our hearts because we don’t that!  That’s why Jer. 31:33 | 24  At best = pharisees = whitewashed tombs/clean cups on outside but inside = dirty  Without a heart change, obeying the Law on the outside will never be enough  We will see it as a duty and a demand, but not a delight  **ILLUST:**  Like maid who is tasked to take care of children and house  Demand of father = she must sweep this, she must make dinner, etc.  But let’s say father married maid/nanny, now she is not required to do that in the sense of obligation, but she continues to keep doing that out of delight for her children and delight for her new husband  That’s what it is like to follow the Law externally verses internally |
| 25  Before coming to Christ, you were serving in the house of sin, your master  You belonged to him, and whatever he said to do, you did  But now in Christ the Holy Spirit has made you die to your master so that sin’s bondage is broken  He resurrected you unto newness of life in the house of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Son who sets you free  Now you still are in bondage, but to a new master, Jesus Christ, and just as you delighted to serve sin, now you delight to serve Jesus and His righteousness  You don’t see the Law as a demand to be fulfilled because that has been taken care of when Jesus’ obedience went to the cross.  You don’t worry about the Law’s penalty because that was paid for at the cross | 26  You are no longer under Law but under grace  But now you desire and delight to do God’s Law because you love Him, you want to be like Him, you want to represent Him, you want to shine for Him  Those who are under grace are like the psalmist in Psalm 119:97  *Oh how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.*  You view the Law as God intended because the Holy Spirit transformed your affections  Is your heart cry like the psalmist? Do you love God’s Word? Do you love God and desire to obey Him?  Or do you do all the right things that Christians are supposed to do like go to church, pray, and read your Bible because you see it primarily as a duty and demand from God?  If you do, you might still be “under Law” and not under grace |
| 27  Slavery to sin and the Law is a harsh servitude  Sucks life = leech = death  Slavery to Christ = joyful service = gives life instead of taking life = eternal life  That’s why Jesus said Matt. 11:28-29  “*Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls*.” Come to Jesus, and find rest for your souls.  Let’s pray  Benediction: Ps. 1:1-2  *How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the way of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers! But his delight is in the law of Yahweh, And in His law he meditates day and night.* | 28 |