

The Costs of Sin and The Gifts of God
Berean Baptist Church
Romans 6:17-23
Pastor Skylar Bernick

INTRODUCTION

God wants you to know who you are, who you were, and where you are going. He made you to enjoy His excellent glory and love forever. But sin wants something else, sin wants us go our own way and do our own thing...

“according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others (Eph 2:1-3).”

In this hopeless living-death, the next verse rushes in like fresh air to someone suffocating in a tomb.

“**But God**, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God (Eph 2:4-8).”

As sinners we were hopelessly doomed to die, “**But God** commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us (Rom 5:8).”

Our passage today also opens in this way: “But God be thanked that ye were the servants of sin, but...” Like warm light and fresh air in a grave, the powerful grace of God pours in to give us life, and to give our life purpose.

Receive the doctrine of Jesus and serve God because He saves His people from death and for life!

Romans 6:17-19 Receive The Doctrine Of Jesus And Serve God

Vs 17 “you were the servants of sin” All people are born into slavery to sin. By God's grace, the tyranny of sin does not completely destroy our God-given humanity, but we wear sin like a slave wears chains from our first days on earth.

Vs 17-18 “God be thanked...being made free from sin” God is to be thanked because God alone can free you. “Being made free” is a strongly passive verb; Christians don't make themselves free, we are set free by God's power. This is all of God! But you must accept His grace before it will apply to you!

Put yourself under the mighty grace of God and beg Him to make you free through Jesus!

Vs 17 " form of doctrine which was delivered you," this is a pattern of living and believing. It is a working faith that produces a lifestyle of Christ-likeness. Jesus Himself, everything He taught and how He lived, is our "form of doctrine" or "pattern of teaching."

Freedom does not come from saying "yes" to a few truths about Jesus and going to Church, this is an inner acceptance of a new, life-changing truth. If you seek Jesus' grace, you must acknowledge that He is no liar (how could a sinner save you from sin?) and believe what He says about Himself:

Jesus teaches that He has the power to forgive sin (John 8:31-36, Luke 7:47).

Jesus teaches that He is the God of Abraham (John 8:54-59).

Jesus teaches that He is the only way between heaven and earth (John 10:9, 14:6).

Jesus teaches that He is the Jewish Messiah (Matt 16:16-18) and the ultimate authority in heaven and earth (Matt 28:18).

Either Jesus was the most ridiculous liar that ever lived, or He is worth your entire obedience. And this is why Paul says...

Vs 17 “delivered you” not “delivered to you”. He is not saying that the doctrine was delivered to the Christians, but that the Christians were delivered *to* the doctrine.

They delivered themselves to the doctrine, submitting to it as someone reports to a teacher to learn a lesson. You will not be freed by cherry-picking truths and applying them to your life, you must allow the truth to take hold of your life.

Receive the doctrine of Jesus and serve God by letting His truth takeover your life!

Vs 19 free and easy sinning simply cannot be reconciled with life in Christ. When you accept Christ there is a change in your reality. This change does not immediately stop you from making bad choices, but it fundamentally changes your relationship to the forces that entice you to evil; before you were dominated by them, now you are free from them.

This powerful change is “conversion.” To be converted is not to go to a different church or identify with a different religion, to be converted is to be moved from the domain of sin and death to the domain of righteousness and life.

“Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins (Col 1:12 -14).”

Vs 18-19 “the infirmity of your flesh” Natural human limitations make it hard to understand this great truth, so Paul will use an imperfect but vivid illustration: slavery.

Christian, you were saved to serve God. Let that truth take hold of your life!

God gives Christians two phenomenal gifts: freedom from the tyranny of sin, and a commission to serve Him. The two gifts are so intimately tied together that it makes no sense to say you are accepting the one and reject the other.

Romans 6:20-21 Jesus Saves His Followers From The Path Of Shameful Death

Vs 20 Think back on your Godless times when you were doing your "own thing" which is really just serving sin. Some have more experience in this than others, but we can all see where it leads.

Vs 21 What have your idols done for you? When has your temper, your addictions, your cowardliness,

lust or lies really left you satisfied for more than a few hours? Sin will always demand more until it consumes you.

The picture the Bible gives us for sin is a brutal, abusive leader. It takes your time, your money, your peace, and dignity, and what does it leave you with? Only more demands on your life, along with shame and death. Why would you go back?

See your time as sin's slave for what it is!

If you have not yet received Christ, if you are still dominated by sin, trust Him and ask Him to make you right with God by His death, and save you by His life.

Christian, daily remind yourself of what you have been saved from shame and death! Allow this to take hold of your life and motivate you when you are tempted to return to the path of death.

Romans 6:22-23 Jesus saves His Followers for Glorious Life

Vs 21-22 points out that the path of sin leads to shame and death, but Vs 22 points out that the path of service to God leads to holiness and life.

Vs 22 God frees us from sin and gives us the gift of a calling to be His servant. This is true for every Christian of every background.

The Bible teaches that this calling to be God's servant is an honorable gift because it is a call to be like God. God's very nature involves a desire to love, serve, and grow others.

See God's call to service as part of His redemptive work that restores God's image in you by teaching to love as He loves!

“Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another (1 John 4:11).”

Despite the selfishness of this present world, know that God's calling to service is good for your soul, fulfilling, and honorable!

CONCLUSION

The broken relationship, shame, regret, and spiritual death are the earned payments of sin. But healing, joy, hope and eternal life are the free gifts of God.

Christian, daily remind yourself that you have been saved from shame and death, and to holiness and life forever more!

Understand that you were saved to serve in love, and this service is not busy-work or punishment. Righteousness service in love brings you closer to God in truth! Because He has always made Himself

a servant!

If you have not received the teaching of Jesus, by owning Him as your Lord and seeking salvation through His power over death, see the end of the path you are on! Accept God's gift of life or you will pay the mortal cost of sin!

Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Receive the doctrine of Jesus and serve God because He saves His people from death and for life!