

Romans 6.1-23

“Alive to God”

BOTTOM LINE – Only 2 Religions in World – DO and DONE

DO Religion > Many Different Histories, Teachings, Sacred Rituals, Followers

MANY Religions 1 Basic IDEA > We do something to please God, Earn Favor

MERIT Forgiveness – Prayers – Pilgrimage – Fasting – Rituals – Traditions

Studied 5 chapters of Romans > PAUL HAS NOT GIVEN ONE COMMAND

NOT ONE EXAMPLE OF TELLING THE ROMANS TO DO ANYTHING

DECLARED SALVATION IS ABSOLUTELY FREE GIFT FROM GOD

CRITICS CHARGE > Antinomianism = Neglecting the Moral Law of God

LOGICAL CRITICISM > Let’s LIVE like Hell since we’re GOING to Heaven!

First Mentioned Chapter 3 “we are being slanderously reported as saying and as some claim that we say--"Let us do evil that good may result"?” Romans 3.8

v. 1 What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase?

WHAT ABOUT SANCTIFICATION? Christian Life? Discipleship?

Romans 6 – a PARENTHESIS > Answers most logical objection to Gospel

GRACE of God > Both FORGIVES Sin AND Delivers from Sin

BLOOD of Jesus SAVES – SPIRIT of JESUS SANCTIFIES – Work Together!

ANSWERS OBJECTIONS with 2 Images...

v. 1-14 DIED to SIN thru BAPTISM / Risen to New Life by Faith in Christ

v. 15-23 CHANGED from SLAVES of SIN / to SERVANTS of LORD JESUS

1. Dying with the Crucified Jesus

a. The Death of Jesus FOUNDATION OF PAUL’S ARGUMENT

REASON FOR IT - v. 10 “The death he died, he died to sin once for all”

DEATH IS GOD'S PENALTY FOR SIN

“God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death” Romans 1.32

ONLY WAY OF ESCAPE – God-appointed Substitute > Lord Jesus Christ

“justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus”
Romans 3.24

JESUS Paid Death Penalty of Sin > “wounded for our transgressions” Isaiah 53.5

b. “We died to sin” - IMPORTANT BUT MISUNDERSTOOD IDEA

v. 2 By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?

PAUL'S ANSWER TO THE CHARGE OF ANTINOMIANISM

v. 1 Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! *We died to sin*

v. 3 “we were baptized into his death”

v. 4 “We were...buried with him through baptism into death”

v. 5 “we have been united with him...in his death”

v. 8 “we died with Christ”

v. 11 “count yourselves dead to sin”

Popular Interpret > DEAD = Unresponsive to Sin, Senses cannot be Stimulated

KZ often SEE A DRUNK SLEEPING ON SIDEWALK in Almaty

I would at least kick their foot to see if they move / Ease my Conscience

AT LEAST HE CAN RESPOND TO STIMULI > HE IS STILL ALIVE!

POPULAR Interp. CONTRADICTS > Paul's Exhortations & Xtian Experience

Vs. 11-14 Exhortations to Resist Sin > IF No Stimuli, No Exhortation Needed

Xtian Experience > Paul writes to all the believers in Romans / not super-saints

ALL BELIEVERS have “Died to Sin” / but Most are Struggling with Sin

Young man, new Xtian walking the beach w/ 80 year old man, long time Xtian

YOUNG MAN “When I get older will I have less trouble with lust?”

80 YR. OLD “I am hoping that will happen when I GET OLDER!”

ANOTHER POPULAR INTERPRETATION > WE MUST Die to Sin

HOLINESS Teachers exhort us to “Crucify the old man” / CLAIM VICTORY

SIMILAR to Exhortations in vs. 11-14 / BUT NOT THE SAME

WRONG STARTING POINT > Exhortation Begins with Man & his Ability

WRONG IMAGE > Nobody can Crucify Themselves

WRONG TENSE OF VERB > Paul is saying “we HAVE died” PAST TENSE

Whatever DYING to SIN IS, it’s ALREADY HAPPENED to BELIEVER

KEY TO SANCTIFICATION > Something God DID FOR US in the PAST

TWO DANGERS OF THESE VIEWS – Immune from Sin, or We Crucify It

1) Leads to Self-Deception – Wrongly think we should not be stimulated by temptation, and yet inwardly know that we are, therefore we live a lie.

2) Doubt Scripture – If I am supposed to be immune to sin’s desires, like this view says the Bible promises, perhaps promises of Scripture are not trustworthy.

“I am Walking in Power, Victory...” “I am Strong!” when Fail > HYPOCRITES

RIGHT INTERPRETATION? KEY – Understand Context // Death of Christ

v. 5 “If we have been united with him like this in his death”

v. 10 “The death he died, he died to sin once for all”

BIBLE > DEATH is presented in LEGAL TERMS more than PHYSICAL Effect

2nd Chapter of Bible “when you eat this fruit...you will die”

Last 2 chapters of Bible > Fate of the Unrepentant is SECOND DEATH

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

Biblical REASON for CHRIST'S DEATH > Paid God's Legal Penalty for Sin
HE PAID PENALTY IN FULL "once for all" / Resurrection CONFIRMS

BELIEVER > UNITED TO CHRIST > Federal Headship Principle – Chapter 5

WE DIED TO SIN > BECAUSE HE DIED IN OUR PLACE > Substitute

"we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died" 2 Corinthians 5.14

c. "baptized into his death" How is CHRIST'S DEATH APPLIED to US?

v. 3 Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

BAPTISM = UNION with Christ / v. 3 Baptized "INTO" Christ Jesus

MEANS TO ENTER INTO A RELATIONSHIP / Allegiance to a Leader

Paul teaches Israelites: "were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea"
1 Corinthians 10.9

PRIMARY MEANING > Union with Christ by Holy Spirit

This Spiritual Baptism or Union is SYMBOLIZED IN WATER BAPTISM

Outward Sign of Baptism of HS Not TONGUES but Water Baptism

v. 4 "We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death"

STRANGE PHRASE? Backward? Normally - Buried Because we Die

"According to these words, it is not to death, it is to the internment of the dead,
that Paul compares baptism" Frederic Louis Godet

BURIAL = puts the Dead out of this world PERMANENTLY, No Coming Back
FINALITY of our Being Removed from Realm of Sin and Death through Christ

ROMANS – Baptism was a Bold and Risky Declaration > Christ before Caesar
 IRREVERSIBLE STEP OF PUBLIC DECLARATION > forward with Jesus

d. “our old self was crucified with him” > DEAD TO OUR OLD LIFE

v. 6 For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin

WHAT GOD DOES FOR US / Old Self = Who we were before faith in Christ

“There are two quite distinct ways in which the New Testament speaks of crucifixion in relation to holiness. The first is death to sin through identification with Christ (Rom 6.6 “our old self was crucified with him”); the second is our death to self through imitation of Christ (Galatians 5.24 “those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature”). On the one hand we have been crucified with Christ. But on the other we have crucified (decisively repudiated) our sinful nature with all its desires, so that every day we renew this attitude by taking up our cross and following Christ to crucifixion. The first is a legal death, a death to the penalty of sin; the second is a moral death, a death to the power of sin. The first belongs to the past, and is unique and unrepeatable; the second belongs to the present, and is repeatable, even continuous. I died to sin (in Christ) once; I die to self (like Christ) daily. It is with the first of these two deaths that Romans 6 is chiefly concerned, although the first is with a view to the second, and the second cannot take place without the first.” John Stott

2. Alive in the Risen Jesus

v. 4 “We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.”

GOD writes Believers Biography > 2 Volume Work

Vol 1 – BC > Story of Life before conversion ENDS > Judicial Death of Old Self

Vol 2 – Begins with My Resurrection > Story of My New Life in Risen Christ

v. 8 “we believe that we will also live with him.”

WE SHARE ETERNAL LIFE NOW / WE WILL ENJOY IT FOREVER

Paul “I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection” Philippians 3.10

“Life is resurrection anticipated, resurrection is life consummated” John Stott

GUARANTEE OF THIS NEW LIFE

v. 9 “For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him.”

JESUS WAS NOT RESUSCITATED LIKE LAZARUS > Only to Die Again

Apostle Peter: “it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.” Acts 2.24

v. 10 “he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God”

DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF JESUS ARE INSEPERABLE

BUT AT THE SAME TIME RADICALLY DIFFERENT

Differences Between...	Jesus' Death	Jesus' Resurrection
Time	Past Event	Present Experience
Nature	Died to sin, bearing its Penalty	Lives for God, seeking His Glory
Quality	Death 'Once for All'	Life Continuous and Unending

English Physicist – Stephen Hawking writes about “Black Holes” in Outer Space
Collapsed STAR such DENSITY & GRAVITY > NOTHING CAN ESCAPE IT
NOT EVEN LIGHT CAN ESCAPE > thus, appears as Dark Spot in the Heavens

OBJECTS rush toward it at the Speed of Light and Approach Infinite Mass

RESULT: Normal Laws of Physics loose meaning / No one knows what happens

IDEA? – Objects shoot through this Black Hole into another time or existence

WE HAVE DIED WITH CHRIST / WE HAVE RISEN WITH CHRIST

WE HAVE PASSED THROUGH THE GOSPEL BLACK HOLE

WE ENTERED A NEW AND UNCHARTERED REALM OF GOD'S GRACE

WE CAN NEVER RETURN TO OUR FORMER EXISTENCE

3. Living for the Ascended Jesus

Romans 6: 2 Parallel Sections	Verses 1 – 14	Verses 15 – 23
1. Begins with Praise for God's Grace	5.20 "grace increased all the more"	v. 15 "we are not under law but under grace"
2. Probing Question about Sin	v. 1 "What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase?"	v. 15 "What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace?"
3. Answer with Outraged Indignation	v. 2 "By no means!"	v. 15 "By no means!"
4. Reason for Sinfulness > Ignore what God's Done	v. 3 don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?	v. 18 You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.
5. Radical Discontinuity between our Old Life and New Life in Christ	v. 2 "We died to sin, how can we live in it any longer?"	v. 16 (paraphrased) "We offered ourselves as slaves to obedience, how can we repudiate our commitment?"

a. Cruel Mastery of Sin

1) Defining our Master > "gotta serve somebody" WE ARE DOING SO!

v. 16 "Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey...?"

PREMISE > No such thing as ABSOLUTE FREEDOM for Anyone

IMAGE OF SLAVERY > Echoes of Teaching of Jesus

Jesus: "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin." John 8.34

BEHIND CRUEL MASTER OF SIN IS AN EVEN MORE CRUEL MASTER

"Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light." 2 Corinthians 11.14

2) Delight of our Master – Sin is Fun, Some is Even More Fun

Serves Up Big Sloppy Portion of Sin - HAPPY AS HOGS AT THE TROUGH

v. 20 “When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness.”

SIN IS A SORT OF FREEDOM > also Known as Moral License

WE'RE ALL LOOKING TO BE FREE > “I can't wait to get to High School..

To get to College...to leave my parents behind...get a job...retire...what's next!

DELIGHT OF SIN IS SHORT LIVED – Testimony of Moses

“Moses chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time.” Hebrews 11.25

3) Delusion of our Master > WHAT SEEMED SO GREAT HAS FOOLED US

v. 21 “the things you are now ashamed of”

LIKE A DRUNK ON THE MORNING AFTER > Friend Gives Nights Report

“You're kidding, No! Did I really do that?! How can I face my friends again?”

v. 19 “slavery to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness”

GREEK “you've yielded your members slaves...to wickedness unto wickedness”

PROCESS > From Slavery to Impurity and to Ever-increasing Wickedness

IMPURITY > Sin as it effects the Individual, Personal Defilement

WICKEDNESS > Violation of divine or human laws

“Impurity refers principally to the pollution, Wickedness to the guilt of sin”
Robert Haldane

DOWN HILL PATH OF SIN > MADE CLEAR IN ROMANS 1

walk in counsel of wicked> stand in way of sinners> sit in seat of mockers

Psalm 1

4) Destiny of our Master END OF THIS PATH > DEATH

Captain SATAN & his SHIP ARE GOING DOWN > Sinking in Lake of Fire

v. 16 “sin, which leads to death”

v. 21 “Those things result in death!”

v. 23 “For the wages of sin is death” / Sin Pays Wages / Get what you Deserve

NOT PHYSICAL DEATH > Righteous also experience Physical Death

ETERNAL DEATH > HELL > EVERLASTING PUNISHMENT FOR SIN

WHAT WE DO NOW SHAPES WHAT WE WILL BE ONE DAY

THERE IS A BETTER DESTINY > A BETTER MASTER WE CAN SERVE

b. Christ our Master Saves!

1) Knowing > Understanding what God has Done for Us

v. 3 “*don't you know*”

v. 6 “For *we know* that our old self was crucified with him”

v. 9 “*For we know*”

v. 11 “*count yourselves* dead to sin but alive to God in Christ

v. 16 “Don't you know...” / KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

v. 17 “But 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.”

TWO THINGS WE CAN LEARN ABOUT MINISTRY

1) Importance of DOCTRINE “form of teaching to which you were entrusted

“FORM” = STANDARD > Pattern of Sound Teaching / Apostolic Instruction

FIRST BELIEVERS “devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching” Acts 2.42

Paul told Timothy about: “the pattern of sound teaching...”

DOCTRINE / BASIC GUIDELINES OF DISCIPLESHIP

2) TARGET OF OUR TEACHING – where do we aim?

Some at Heart – “wholeheartedly” > EMOTIONS > Result > Emotionalism

Some at Will – “obeyed” > BEHAVIOR > Result > LEGALISM

PAUL at the Mind – “form of teaching” > DOCTRINAL TRUTH

Result > OBEDIENCE from the Whole HEART / Love Him & Keep Commands

Jesus said, " you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

The (Jews) answered him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?" John 8.32

NOT > Intense Emotional experience to Feel Closer to God

NOT > Special Methodology / Training Course / Prescribed Ritual

IT IS KNOWING WHAT GOD HAS DONE FOR US IN CHRIST

v. 11 In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

FIRST TIME IN ROMANS Paul tells believers to DO SOMETHING

5 ½ chapters APOSTOLIC DECLARATION / DIVINE ANNOUNCEMENT

GOD’S GOOD NEWS FOR THE WHOLE WORLD

Emphasis on KNOWING GOD’S MESSAGE in order to Follow God’s Way

v. 3 “*don't you know* that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?”

v. 6 “For *we know* that our old self was crucified with him”

v. 9 “*For we know*”

v. 11 In the same way, *count yourselves* dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

CONSIDER YOURSELVES – RECKON – THINK!

HOW CAN A MARRIED WOMAN LIVE AS IF SHE WERE SINGLE?

Truth is she can – For a while – But LET HER REMEMBER HER PROMISE

LET her feel Her Wedding Ring – Symbol of Unending Promise Before God

HOW CAN A BAPTIZED CHRISTIAN STILL LIVE IN THEIR SIN?

They can too! BUT LET THEM REMEMBER > they are Dead to Sin

MAJOR SECRET OF HOLY LIVING IS IN THE MIND

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Romans 12.2

OUR WHOLE ATTITUDE TOWARD SIN AND GOD MUST CHANGE

b. Struggling > Experiencing what God has Done IN Us

v. 6 “For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the *body of sin* might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin”

MEANING of Body of Sin > NOT THE SAME AS OLD SELF

One is Dead – “old self was crucified” / Other “might be done away with”

OLD SELF > old me – before salvation > WHO HAS DIED WITH CHRIST

“Body of sin” > SINFUL NATURE > linked to our Physical Body

BODY IS NOT INHERENTLY EVIL > contra Greeks and Hindus

Body was Created Good / Made in the Image of God / New Body in Christ

BODY NOW – ON EARTH – IN SIN > SINFUL INFLUENCES WITHIN

vs. 12 & 13 > NEGATIVE AND POSITIVE EXHORTATIONS

NEGATIVE > You have been Freed from Sin, NOW FIGHT AGAINST IT

v. 12 “Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness”

Do not offer your limbs and organs to become Instruments of Wickedness

SIN PERSONIFIED AS MILITARY OFFICER > wanting to conscript us

POSITIVE – make a deliberate and decisive commitment to God’s service

v. 13 “but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness.”

WE HAVE DIED TO SIN / HOW CAN IT STILL LIVE IN US?

CHRIST DIED AND ROSE / WE HAVE DIED AND RISEN IN HIM

v. 14 “For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.” PROMISE OF ASSURANCE > WORD OF GREAT HOPE

WE’RE IN ANOTHER REALM > Not in Adam any longer, Now in Christ

v. 16 “offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey”

v. 17 “you wholeheartedly obeyed”

v. 22 “now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God”

UNCOMFORTABLE Idea, Obedience – Not Saved by Law or Works – ch 3 & 4

TRUE but we are saved for works / OBEDIENCE is Sign of Reality of Salvation

IN THIS CONTEXT > Obedience is SYNONYM for Belief

v. 17 “But 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.”

“the obedience that comes from faith”

Romans 1.5

YOU USED TO OFFER YOURSELVES AS SLAVES TO SIN

NOW OFFER YOURSELF AS SLAVES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

ONLY WAY TO BE HOLY – DISCIPLINE ourselves > Know and Do

KNOW WHAT GOD has DONE FOR US IN CHRIST > Live Accordingly

SUBMIT > Minds, Eyes, Ears, Mouths, Hands, & Feet to Lord Jesus Christ

WE LIVE IN THE DAY OF THE QUICK FIX

30 Minute Photo Developing / One Hour Dry Cleaning

FAST ACTING PAIN RELIEVER > everything has EASY SOLUTION

DEPRESSED – Watch a Movie, Go Shopping, Pop a Pill, Eat Something

CHRISTIAN VARIANT “Let Go, and Let God” / “Name It, Claim It”

3) Rejoicing > Enjoying what God has Done for us in Christ

v. 22 But 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. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

SLAVERY TO GOD > Results in Our Perfect Freedom / Created to Serve Him
Righteousness leads to Holiness > Outward godliness leads to Inward Godliness

DOING RIGHT THINGS TAKES US FURTHER IN SPIRITUAL GROWTH

END OF THIS SPIRITUAL LIFE – v. 22 “eternal life” – abundant, everlasting

ETERNAL FELLOWSHIP w/ GOD / SOURCE OF OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS

THERE IS NO NEUTRAL GROUND > you gotta serve somebody

WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU DO GO BACK TO SIN AFTER BELIEVING?

1. IT WILL NOT WORK > An Adult cannot return to Childhood

He can ACT CHILDISH, IMMATURE, EVEN INFANTILE

But this will NOT MAKE the ADULT become a CHILD > Just a Fool

As a believer YOU CAN SIN, YOU WILL SIN > Not like Before Christ

NO MORE ENJOYMENT / NO LASTING PLEASURE / PAINFUL

LIKE PETER unconvincingly saying of Jesus “I do not know Him”

PEOPLE WILL SAY OF YOU “but surely you are one of his disciples”

2. GOD WILL STOP YOU – not from Sinning, but from Continuing in Sin

One of Two Ways 1) Make you miserable in sin until you finally repent

2) Take you home early // parents of naughty child / Ananias & Saphira

3. YOU ARE NOT SAVED – if you continually live & enjoy unrepentant sin

No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him. 1 John 3.6

EVEN WORSE > you may never come to know Him > Innoculated against Faith

“Now...reader...Remember that Christ made not this atonement, that thou shouldst anger God again; neither died he for thy sins, that thou shouldst live in them; neither cleansed he thee, that thou shouldst return as a swine unto thine old puddle again; but that thou shouldst be a new creature and live a new life after the will of God and not of the flesh.”

William Tyndale – Commentary on Romans in 1526

Romans 6 ¹What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? ²By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? ³Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. ⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— ⁷because anyone who has died has been set free from sin. ⁸Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. ¹⁰The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. ¹²Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. ¹³Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness. ¹⁴For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace. ¹⁵What then? Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? By no means! ¹⁶Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one 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 have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance. ¹⁸You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness. ¹⁹I am using an example from everyday life because of your human limitations. Just as you used to offer yourselves as slaves to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer yourselves as slaves to

righteousness leading to holiness. ²⁰ When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. ²¹ What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! ²² But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

“Here are two completely different lives, lives totally opposed to one another – the life of the old self, and the life of the new. They are what Jesus termed the broad road that leads to destruction and the narrow road that leads to life. Paul calls them two slaveries. By birth we are slaves of sin; by grace and faith we have become slaves of God. The slavery of sin yields no return, except a steady, moral deterioration and finally death. The slavery of God yields the precious return of sanctification and finally eternal life. The argument of this section, then, is that our conversion – this act of yielding or surrender to God – leads to a status of slavery, and slavery involves obedience.” John Stott