

## **“Truly Free” Romans 6:16-22**

### **Free Indeed**

John 8:32, “if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.” Christians have been set free from the law as a system of salvation. Being justified by faith in Christ, we are no longer under God’s law, but under grace. Romans 6:14. We have also been set free from sin’s dominion. Christians have been regenerated and made alive to God through union with Christ in his death and risen life. Romans 6:3-11. The consequence of sin governing us was the eternal wrath of God. Being set free, we are saved from the death sentence. We are alive. We are truly free. We have been set free in order that we might “walk as children of light” Ephesians 5:8.

### **Old Testament Types**

Slavery was a part of Israel’s history from her earliest days as a nation. Genesis 15:13. The Exodus from Egypt did not rescue them from slavery but only from slavery to Pharaoh. Now they were the slaves of God. And that was a huge blessing. Exodus 19 and Leviticus 25:55, God told them “You shall be my own possession among all the peoples.” He then gives them the Ten Commandments that detailed how they were to act now that they belonged to him. If they were unwilling to be his slaves, they would once again become the slaves of their enemies.

### **New Testament Reality**

We too will be slaves. Who will be our Master? John 8:34, “Truly, truly I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin.” 2 Peter 2:19 and Romans 6:17 describe this Master, a governing or controlling power. But God purchased us. This is redemption. We were purchased by our Master through his death. But just like the Israelites, he didn’t buy us to set us free. The blood that purchased us wasn’t spent so that we could find another master. He purchased us for his own possession. He owns us. And that is a beautiful thing. Of all the possible masters, He is the one to have. So we are to work out our salvation with fear and trembling. Faith produces works. Salvation is by grace through faith alone. But that faith does produce works. As Christians we now have a new Master. What do the resulting works look like? What does being a slave to Christ, a slave to righteousness look like?

### **You can only have one Master**

We were purchased. We are under the exclusive ownership of God. If we deny the one who purchased us, destruction is the end. Are you trading a loving, merciful, forgiving master for harsh bondage to another?

### **Your Master requires complete obedience**

Because we have only one Master we are to submit to him. Submission to the lordship of Christ works itself out as obedience to him. Obedience now comes out of a heart that loves our new Master. If we say we love him our life needs to reflect that.

### **You have only one goal**

As slaves we have one goal and that is to do the Masters will, to please him. Walk and please God, more and more. For the faithful slave that is motivation enough. When our numbered days are done, our faith will be turned to sight and we will see our Master face to face. How joyous will it be to hear his gracious words of welcome, “Well done, my good and faithful slave. Enter into the joy of your Master.”

### **You are completely dependent on your Master**

We are to trust God to completely meet our needs. We are called to seek first his kingdom, put first things first and he will meet our needs. Psalm 46:10 summarizes it very succinctly: Be still and know that I am God.

### **Your Master requires personal accountability**

One day we will stand before our Master to give account. 2 Corinthians 5:10. Even if our faithfulness to Him is costly or painful we have the assurance of 2 Corinthians 4:17,18. It will be our life he is looking at. What will our Master say?

### **Conclusion**

Being a slave is not the only metaphor in the Bible, but slavery is a very vivid metaphor God gives us to help us grasp what a relationship with him looks like. We are slaves of Christ. Are we living like it?

The Son has set you free. You are free indeed.