

Enslaved To Righteousness (Rom 6:18)

- Paul is still answering the objection of antinomianism
- Remember all is based on union with Christ

I. Mechanics

A) Rom 6:18 is Paul's summary statement in answer to v.15 and all that he has proven in v.16-17

1. Remember that the chapter is broken into 2 questions/objections and Paul's rebuttal (v.1-14 & v.15-23)
 - i. Rom 6:18 is parallel to Rom 6:11
 - ii. Each verse summarizes Paul's argument before he gives his exhortation to practice
 - a) V.18 (like v.11) is a fact and not an appeal, and it's based upon union with Christ
 - b) V.18 (like v.11) is true of ALL Christians
2. V.18 (like v.11) fully answers the charge of antinomianism
 - i. Continuing under the reign sin is impossible because a Christian has been enslaved to righteousness

II. Terms

A) "Being then made free from sin" = "emancipated"

1. Negative:
 - i. This does not mean "sinless perfection"
 - a) V.19 (like v.12) makes this impossible
 - ii. This does not mean free from "sinful nature"
 - a) Remember the importance of the distinction between the "old man" and the "old nature" in this chapter
 - iii. This does not mean free from "temptations" of sin or from evil thoughts
 - iv. This does not mean the Christian is done with "this evil world"
 - a) All the "motions of sin" remain in the mortal body
 - b) The devil is still on the attack
 - c) The Christian is still in this world
2. Positive:
 - i. The truth is in the comparison
 - a) The opposite of "free from sin" is "servants of righteousness"
 - 1) Paul has been showing since Rom 5:12 that to be "in Christ" is parallel to being "in Adam", it is union under a Head
 - (a) He gives this same idea here in v.2, 6, 7, 10, 11, 14, 17

B) “Servants of righteousness”= enslaved to righteousness/holiness unto God

1. Negative:

- i. This doesn’t mean we like righteousness (although this is true)
- ii. This doesn’t mean we desire righteousness (although this is true)
- iii. This doesn’t mean that we are now attempting to practice righteousness (although his is true)

2. Positive:

- i. Property of the Sovereign God
 - a) 1 Cor 1:30- Christ is all unto the Christian and the outcome certain
 - b) 1 Thess 4:3- God’s will is the Christian’s sanctification
 - c) Phil 1:6- He will perform it!
 - 1) Thus the Christian is called a “saint” because we have been “set apart for God’s use” by God and that will come to pass fully
 - (a) This very fact is proven by the belief of the gospel in the first place
 - (1) 2 Cor 4:3-4- Lost world blinded by their master and completely unable to see the truth of the gospel and trust
 - (2) 1 Cor 1:10-14- The natural/dead man is enslaved to sin, not simply bent towards sin
 - I. Only the “stronger man” can free that slave
 - II. If we have been set free by a stronger man, than certainly that man will master us as much as and more than our previous owner, making v.15 preposterous

III. Doctrine

A) Rom 8:2- The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus

1. The principle of life or “righteousness” is placed in every single child of God at the new birth
 - i. 1 Pet 1:23- As a seed planted
2. The Holy (sanctifying) Spirit begins to work out in us @ once the process of sanctification
 - i. Phil 2:12-13- God worketh in you
 - ii. 2 Thess 2:13- Sanctified and then believing
 - iii. 1 Pet 1:2- Sanctified UNTO obedience
 - a) The 1st act of obedience is repentance/belief
 - 1) This begins a reversal of the 1st act of Adam in disobedience
3. 1 John 4:4- Greater is He (Holy Spirit) that is in the Christian
 - i. James 4:5- The Holy Spirit “lusteth to envy”
 - a) “He yearns for us with jealous envy”
 - b) Gal 5:17- Just as flesh lusts, now the Spirit begins to lust within the believer

- 1) The Holy Spirit does the work of Sanctifier in the Covenant of Redemption
 - (a) John 17:17- Sanctifies us by His truth (God's word)
 - (1) Thus our sanctification has already begun when we "see" and believe
 - (2) This isn't by our "decision" or by our "choice", it is by union with Christ
 - (b) Eph 5:26-27- Sanctification continues by His word
 - (1) Heb 12:5-11- If we will not allow Him to sanctify us by His word, He will bring in other means
 - (2) And thus again, we see that Rom 6:1 & 15 is preposterous

B) How?

1. Rom 5:12-8:39- All based upon doctrine of union with Christ
 - i. Rom 6:5- Engrafted in Christ
 - a) Engrafted branches begin at once to receive sap from the new tree
 - 1) Same holds true in the purchase of a slave, he is the property and responsibility of another before he knows anything of the process
 - 2) Rom 8:2- "Spirit of life" trumps "sin and death"
 - (a) John 8:36- "If the Son makes you free, ye shall be free indeed"
 - (1) This again makes continuing in sin preposterous
 - I. This is the issue so clouded today by the "carnal Christian" teaching
 - II. The truth lies not in a separation of justification from sanctification, but instead in a false conversion
 - ii. The Christian is a man that as had something done "for him" and then "to him" by the triune God
 - a) Righteousness= "Perfection of God's purpose to His glory"
 - 1) Righteousness is not morality only, it is a man living to the intended purpose and glory of God
 - (a) God's purpose in righteousness includes love of God and also love of fellow creatures
 - (b) Thus Christianity is the only thing that has ever truly changed a man, because it isn't a change brought own by man's own power, it is a change wrought out by God