

The Old Life (Rom 6:20-21)

- Paul is still answering the objection of antinomianism

- I. Mechanics (Rom 6:20-23)
 - A) Paul gives 3 reasons why his exhortation to holy living is reasonable:
 1. What we were (negative)
 - i. V.20- What our state was
 - ii. V.21- Characteristics of that state
 2. What we are (positive)
 - i. V.22- New state and character of that state
 3. Summary by comparison (negative and positive)
 - i. V.23-The fruit of the 2 states compared

- II. Rom 6:20- Paul never simply gives an exhortation, but always gives the reason for it
 - A) “For”- Because
 1. V.15 is ridiculous for anyone who thinks back to the life of bondage to sin
 2. Paul explains his logic:
 - i. We were the servant of sin
 - a) This is the point he has been making all along
 - ii. Free from any righteousness whatsoever
 - a) Can’t serve 2 masters
 - 1) V.22- Shows there is no middle position

 - B) “Free from righteousness”- This does not mean there is no good whatsoever in the lost man
 1. It means that when we were a slave to sin we were 100% free from the governing power of righteousness
 2. Everything that the lost man does is in service to sin and self
 3. This is true even though the thing may appear righteous and technically might very well be so
 - i. Matt 6:1-18- Consider the Pharisees
 - a) Matt 6:1-4- In works towards others
 - b) Matt 6:5-8- In prayer towards God
 - c) Matt 6:16-18- In fasting towards self
 - ii. Rom 9:30-10:4- Ignorant of “righteousness” of God as a Master
 - a) “Not submitted to the righteousness of God”
 - b) Man’s righteousness:
 - 1) Social righteousness, public morality, self-satisfying religion

- (a) These things are always devolving, and what starts as a public show of morality, ends up with “inclusion” as today, and rather than speak against vice, calls acceptance of sin as righteous (Oprah, Ellen, Dr. Phil, etc.)
 - (1) Man’s version of righteousness is always changing, which proves it can not be nor ever was true righteousness
 - (2) Luke 16:15- “Ye justify yourselves before men”
- (b) These people may be called “fine men” by the world, but they are completely free of righteousness
- (c) Isa 64:6- The very best a man can muster up in a lost state is complete unrighteousness (fruitlessness)
- (d) Paul was one of these “fine righteous men” once
 - (1) Phil 3:4-9- He came to see his prior life was a complete loss
 - (2) John 15:5- “Without Me, ye can do nothing”
 - (3) The lost life is a total loss in the end, just as a slave’s work comes to nothing for the slave in the end (but not so with slaves of Christ)
- 4. Christians- As soon as a man sees anything of the “true righteousness” he knows at once that he has none (Luke 18:9-14)
 - i. Matt 5:6- And the Christian hungers for this righteousness
 - a) The “socially righteous” do not hunger after anything, they are self satisfied, lacking nothing in their eyes (complete fruitlessness)

III. Rom 6:21- Paul gives an example of the fruitless life of sin

- 1. All the fruit a man is left with is guilt and shame
 - i. Compare Ecclesiastes- 1:3, 2:11, 3:9, 5:16
 - a) Solomon knew better than anyone about the fruit of sin
- 2. True value is in eternal life with God, and not in pleasure, happiness, or “living the good life”
 - i. Heb 11:25- “Pleasure of sin for a season”
 - a) Everything is temporary in the life of sin, with the exception of the guilt, shame, and penalty
 - 1) Compare alcohol, drugs, food, thrill seeking, etc.
 - (a) They only please temporarily and must be continued in greater amount, and leave the user worse afterwards
 - (1) Compare a hangover and the remorse over the foolishness and money wasted
 - (b) The value of these things is that they temporarily blur reality
 - 2) All we have to do is to look back honestly on that life we led
 - ii. Rom 6:19- “Iniquity unto iniquity”

- a) Sin is always devolving lower and lower, ending in death altogether
 - 1) Worse yet, we begin to lose our shame of it, and even brag about it
 - (a) Jer 8:12- Not ashamed and unable to blush
 - (b) Rom 1:32- Take pleasure in them that do the same
 - (1) Worse yet, they teach children to do the same, indoctrinating them
- b) These things done in the darkness, for when Light comes, it exposes it for what it is
 - 1) “Night life,” “Night clubs,” “Private clubs”, etc.

IV. Tests

- A) Which life truly satisfies the entire man?
 - 1. “We are restless until our souls find their rest in God”- Augustine
 - 2. Compare the restless nature of the world, like the shifting seas
 - i. Back and forth, always looking for fulfillment
 - ii. Consider fashion, and how today’s style was discarded 30 years ago
- B) Which life edifies the entire man?
 - 1. Which helps me grow and mature as a human being?
 - 2. Which develops my mind and faculties, and gives me understanding?
- C) Which life prepares me for what lies ahead?
 - 1. Which prepares me for death and the afterlife, and even causes me to look forward to them?
 - 2. Which life prepares me for tribulation and crisis?
 - i. Take away the pleasures of the life of sin, and in what state does that man find himself?