

WHOSE SLAVE ARE YOU?

A very simple explanation of this is found in the Book of Romans, chapter 6, verse 16 -- *"Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin to death, or of obedience to righteousness?"*

So the matter is decided by to whom you submit yourself, and to whom you yield your allegiance. Jesus made it quite clear -- *"No servant can serve two masters -- for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other -- you cannot serve God and worldly treasure"* (Luke 16:13). He also said -- *"Most assuredly, I say to you -- whoever commits sin is slave of sin"* (John 3:34).

To be a slave is to be owned by another with little or no chance of ever being free. You may become a slave by not being able to pay a debt -- or to be sold into slavery by a parent or guardian -- in either case you are the property of another and that person has full ownership of you for the rest of your life.

This portion of Scripture above in Romans is referring to not who, but what, has control of you. *"You were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered -- and having been set free from sin, you became slaves of Righteousness"* (Romans 6:17,18). When you are set free from sin -- *"You are no longer a slave of sin but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ"* (Galatians 4:7).

The Apostles considered themselves "bond-slaves" which means that they were redeemed and set free -- but now are voluntary slaves of Christ. In those days when a slave had served his time, and paid his debt, he was set free -- but many appreciated their owners good and fair treatment and requested to continue in their employ -- thus their ear-lobe was punctured leaving a visible hole as an outward sign of their voluntary surrender to, and continued working with their employer -- and yet free of bondage.

So, too, we who are set free by the redemption of Jesus Christ are no longer slaves of sin and bondage, but are now free to be slaves of Christ and considered sons and heirs of God by reason of the payment for sin made by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the Cross.

Basic slavery today has been abolished -- yet -- many are still slaves of habit -- smoking, alcohol, illicit sex -- the list goes on and on -- including the thirst for power, control, and money. Many are slaves without even realizing it -- controlled by lust, desires and wants beyond our means.

Think of how many of our politicians, wealthy corporation CEO's -- yes -- and even mega church preachers are slaves of sin. The thirst for more and bigger runs in our society and leads to unsatisfied ambitions that lead to crime and sin.

There is no real lasting peace of mind in our world today -- except in the peace that Jesus the Prince of Peace gives -- *"Peace I leave with you, My Peace I give to you -- not as the world gives do I give to you"* (John 14:27). *"Let the Peace of God rule in your hearts"* (Colossians 3:15).

To be completely surrendered to -- yes -- and to be a slave of Christ -- is the only way we can have peace and contentment in this troubled world.

Think of exactly what slavery means -- not the beatings and belittling of the pre-Civil War days -- but rather the loss of dignity, purpose, and worth that is brought upon us in today's rush for satisfaction in the things of the world.

So many are not really living today -- they are just existing -- putting up with their circumstances that they have gotten themselves into -- actually becoming slaves by their own foolishness and lack of control. But -- there is real hope -- when we come to our senses and realize that the path we have been following has led us to sin and slavery and now we need help from above.

God has made a way of escape for us all -- that is, freedom from the bondage and penalty of sin -- in the Peace and Love of Jesus Christ.

It's time to give up your battle and turn your life over, completely, to the One who can make all the difference-in-the-world to you. Surrender and make yourself a willing slave of Jesus and you will find that He, and He alone, is the answer to all your problems -- it really works!

BELIEVE -- REPENT -- SURRENDER -- RECEIVE -- ENJOY --

NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

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For more information and counseling contact -- Pastor Bruce R. Burke

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