

Slaves of Righteousness
The Transforming Freedom of our Gospel Master
Jerry Cisar— Monday, September 1, 2008

Text: Romans 6:17-23

I You have been handed over to a new master!

i *“But thanks be to God, because you were slaves of sin, but you obeyed from the heart that to which you **were handed over**, the mark of teaching.”*

ii YLT: *and thanks to God, that ye were servants of the sin, and were obedient from the heart to the form of teaching **to which ye were delivered up**.*

i

A *To a form of teaching?*

- 1 Corinthians 11:2
- 1 Corinthians 11:23
- 1 Corinthians 15:3
- 2Peter 2:21
- Jude 1:3

a

A Who handed us over?

i *“But thanks be to God...”*

i Romans 1:18-32 Objects of God's Wrath

- Romans 1:24
- Romans 1:26
- Romans 1:28

God gives the objects of His wrath over to lust, passions and a depraved mind. God gives the objects of His mercy over to the Gospel!

i God took us from one master and gave us to another!

ii

I We Obey Our New Master from the Heart!

A How does handing us over to a teaching bring about obedience from the heart?

- 2 Timothy 1:11-13

A What is the standard, form, mark of this teaching?

i

All Gospel patterns ultimately point to Christ and the cross.

A The cross teaches us obedience from the heart!

A What did the law produce? enslavement to sin and death

A How does the Gospel produce obedience from the heart?

i The Gospel forgives our sin, releasing us from its power to condemn.

i The Gospel instructs our hearts.

The Gospel is a universal, colossal, graphic, real life illustration of God's redemptive nature toward us, by which it re-orientes our view of life, its purpose and how we are to live it. It is the greatest morality and transforming ethic laid bare for all to see.

➤ Galatians 2:20

George Ladd: *“The objective and substitutionary character of the death of Christ as the supreme demonstration of God's love should result in a transformation of conduct that is effected by the constraining power of that love.”*

A Vs. 18 Slaves of righteousness

i Corresponding expressions:

a vs. 16 *slaves of obedience*

b vs. 18, 19 *slaves of righteousness*

c vs. 22 *slaves of God*

d

i No one is a totally free person.

➤

- 2 Corinthians 5:14
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I What does obedience look like?

A We're not under law... but we are under Gospel!

The Gospel asks, "How does this pattern of living that you are pursuing connect to this pattern of teaching...the pattern of Christ in the Gospel?"

C.T. Studd: *If Jesus Christ be God, and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for him.*"

B. Living it Out

- Romans 12:10-13

Charles Spurgeon: *"It is our duty and our privilege to exhaust our lives for Jesus. We are not to be living specimens of men in fine preservation, but living sacrifices, whose lot is to be consumed."*

Thanks be to God, you were slaves of sin, but you obeyed from the heart that to which you were handed over, the Gospel and its form for life.

i

○ Drawing Lines

- *Making the connection between what we "know" about the Gospel and how we think and live.*

- What does it mean to say we were handed over to the mark of teaching? Who handed us over? How does the context of "slavery" to sin or righteousness inform this phrase?
- What kind of obedience did the law produce?
- How does the Gospel produce a different kind of obedience? Can you think of Biblical examples connecting the Gospel to how we are to live? [explore the epistles]
- Why is it essential to know that the Gospel first forgives our sins and so that God remembers them no more?
- Paul viewed himself as a glad slave of Jesus Christ. Are you? Has the Gospel instructed you of the love of Christ such that it compels your living?
- Jack Miller: *"Prayer connects cross and character, God's love for us, working in us a sacrificial love for others."* In what ways can prayer connect cross and character?