

Romans 6b verses 15-23

15 Not quite the same as verse 1. Verse one is the idea of sinning to make grace stand out. It implied remaining habitually in sin. In 2-14 Paul explains that God has changed our heart. We can't operate that way anymore. This verse is more along the lines of, 'since we are under grace and not the Law why not enjoy occasional planned sin?' NO WAY The verb tenses in the two verses point out the difference. Verse one is present subjunctive implying a habitual continuous action and verse 15 is the active future tense, a planned future action. Grace is more a more severe instructor than the Law ever was. Titus 2:11-14

16 Here is why. You give your body to the use of another and you are a slave. When sin is allowed, it takes over as master. Think about those you know who are sinning habitually. They are servants of that sin. Think back in your own life, or maybe even now, and you can see the power of sin to enslave a person. It will never serve you. The addicts favorite line, "I can quit whenever I want." The thief comes to kill, steal, and destroy. Jesus comes to give life. Serve sin and you are in the process of dying. Serve God and you are on the path of righteousness, a right relation with your Creator. As Dylan sang when for a short time he was a slave to righteousness, "you gotta serve somebody". Who are you serving? You are a slave to Jesus or sin. This one time future sin in verse 15 is like the addict that started with just one line of coke. Galatians 5:13

17 The path to liberation! Wholeheartedly obey the teaching God has entrusted to you. God invested His Son and His precious word into your life. The only appropriate response is to wholeheartedly obey, which will set you free from slavery to sin and make you a slave of life giving righteousness. What kind of a return will God receive for investing so much into your life?! This can also be translated - the form of teaching into which you were handed over. Set free from the bonds of sin by death you are now a wholehearted servant of the new covenant. Ephesians 2:4-7

18 Liberated captives! When the American soldiers came into Dachau the emaciated prisoners charged them to hug and kiss them. Those who could no longer walk were carried by their fellow prisoners so they could touch their liberators. The Nazi death camps are a mere shadow of what Satan would love to do to each of us if we would only be foolish enough to think we can entertain sin for a little venture! Run to hug your Liberator and if you can't walk ask your liberated comrades to carry you so you can touch Him! Psalm 116:16 Jn 8:36

19 Paul is saying that he would like to speak in spiritual terms but we wouldn't get it, so he uses the physical illustration of slavery. Man, when unrestrained by

culture or outside positive influences, becomes ever increasingly wicked, until he destroys himself. Like the Nazi death camps mentioned above, where evil went almost unchecked, men became monsters of death and torture. This is the nature of our unregenerate hearts. But in the same way, they went toward ever increasing wickedness, when we become slaves to God we go in the opposite direction. We grow in Christlikeness until that perfect day when we see him face to face. 2Corinthians 3:18

20 When flesh is on the throne of our heart, righteousness has no control to restrain us from evil. There is no middle ground. Who are we serving? Servants can make mistakes, but Who is the Master? That is the key issue here.

21 Did we ever gain anything from wickedness? It's fruit is DEATH. The enemy of our souls hates everything that God loves. God loves you, and so, Satan would love to give you something that would deceive you into letting flesh rule your life. That is a sure path to destruction, and that is his goal. God loves you, so in this battle, if Satan can destroy you he has won a little victory against God. But God has given us a choice. Just don't fall for the enemy's lies and be tricked into compromise. Proverbs 1:31, Jeremiah 31:19

22 God in His goodness has planned something more wonderful for you than mortal mind can comprehend. He calls it eternal life. I don't think 95% of the Christian world has a clue as to what that means. It is much more than immortality. Psalm 16:11, John 4:14,36 Just like the Kingdom, we have entered it to some extent already. Knowing God and Jesus is Eternal Life. John 17:3 John called Jesus Eternal Life, 1John 1:2, 5:20

23 Another stepping-stone on the Roman road to eternal life. We earn death. It is the just wages earned by rebelling against God. Eternal Life is (in or through) Jesus and He is God's gift to us. When someone really loves another, they give themselves to the one they love. God has given Himself to us in Jesus. 1Timothy 6:12 Grab hold of the most wonderful gift, and cling to Him throughout all time. Give yourself back to God as a slave of righteousness.

Is Paul saying redeemed people can't sin anymore?

What things are pictured in baptism?

What does resurrection have to do with my daily life?

How does sin reign over a person?

How can your body parts be God's instruments?