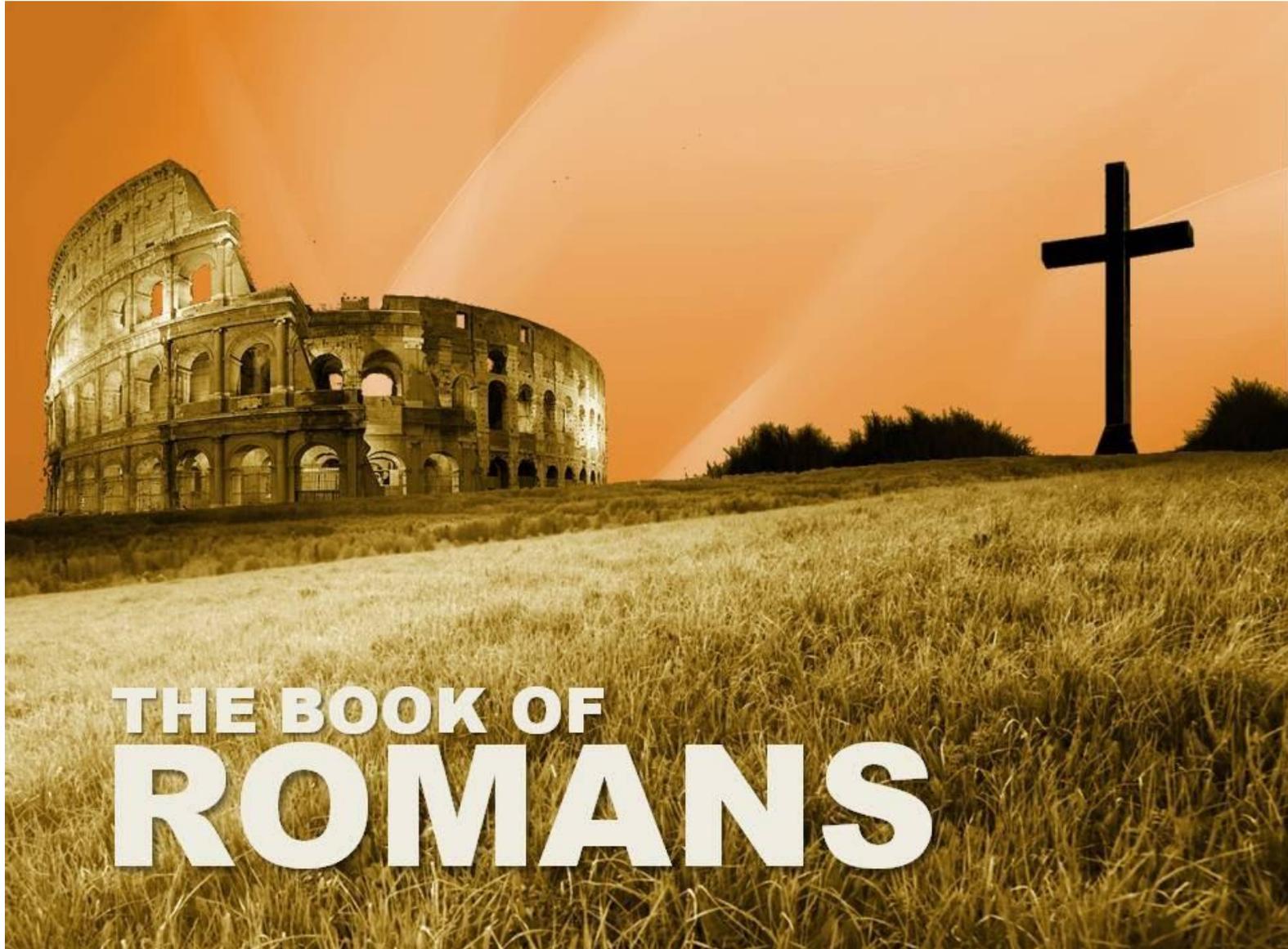


# Rom 6:17-18 Slaves of Righteousness



# Romans 6 Overview\*



**Information** v:1 to 10  
(on who the believer  
is in Christ)

**Exhortation** v:11 to 14  
(on our union  
with Christ)

**Explanation** v:15 to 24  
(on our slavery to Christ)

## Information - verses 1 - 5



<sup>1</sup> What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? <sup>2</sup> May it never be! How shall **2b** we who died to sin still live in it?

<sup>3</sup> Or do you not know that all of us **3b** who have been baptized into Christ Jesus **3c** have been baptized into His death? <sup>4</sup> Therefore **4a** we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that **4b** as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, **4c** so we too might walk in newness of life. <sup>5</sup> For if **5a** we have become united with *Him* in the likeness of His death, certainly **5b** we shall also be *in the likeness* of His resurrection,

## Information - verses 6 -10



<sup>6</sup> knowing this, that

**6a** our old self was crucified with *Him*,

**6b** in order that our body of sin might be done away with,

**6c** so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; <sup>7</sup> for

**7a** he who has died is freed from sin. <sup>8</sup> Now if

**8a** we have died with Christ, we believe that

**8b** we shall also live with Him,

<sup>9</sup> knowing that

**9a** Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again;

**9b** death no longer is master over Him. <sup>10</sup> For

**10a** the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but

**10b** the life that He lives, He lives to God.

## Exhortation verses 11-14



- Even so **consider [reckon] yourselves to be dead to [the] sin**, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.
- Therefore, **do not let sin reign** in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts,
- and **do not go on presenting** the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness;
- but **present yourselves to God** as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.
- For **[the] sin shall not be master over you**, for you are not under law but under grace.

# Review – Rom 6:1 vs. 6:15



Rom 6:1

- What shall we say then?  
**Are we to continue in sin**  
so that grace may increase?  
May it never be!

This is speaking  
of habitual sin

- We are now  
separated from our  
sin nature!

Rom 6:15

- What then?  
**Shall we sin**  
because we are not under law but under grace?  
May it never be!

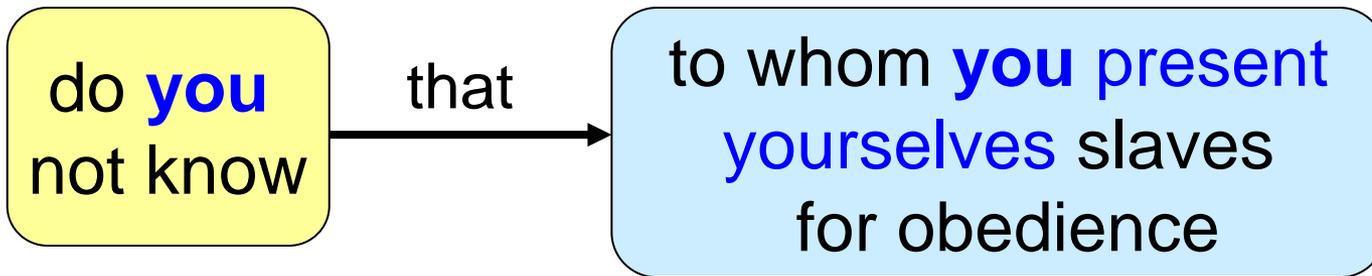
This is speaking  
of an act of sin

- verse 16 and following will expand on why we  
are not under law but under grace

## Review



<sup>16</sup> Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?



**1<sup>st</sup>** - **you know** – *oida* – you knew it in the past and you continue to know into the present (perfect tense)

**2<sup>nd</sup>** - **you present yourselves** – present tens. continues action

**slaves for [resulting in] obedience**

- The believer is pictured as a slave rendering obedience [listening under] to one of two masters.
- You show your master by whom you obey.

## Review



<sup>16</sup> Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?

you are slaves of the  
one whom you obey

- A slave is one who must be obedient to his master.
- A slave is one who has no choice in the matter.
- John 8:34 Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin.
- But the believer is a willing slave to Jesus Christ.
- Eph 6:6b but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart.

# Review



<sup>16</sup> Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?

you are slaves of the one whom you obey

either

or

of [the] sin resulting in death

of obedience [in Christ] resulting in righteousness

- The sin nature is master
- The result of this master is death (separation)
- Rom 6:23a For the wages of sin is death.

- This master is Christ
- The result of this master is righteousness
- Phil 3:9c the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith

# Today's Verses



<sup>17</sup> But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed,  
<sup>18</sup> and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

# Today's Verses Overview\*



- Today's verses start a subsection about the believer's transformation that has taken place
- Three transformations have taken place in the believer's life (verses 17 to 22)
- Verses 17 to 18 describe a transformation of the believer's relationships
- The idea is "what we once were" vs. "what we are now"
- So, you were slaves of sin vs. you became slaves of righteousness



17 But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed,

But thanks  
*be* to God

that

*though you*  
were slaves  
of [the] sin

- Paul used this term many times of God's grace.
- 2 Cor 2:14a But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ.
- lit: *you used to be* - *eimi* - the state in which someone continuously exists
- *slaves* - *doulos* - one who gives himself up to the will of another – Vine
- *doulos* identifies who the believer was
- of the sin nature

17 But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed,



**you became obedient** – *hypakoē* - (*hypo*, "under," *akouō*, "to hear") - lit: to listen under

- aorist tense – this was an event in the believer's life
- indicative – this is a fact, it's reality
- active – the subject you, performed the action
- This is when a person puts his faith and trust in the person and work of Christ on the cross.

**from the heart**

- **from** – *ek* – out of
- Rom 10:10a for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness.



<sup>17</sup> But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed,

to that form of teaching

form - *typos* - "the representation or pattern" of anything  
of teaching - *didachē* - the act of teaching, instruction,

- The form of teaching Paul had in mind was the teaching that the Lord Jesus and His apostles gave. Constable

to which you were committed

were committed - *paradidōmi* - spoken of things  
delivered orally or by writing,  
i.e., to deliver, declare, teach;

The Greek text reads, "the form of doctrine into which you were delivered." That is, in salvation. Wuest

<sup>18</sup> and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.



you became slaves of righteousness

you became slaves - *douloō* - to be made a slave,  
to be subjugated, subdued

- aorist tense – this was an event in the believer's life
- indicative – this is a fact, it's reality
- passive – the subject you, has received the action
- again, this happened at the moment of your salvation

of righteousness

Eph 6:6 not by way of eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart.

<sup>18</sup> and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.



having been freed from sin

having been freed – *eleuthero* - "to make free", is used of deliverance from sin

- aorist, passive, participle
- the idea is that the believer has been acted upon by God at the moment of salvation

from [the] sin

- again, Paul is speaking of the sin nature
- Rom 6:22 But now having been freed from [the] sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life.

# Final Thoughts\*



- In the next two weeks we will cover parts 2 and 3 of the believer's transformations:
- Verses 19 to 20 transformation of conduct
  - What you did once and what you do now
  - Slaves to impurity vs. slaves to righteousness
- Verses 21 to 22 transformation of benefits
  - What is the benefit in going one way vs. going the other way
  - So, it's the “things of which you are ashamed vs. “things resulting in sanctification”

\* adapted from McCalley