



Romans 6:17-18

Servants of Righteousness

- *Romans 6:17 – NKJV “But God be thanked that (though) you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered.”*
 - Define being *slaves to sin* – *Rom 6:16, 19, 20*
 - ‘*But God be thanked*’ - Why don’t we thank ourselves for making a good decision rather than God, it appears that ‘*we obeyed from the heart the new doctrine*’?
 - And we’re not talking about outward obedience here!
 - What kind of obedience is this?
 - From whence does the capacity arise? – *II Cor 5:17, Rom 8:11*



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- That *new doctrine to which we've been delivered (or handed over)*
 - ‘*Being delivered*’ used elsewhere
 - The Jews delivered to the Law – *I Cor 9:20*
 - Christ to the cross - *Matt 20:17-19, John 19:11*
 - Aorist passive plural – **Grace! Grace! Grace!**
 - Geneva – ‘... the doctrine of the gospel is like a certain mould in which we are cast, to be shaped and fashioned like it.’
 - The contrast - *I Cor 6:9-11, Eph 2:5,6, I Tim 1:13-16, Tit 3:4-7*
 - **The vehicle is our faith (from the heart)** – walking in the light of the facts!
 - Exemplified by Abraham – *Heb 11:8* “***By faith*** Abraham, *when he was called to go out into a place which he should*



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after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went”

- And to us!
 - Rom 1:5 “By whom we have received **grace and apostleship**, for **obedience to the faith** among all nations, for his name”
 - Rom 16:26 “But now is made (the gospel) manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the **commandment of the everlasting God**, made known to all nations for the **obedience of faith**”
- Rom 6:18 – NKJV “And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.”
- Rom 6:18 – Amplified “And having been set free from sin, you have become the servants of righteousness (**of conformity to the divine will in thought, purpose, and action**).



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- ‘*having been set free from sin*’
 - Indicative aorist passive plural
 - *Rom 6:3, 6:14* - **position, position, position!**
- ‘*sin*’ - tēs hamartias
 - Article included – the sin nature!
- ‘*you have become*’
 - ***Enslaved*** – indicative aorist passive plural – **position again**
- ‘*servants of righteousness*’
 - JFB – ‘The case is one of emancipation from entire servitude to one Master to entire servitude to another, whose property we are. There is no middle state of personal independence; for which we were never made, and to which we have no claim. When we would not that God should reign over us, we were in righteous judgment "sold under Sin"; now being through grace "made free from Sin," it is only to become "servants to Righteousness," **which is our true freedom.**’



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- *John 8:31-36 (read) → III John 3,4 – “For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walk in the truth. **I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.**”*
 - *I Cor 7:22 – “For he that is called in the Lord, being a servant, is the Lord's freeman: likewise also he that is called, being free, is Christ's servant.”*
 - The result – *Rom 6:22 “But now being **made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life**”*
- **How does this *Freedom In Christ* impact you?**
 - God's principle of righteousness



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- How do we know what it is?
- How do we obtain it?
 - Be careful here – *Rom 10:3-6*
 - ‘None but the Hungry Heart Series’ – Sept 3 – ‘*Stand Your Ground*’ – Miles Stanford
 - *Phil 3:9,10* – “*And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: **That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;**”*
 - *Know – ginōskō*
 - Amplified – ‘that I may progressively become more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him, perceiving and recognizing and understanding the wonders of His Person more strongly and more clearly’