

Your New Responsibility

Living the Christian Life, Lesson 5

Living the Christian Life is a Bible study series that explores Paul's teaching about Christian growth and sanctification in Romans 6:1–8:17.

Introductory Thoughts

After a lengthy discussion of the need for and basis of justification by grace through faith in Christ (i.e., salvation or conversion), Paul now explains how this same truth should transform our mindset and lifestyle as Christians (i.e., sanctification or Christian growth). The believer's close identification with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection places him or her in a new position. He is no longer a slave to sin but serves Jesus Christ instead.

Passage: Romans 6:15-19

In English (NKJV)

- v.15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under **grace**? Certainly not!
- v.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 leading to** death, or of obedience **leading to** righteousness?
- v.17 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**.
- v.18 And having been **set free** from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.
- v.19 I speak in human terms because of the **weakness** of your flesh. For just as you **presented** your **members** as **slaves** of **uncleanness**, and of **lawlessness leading to** more **lawlessness**, so now **present** your **members** as **slaves** of righteousness for **holiness**.

Key Words and Insights

Mounce's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old & New Testament Words (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2006) together with an interlinear Bible, like *The NKJV Greek English Interlinear New Testament* (Thomas Nelson, 1994) is an excellent way to get accurate definitions for your Bible study based upon Greek and Hebrew meanings.

Know, present, slave, obey, present, and members are words already used in Rom 6, so we have already defined them in previous lessons. As you study this passage, you should review the meanings of these words even though they are not listed on this study guide.

- *[Leading] to* (εἰς):
- *Thanked* (χαίρις):

- *Doctrine* (διδασχά):
- *Delivered* (παραδίδωμι):
- *Set free* (έλευθερώω):
- *Weakness* (άσθένεια):
- *Uncleanness* (άκαθαροσία):
- *Lawlessness* (άνομία):
- *Holiness* (άγιασμός):

Questions for Meditation and Reflection

1. In your own words, explain Paul's reason in v.16 to not keep on sinning.
2. What are the two choices you have and what are the results of each choice?
3. In 6:17-18, Paul explains *positional* truth about what happens to believers at conversion. How does he describe what you did? Also, how does he describe what God did (or what happened to you)?
4. How does slavery describe your position both before conversion and afterwards?
5. What does the "form of doctrine" (or "pattern of teaching") refer to?
6. Why does Paul use the illustration of slavery (6:19)?
7. In 6:19, Paul explains *practical* truth about how you should live as a Christian. Once again, what are the two choices you have and what are the outcomes of each choice?

Questions for Personal Application

1. How does the positional (salvation) truth relate to the practical (sanctification) truth in this passage?
2. How should the fact that you've been "handed over to the gospel" affect your view of the gospel?
3. How does the illustration of slavery impact the way you should view your Christian life and the grace of God?
4. What are some ways that you should hand yourself (and your "body parts") over to God to focus on what pleases him?