

*Monday, 22 June 2015 Romans 6:16 [1] Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness?*

Obedient slave--isn't that almost an oxymoron? A slave has no choice but to obey. The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines the word as "one that is completely subservient to a dominating influence" Completely subservient to the domination of Sin.

But there is a choice--I get to choose my Master, either the mastery of obedience to Sin or the mastery of obedience to the Word.

But that choice is more than a superficial reciting of a pat string of words. To paraphrase Mark Twain, "Sinner's prayer, easiest thing I've ever done. Done it hundreds of times" No, this choice is a deep heart, mind, soul, conscience transformation; a transformation that changes every aspect of my life. A 24/7/365 change. A belief/faith/trust/commit/obey change.

Praise You, Jesus the Christ, my Lord and Master, for You have provided the means of transformation.

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*Tuesday, 23 June 2015 Romans 6:17-19a [2] But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations.*

When an inmate escapes from prison, he does not become a free man, he is an escaped inmate still subject to the laws of the governmental body that sentenced him to prison. But he can be pardoned by the head of that body and thereby gain complete freedom, unfettered by any prior crimes.

Thanks be to God that He has pardoned me, and is creating that transformed heart within me. I am free, free I tell you, free to live, free to live according to the Word, free in Christ,

free to serve Him completely and obediently. Hallelujah.

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*Wednesday, 24 June 2015 Romans 6:19b [3] For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.*

"Present yourself" sounds like I have a hand in this matter. Maybe God is offering a gift, my choice to accept or reject? Maybe I have to decide whether I want lawlessness or sanctification? Do I want the stench of death or the aroma of Glory? It seems simple in these terms, but the reality is that when I was a slave to sin, I only knew the stench, the sweet, sweet aroma was completely unknown to me.

Praise God, He opened my eyes, removed the scales and gave me a glimpse of the righteousness, peace and joy that is life in the Kingdom.

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*Thursday, 25 June 2015 Romans 6:20-21 [4] For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death.*

Yup, I was free all right! Free to wake up in the morning with a hangover and smoker's hacking cough. Free to worry and fret about money, career, and family. Free to lay awake at night stewing about that remark from the boss--was he serious or kidding?

What I was free from was the righteousness, peace and joy of life in the Kingdom of Heaven in the here and now. What a stupid choice!

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*Friday, 26 June 2015 Romans 6:22 [5] But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life.*

"John 17:3 And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent."

Isn't that an interesting progression--that slavery to God leads to eternal life through the fruit (Galatians 5:22-25) of

the Holy Spirit? And I can't think of a single Law against any of the characteristics of that Fruit.

*Saturday, 27 June 2015*

*Romans 6:23 [6]*

*For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

A gift of Freedom, freely given.

I hear the Savior say,  
"Thy strength indeed is small;  
Child of weakness, watch and pray,  
Find in Me thine all in all."

Jesus paid it all,  
All to Him I owe;  
Sin had left a crimson stain,  
He washed it white as snow.

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,

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*Lord's Day, 28 June 2015* Psalm 119:129 Your testimonies are wonderful; therefore my soul keeps them.

Keep. My soul keeps Your testimonies. Your promise is to keep my steps steady. Your redemption enables me to keep Your precepts. I am in agony over the disobedience in the world around me. To keep is to hold in safety and perpetuity. You keep me and enable me to be obedient, You reveal the sin of the world and instill a great sadness in my heart for those who do not follow You, but thorough Your equipping, prepare me as one of Your Messengers of Good News.

Lord, that I would be faithful to that call.

## *VOICES TOGETHER*

*Daily Meditations from the Psalms*



*June 22-28, 2015*

Voices Together is extracted from my daily meditations and is shared in the hope that others will be encouraged to turn to the Psalms as a rich source of guidance for prayer and meditation.

It is published daily on the website of the Fellowship of Ailbe, [www.ailbe.org](http://www.ailbe.org); along with material by other writers to encourage and assist in our walks as disciples of Jesus Christ.

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