

Weekend Message: *iLiving* Romans 6:11-23

Pray each day, before you **Dive In** to God's word, that God the Holy Spirit, will be the teacher of your mind and heart. Pray for the **friends** in your Life Team to be faithful to study and receive God's truth for themselves today.

DAY ONE

"Ya gotta serve somebody!" Bob Dylan (remember him?) didn't write those words first. The Apostle Paul penned them to make it clear that a change in ownership has taken place in the life of the Christian. There is no riding on the fence. These two lives are totally opposed to each other. Jesus portrayed them as the "broad road that leads to destruction and the narrow road that leads to life." You will become whatever you chase after and there is no place of neutrality. Bondage to, and pursuit of, God yields the precious fruit of increasing holiness and results in eternal life – God's gift!

1. Read Romans 6:11 - 23 – In this passage, what different forms of slavery and freedom do you see described here?
2. In what sense is sin no longer our "master" even though we do succumb to it sometimes?
3. In 6:15-23 list all the ways that Paul describes being "under grace." 6:16,18,22

DAY TWO

4. What is the attitude that is to accompany our obedience to our new Master? Vs. 17
5. What benefits do people often think they harvest from self serving behavior?
6. Why is it so impossible to be our own master – enslaved neither to sin nor to God?

DAY THREE

7. What wage is earned by a person enslaved by sin? Vs. 16,21,23
8. What is the "progression" that results from choosing to be a slave to obedience?
 - Vs. 16 Obedience leads to _____
 - Which leads to (Vs 19) _____
 - Which leads to (vs. 22) _____

9. What evidence can you offer to support or refute Paul's claim in 6:21 that sin has no benefits which outweigh its costs? (see Ecclesiastes 5:10,15-17; 11:9 - 12:8)

DAY FOUR

10. How does a person break free from the bondage of sin?

11. Sin non longer has controlling power in the life of the Christian? How have you experienced freedom and transformation in one of these areas of your life since becoming a Christ-follower?

- In the way you care for your physical body
- In the way you treat those who are different than you
- In the way you view money and material things
- In the way you treat family and friends
- In some other area of your life

12. Why are many people afraid to release themselves, their teenage children or other people from rules and penalties? Why is it essential for them that they do release them?

DAY FIVE

14. What do you need to do this week to reclaim your freedom in Christ and break free from bondage to sin?

15. In Christ's death and resurrection we are immediately set free. Yet the process of "becoming" free takes time. What are some of the spiritual habits or disciplines that have helped (or could help) you continue to grow in freedom and be released from slavery to sin?

- **Pray for the Giving Hope Campaign – How will God call you to a new sense of ownership of the vision of your church.**

ICEBREAKERS – Don't feel you have to use them all. Using at least one helps people get comfortable with each other and opens them up to sharing.

- **What chores did you have to do as a kid? How willingly did you do them?**
- **What TV commercial deserves an "Oscar" for making sin look beautiful?**