

Getting Started

“13 times in Romans (and 84 times in all of Paul’s letters) he uses the phrase “in Christ”. The believer’s life in Christ, his or her joy must be found in Christ, his or her success depends on resting in Christ, and we have fellowship with others who are in Christ. Our being “in Christ” provides the opportunity to escape the downward drag of sin and to enjoy freedom as we never thought possible. However, it is no guarantee that we will experience that kind of joy in this lifetime. Like emancipation, we must “know” (understand its truth – Romans 6:9), “count” (claim its truth – Romans 6:11), and “present/offer” (apply its truth – Romans 6:13:). Unfortunately, the old master refuses to release its grip. The emancipation proclamation has gone out; nevertheless a war rages around us and within us. If you are a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, you have a daily question to answer, and your response will lead either to life or death. Whose slave are you?” – Chuck Swindoll

- Discuss how this quote relates to Romans 6:15-23.
- Look up these references in Romans with the phrase “in Christ”.
(3:24, 6:11, 6:23, 8:1, 8:2, 8:39, 9:1, 12:5, 15:17, 16:3, 16:7, 16:9, 16:10)

Discussion

“The rules and guidelines for Christian living are not there because God happens to like squashing people into a particular shape whether or not it’s good for them, whether or not it will make them happy. The rules are there because they are the rules of the road, and it matters which road you take. One road will ultimately lead you not just into a dead-end but into disaster/death. The other road leads you into life, life in a new dimension, life in all its fullness.” – N.T. Wright

- Discuss how this quote by N.T. Wright reinforces the key points in Romans 6:15-23 as well as what Jesus says in Matthew 7:15-28
- What evidence can you offer to support or refute Paul’s claim in Romans 6:21 that sin has no benefits which outweighs its costs?

“But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness and the result is eternal life.” (Romans 6:21)

- In what ways is our relationship to God like and not like slavery?
- Why will a person freed from the Law’s penalties choose not to disobey God?

- Explain how these two struggles relate to this passage ...
 1. It is possible to be a slave to something and think you are free. (The predicament of the Lost)
 2. It is possible to be free and think you are enslaved. (Many Christians struggle here)
- How can you show your wholehearted obedience to God rather than to sin this week?

Prayer