

Sanctification Leads to Eternal Life

Romans 6:20-23 ²⁰ For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹ 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. ²² 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. ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

❖ Introduction

- Remember what is in mind here. Sanctification is the theme of this entire chapter
- Remember what Sanctification means?
- **The big question that Paul is answering, or arguing against is:**
 - Since we are saved by grace through faith...
 - Then shouldn't it be ok to keep on sinning... since grace abounds in sinning?
 - Or since we are under the law of grace... can't we just keep on sinning...
- **Paul Answers this objection by teaching us sanctification...**
 - He obviously answers with a resounding NO!...
 - But... He has many great arguments to back up why this is not right...
 - But... simply put... He says NO... Because you are being sanctified
- **So... if you ever wonder if it is ok to continue in sin now that you are saved by grace...**
 - Your response should be... NO! I am being sanctified
 - God is working in me so I will not continue in sin
 - It goes completely against what God is doing in me when He saves me by grace
- **Finally: Remember... Without Sanctification... there will be no eternal life...**
 - Your sanctification is so utterly important...
 - That without it, you will never see heaven... you will never stand before God as righteous...
- **There may be objections in your mind about this... there may be questions...**
 - You may say... well... once I am justified by faith... I stand before God as righteous already
 - So then... what is the need for sanctification?
 - I understand that question... but you must remember...
 - God settles things on the cross once and for all...
 - But God's plan and His work are **ever unfolding**...
- **Your position with God is righteous if you are justified by faith...**
 - But your **practice** is progressive... You are slowly growing into more Christ likeness
 - And unless this is happening in you... then YOU ARE NOT IN CHRIST!
- **With that being said... let me remind you: God will work His work to completion in His children**
 - There are a number of verses that teach this... but here it is very clear...
 - **Romans 8:29-30 ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.**
 - **So... God will get you there... But... He will not get you there without your effort...**
 - God works in your effort... That is just how He works
 - Please hear me today... if there is no effort in your growing in Christlikeness...
 - You are likely still dead in your trespasses...
 - **And no matter what experience you think you may have had with God...**
 - You will be standing before God ashamed... because you have not fought
 - Because you did not strive to enter in the narrow gate

- **Praise God for His Work in You today...**

- And commit yourself to working harder and harder in response to what God has done...

➤ I think I just want to Preach to Myself Today... if that is ok? I need to hear this...

❖ **Recap/Transition**

- Sin will not have dominion
- Do we sin because... You are under grace, not under law?
- Paul breaks it down in human terms for them to understand
- If you present your bodies as slaves to sin... it leads to death
- If you present yourselves as slaves to obedience... it leads to righteousness
- Obedience to the gospel leads to righteousness... Because the gospel captures the person
- And God deserves the glory for what has happened to you
- **But... there is work to be done on your part... it is time to get after it...**
 - **Romans 6:19 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.**
- **For...**
 - So... here we go... transitioning to the text for today...
 - It seems to me... Paul is expounding on what he has said in 6:19
 - He says... you used to give yourselves to sin and more sin... now give your members to righteousness which leads to sanctification....
 - **For...** or because.... And here he is going to go into more detail for you
- **And... there is such a very easy logical flow to what Paul is going to say here.**

❖ **1) The End of Slavery to Sin is Death 2) The End of Slavery to God is Life 3) Death is Earned; Life is a Gift**

❖ **1) The End of Slavery to Sin is Death**

- **²⁰For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹But 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.**
- **Remember the slavery wording is used by Paul as an Analogy...**
 - remember he says he is speaking in human terms because of their spiritual limitations
- **Before Jesus: You Were Free in Regard to Righteousness**
 - **First:** What is Righteousness? Well... it is ultimately defined by God
 - It doesn't mean what we consider as good...
 - There are men and women littered throughout history that we would call good
 - But man-like goodness is not in mind here...
 - **Righteousness is in mind here... and righteousness is defined by the nature of God...**
 - ◆ Righteousness is what God is... it is who God is...
 - ◆ No matter how good a person on this earth looks...
 - ◆ He is not righteous apart from God...
 - **What does He mean... you were free in regard to righteousness?**
 - free means: under no compulsion to act... had no want to be what God wanted in you
 - The person had no want to be righteous like God...
 - Maybe they wanted to be good like dad or someone they saw on tv
 - But the righteous nature of God was foreign to them
- **There was no benefit in what you are now ashamed**
 - He says... you were living one way... Think back to your life before Christ...

- What did you get out of it? What fruit did you get?
- Is there anything good that came from the things you are ashamed of now?
- Then He answers...

➤ **The End of Those Things is death**

- The things that sin has us to take part in... lead to death
- There is nothing good about them... if we have anything good during that time...
- It is because God's grace gave it to us even while we were enslaved to sin...
- The end of sin is death....

➤ **Analogy:**

- Let's say a man came along and gave you a jar of leaches
- And normally you would be repulsed by leaches... but these were different...
- They were sort of cute looking... and they weren't slimey at all...
- **And he said... there is an added benefit... when you put them on your skin...**
 - They will make your body feel great pleasure
 - You will feel really good or relieved when you put them on your body
- **But... what he doesn't tell you as that while they are giving you this pleasure**
 - They are also sucking the life out of you...
 - Because no matter how cute a leach is... it is still a leach...
 - And leaches suck the blood out of you....
 - And your life is in your blood...
 - So... the whole time the you uses the leaches... they are taking your life from you

➤ **The end of sin is death... it will kill you**

- God isn't just trying to keep you from fun... he is keeping you from soul destroying sin

❖ **2) The End of Slavery to God is Life**

- **²² 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.**

➤ **Being Set Free from Sin to become slaves to God**

- **Freedom is in Christ Alone... Jesus says:**
 - **John 8:34-36 Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. ³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.**
- **True Freedom is having the right and ability to be who you are! Repeat**
 - And our true self finds that it was made in the image of God
 - True freedom is a return to who we were created to be

➤ **When we believe on Christ... we are set free from sin....**

➤ **The Fruit you get leads to sanctification**

- Now... whereas we derived nothing good from the fruit of sin... here we do...
- The fruit or gain from being a slave to God... is SANCTIFICATION...
 - And the reason this is so important... is given in the next part of the sentence...
 - And why is it so important?

➤ **Sanctification leads to eternal life**

- **Hebrews 12:2 ¹⁴ Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.**
 - **You don't see God without holiness... Sanctification is... being made holy**
- **Sanctification leads to eternal life....**
 - You need to see this... your getting eternal life is dependent on Sanctification...
 - Now... do not misunderstand me... you can not boast of making it to heaven on your own

- There is no room for bragging that you did this or that...

➤ **Notice in the verse:**

- You have been set free.... That is passive... you have been acted upon by God
- The fruit you get... that is something given to you
- The fruit you get is what? It is sanctification...
- Also... later on in the verse we will see... the free gift of God is eternal life
- So eternal life is a free gift from God...
- **Then... we see here that the way to eternal life is sanctification...**
 - the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life.
 - Therefore... Sanctification is a free gift of grace as well...

➤ **Sanctification does have another nuance to it besides free gift...**

- Remember the definition... to be made Holy... or to grow in Christlikeness
- **The nature of sanctification** is that we must work in conjunction with God working...
 - There are no short cuts here... God makes us work...
 - I have my reasons for why I think He does this... but they are beside the point...
- **The point is...** that He calls us to put in effort...
 - And we grow up in Sanctification as we submit our selves to the working of God....
 - God gives us all we need and our effort is God working in us

❖ **3) Death is Earned; Life is a Gift**

- ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

➤ **Here... Paul really sums up the previous verses... And really the whole chapter...**

- There is much that can be said here... but we will just hit the high spots...

➤ **The wages of sin is death**

- There is debate over what gives you the wages.... So let's settle in on what we know
- Sin leads to death... AND Death is Earned

➤ **Sin leads to Death**

- Sin is missing the mark of God's Holy nature... it is not being righteous like God...
- When the person sins... (Name some sins)

➤ **Death is Earned**

- Because... The result of sin is death...
 - Ezekiel 18:4 Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die.
- **And this death is Eternal death...**
 - It can be paralleled with Eternal life... if the life is eternal, then so is the death
 - Matthew 25:46 And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

➤ **But the free gift of God is eternal life**

- Eternal life is what is at stake....
- Notice... it is a gift... it is not something earned...
- **The beauty of God as the slave master is that He gives gifts...**
 - You do not have to give and give and give of your time and energy etc... to receive from God
 - It is given to you as a gift...
 - He is a different sort of slave master... Remember... the analogy of slavery breaks down...
- **Sin as the slave master takes from you...**
 - Remember the leaches... they are slowly sucking the life from you...
- **God is different...**
 - Romans 5:17 For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much

more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

➤ **Notice the Parallel... God verses Sin... Wages versus a Gift... Death verse Life**

- Which would you rather?

➤ **Finally... He ends with... In Christ Jesus our Lord**

- So... it all comes down to Jesus...
- John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.
- Acts 4:12 And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."
- 1 John 5:11-12 And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.
¹²Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

❖ **Have you received this gift?**

- Are you still in the wages of sin is death... camp?
- Or have you received the gift of eternal life?
- Believe... Repent... Follow

❖ **My One Big Question**

- If Sanctification a free gift of Grace... And God is primarily at work as we work and we work because God works. Then why are there so many different levels and degrees of sanctification? Why is sanctification so noticeable and intense in some and weaker in others. Is this God's will our human weakness?
 - **My Answer is:** that it is our fault if we are not farther along than we ought to be.
 - I have a verse that I believe support this view.
 - And then I will share an analogy with you to see if it helps you understand.
 - **2 Peter 1:3 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence,**
 - So you see here... that by being given knowledge of Jesus Christ, we have also been granted all things that pertain to life and godliness.
 - God has given us what we need while on this earth...
 - **Analogy:**
 - **Imagine with me if you could. That there is a great city that you must get to.**
 - ◆ It is imperative that you make it there.
 - ◆ If you stay where you are, you will die.... But it is a long journey...
 - ◆ And there is a war going on in every direction
 - ◆ So no matter where you go, you will be affected by the war
 - **But, one day as you sit and contemplate what you need to do**
 - ◆ A wise man appears to you with a sword and some armor and instructions...
 - ◆ I mean, He just comes along and decks you out from head to toe
 - ◆ And He gives you a map for the journey
 - **And you know... if I stay here... I will die... And if I go unprepared I will die...**
 - ◆ So you decide to head out.
 - **The Wise man warns you....**
 - ◆ He says, I am going to leave you with some instructions for your sword and equipment
 - ◆ It will tell you how to use all of it... how to get better at it
 - ◆ You are going to need them many times along the journey
 - ◆ You must spend a great amount of time preparing yourself... by studying the instructions

- ◆ And you also must practice using them... especially your sword
- ◆ You can learn to become a very great fighter
- **These instructions will also keep you out of danger**
 - ◆ There are things to avoid. There are places you should not be
 - ◆ There are plants you should not eat along the way
 - ◆ There are certain groups of travelers you must stay away from
 - ◆ Or, you will find yourself in harms way, and your journey will be hindered
 - ◆ You may even be killed along the way
 - ◆ But, no matter what happens I am going to make sure you make it to the city
- **The wise man then says... but... I have another help for you...**
 - ◆ I am going to give you a way to communicate with me
 - ◆ Any time you need help or don't understand the instructions
 - ◆ You can reach out to me and I will be there to help you
 - ◆ But, you have to reach out to me
- **So, the wise man leaves you with everything you need for the journey**
 - ◆ Now it is up to you... Are you going to practice with your equipment
 - ◆ Are you going to study the instructions
 - ◆ Are you going to heed the warnings
 - ◆ Are you going to stay away from the dangerous places and people that hinder you
- **Your success will depend upon how hard you work... you will have to put in the effort**
 - ◆ The wise man has already given everything you need for the journey
 - ◆ And he promised to be their with you during the journey
- **Whose fault is it... if you do not put forth effort? If you are not determined**
 - ◆ Along the way... there will be many people just like you...
 - ◆ Some will stand and fight strong... others will be weaker
 - ◆ You will learn from other travelers... Some will take the journey seriously
 - ◆ Others will ignore the battle around them... they will be harmed along the way
- **In the End... Some will arrive by the help of the wise man**
 - ◆ Many will be ragged and torn from the journey
 - ◆ Others will arrive standing tall and having fought a good fight
 - ◆ The wise man will make sure they all arrive... but each person has their own journey
- Just Make Sure.... You are in the fight

➤ Invitation

- **How hard are you working in your journey of sanctification?**
- **Can you say with Paul:**
 - 2 Timothy 4:7-8 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.
⁸ Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.