

## *Freed to be God's Slaves* Rom. 6:17-23

Though we are free from sin's rule, Paul explained the principle of enslavement in v.16. In 17-23 he seeks to motivate us to live out what we are—God's slaves of righteousness.

### **2 Positions: *You before/after your justification. 17,18***

Thanks goes to God (note passives in v. 18), see 16:17-19.

\*Before: Slaves of sin (our former position, 6,7,14)

\*After: Slaves of righteousness,19 (or of God in 22)

### **2 Practices: *Your actions before/after justification. 19,20***

Disclaimer—Slave imagery isn't ideal. Why use it?

\*Before: presented members as slaves to sin. Recall v.13.

\*After: present members now as slaves of righteousness. Our response leads to more lawlessness or to sanctification. Pre-BC "freedom" = Righteousness had no control.

### **2 Products: *Your fruit experience is death or life. 21-23***

Question: Pre-BC days "freedom" sure didn't pay off!

\*Before: Fruit that shames/brings death, 5:12, 7:5-13, 8:6. Recall death here is a present alienation from God (who is life), which is eternal for the lost.

\*After: Fruit leading to sanctification (19) and eternal life, which a present reality (Jn. 5:24) and is ultimately eternal. Note it's a gift and not from wages!

