

Two Masters, One Freedom

Romans: The Power of the Gospel

Passage: Romans 6:15-23
Rev. Bruce Persons | August 2, 2026

I. The Question of License (v. 15).

II. The Reality of Two Masters (vv. 16-19).

III. The Fruit of Each Master (vv. 20-22).

IV. The Verdict (v. 23).

V. Which Master, Today?

MISSIONAL COMMUNITY QUESTIONS

1. Describe a time you were "free" on paper but still acted like you weren't (e.g., paid off debt but still budgeted like you were broke).
2. Paul uses "slave" (*doulos*) rather than "servant." Why choose the harsher word? What does it communicate about ownership that "servant" doesn't?
3. Compare vv. 20–21 and v. 22. What fruit did your old master used to produce in your life? What fruit is your new Master producing now?
4. Verse 23 sets wages against a gift. Where in your life are you still trying to earn something from God that He has already freely given?
5. Our own C&MA tradition names Christ as Sanctifier — holiness received by surrender, not manufactured by effort. Where might you be quietly trying to "try harder" instead of "present yourself" (v.19) to Christ?

PERSONAL REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Recall the chained elephant illustration. Where are you "crouching by the stake" out of habit, even though that chain is already broken?
2. Ask each person to silently name one area of "crouching," then pray as a group for the grace to actually walk in the freedom Christ has already secured.

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