

# THE NEW OBEDIENCE

## Part 8 Romans Chapter Six

Romans 6: 17-18

*But God be thanked that though **you were** slaves of sin, yet you **obeyed** from the heart that form of doctrine to which you **were** delivered. <sup>18</sup> And **having been set free** from sin, **you became** slaves of righteousness.*

The last two messages we've spoken about us bringing our Mortal Body to God and our members as instruments of His righteousness (Romans 6:13).

We said,

*Our smile now smiles with the warmth of His righteousness.*

*Our words become encouraging and gracious words of His righteousness.*

*We begin to do righteous acts under His grace and power ...*

**BUT ... HERE IN ROMANS 6:16-17 ... PAUL IS SPEAKING ABOUT SOMETHING DIFFERENT AGAIN ... LETS LOOK AT OUR TEXT ...**

**NOTICE THE PAST TENSE – THE AORIST TENSE – PAUL SPEAKS OF EVERYTHING ALREADY DONE AND COMPLETED. HE TELLS US, WE HAVE **ALREADY OBEYED** ... THAT WE HAVE **ALREADY** BECOME SLAVES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.**

- Romans 6:13 He tells us to become servants of righteousness.
- Romans 6:18 He tells us we already are servants of righteousness.

Well that was a quick transformation. It only took 5 verses 😊

**WHAT IS HE SAYING?**

HERE, **PAUL IS NOT TALKING ABOUT OUR MORTAL BODY.** Paul is talking about **'the new man' – the new creation** – the person we've now become in Christ.

Paul's focus quickly comes back to the finished work of the cross and resurrection ... least we get caught up trying to perfect our outward man. He will not let us forget that our outward man is not being transformed independently of the new man. And it's only because of the new man that the outward man can become anything remotely acceptable to God.

**SO HERE PAUL SAYS: YOUR NEW MAN IS ALREADY A SERVANT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.**

**BUT WHAT ABOUT THE FLESH? DO WE JUST FORGET ABOUT ‘THE BODY OF SIN’? WHAT ABOUT YIELDING OUR MEMBERS AS SLAVES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS?**

Yes, your flesh still needs to be harnessed ... but we must start from the basis that **YOU ARE ALREADY ENSLAVED TO RIGHTEOUSNESS** – locked in under the authority of GRACE and

**THIS MEANS:**

**YOU CAN NEVER AGAIN BE A SLAVE OF SIN AS YOU ARE NOW ENSLAVED TO A GREATER AUTHORITY – A PURE AUTHORITY – A GRACIOUS AUTHORITY.**

*Romans 6:14 Berean Literal Bible*

*For **sin will not rule over you**, for you are not under [its] law, but **under grace**.*

*Romans 6:17*

*But God be thanked that though you **were slaves of sin ... [you can never again be]***

**THIS MEANS:**

**NOW, EVEN THOUGH YOU MIGHT ALLOW SIN TO REIGN IN YOUR MORTAL BODY AND ALLOW YOUR MEMBERS TO BECOME SLAVES OF SIN (Romans 6:13)**

**YOU CANNOT BE A SLAVE OF SIN BECAUSE YOU ARE ALREADY A SLAVE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.**

*But you say, ‘hang on; I don’t want to be a slave to anyone. I just want to be free.’*

There is a universal principle that shows us ...

**EVERYONE IS ENSLAVED TO SOMEBODY ...** whether they are conscious of it or not. Look again at Romans 6: 16

Romans 6: 16 **SLIDE**

*Do you not know that to whom you **present yourselves** slaves to **obey**, you are that one’s slaves whom you **obey**, whether of sin leading to death, or of **obedience** leading to righteousness?*

**PEOPLE THINK THEY ARE FREE BUT THEY ARE NOT**

**THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS BEING FREE FROM ALL AUTHORITY.**

If you escape one authority – you automatically come under the control of another authority. **IT IS A UNIVERSAL LAW.**

*THE PRODIGAL SON decided he didn’t want to be contained or restricted in his father’s house, so off he went into the world with loads of money to do whatever he wanted – true freedom. But, he found that there are other laws out there – the law of the jungle – the survival of the fittest and eventually the law of sin & death.*

*HOW DID THE PRODIGAL SON GET FREE FROM THE LAW OF SIN AND DEATH? He put himself back under the law of goodness and grace – under his father's authority.*

### **BOB DYLAN SLIDE**

**WE ARE HAPPY SLAVES UNDER A GRACIOUS MASTER. WE BECOME SLAVES OF FREEDOM.**

**WE ARE SLAVES OF THE HEART**

**Romans 6: 17-18 SLIDE**

*But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet **you obeyed from the heart** that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. <sup>18</sup> And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.*

**NB: PAUL SAYS, 'YOU OBEYED FROM THE HEART'.**

*I watched a movie called '12 STRONG' a true story about 12 USA special forces men who volunteered to go after the Taliban after 9/11 -*

*'How do you leave your family who you love & go to war? You have to do what is in **your heart**. I cannot, not go!'*

Now, in Christ, our new man is a happy slave – he is a slave of grace.

- IN THE O.T. PEOPLE TRIED TO OBEY AN EXTERNAL LAW WITH A WAYWARD HEART.
- IN THE N.T. WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN A NEW HEART WITH THE LAW WRITTEN ON IT ...

**Hebrews 8:10 SLIDE**

*For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws in their mind and **write them on their hearts**; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.*

**THIS NEW HEART SAYS, 'YESSSS' TO THE GOSPEL OF HIS GRACE. IT CAN'T HELP BUT OBEY**

**THIS NEW MAN LOVES TO OBEY AS THE LAW IS IN HIS HEART**

**THIS IS THE NEW OBEDIENCE**

**Psalm 40:8 SLIDE**

*I delight to do Your will, O my God, And **Your law is within my heart.***

**Hebrews 1:9**

*You have **loved righteousness** and hated wickedness; therefore God, Your God, has anointed You above Your companions with the **oil of joy.**"*

**BUT HOW DO I GET THE FLESH TO COMPLY**

**Romans 6: 17-18 SLIDE**

*But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet **you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered.*** <sup>18</sup> *And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.*

### **WE WILLINGLY OBEYED A DOCTRINE**

**WHEN YOU FIRST BELIEVED ... GOD HANDED YOU OVER TO THE MOST WONDERFUL AND LIFE-CHANGING TEACHING. IT WAS THE GOOD NEWS OF GOD CONCERNING JESUS CHRIST.**

### **WE WERE HANDED OVER TO THIS DOCTRINE**

*The word 'delivered' is 'handed over'*

*It is the same word used when Jesus was handed over to Pilot for crucifixion.*

**IF ONLY WE KNEW THE POWER OF THIS TEACHING**

*People still think THE GOSPEL IS ONLY TO GET PEOPLE SAVED ... THEN WE START ON DISCIPLESHIP / PRINCIPLES & PRACTICES OF LIVING / FORMULAS / CHRISTIAN PSYCHOLOGY ...*

This is the doctrine Paul has been teaching from the start of Romans (Romans 1:1-3)

- IT IS THE GOSPEL OF THE GRACE OF GOD - The Good News of God concerning Christ Jesus.
- It is the power of God to everyone who believes. (Romans 1:16)
- In it the righteousness of God is revealed. (Romans 1:17)
- By it we understand we have been declared righteous by the Father because of Jesus death.
- We find that Our Old Man was crucified and buried ...never to rise again.
- We realise our New Man is raised into the newness of life because of Christ's resurrection.
- We learn we are positioned into Christ.
- We now see we are slaves of His righteousness.

**THIS IS THE TEACHING WE HAVE BEEN HANDED OVER TO.**

**Romans 1:1**

*Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, **separated to [INTO]** the gospel of God.*

**NB:** Paul doesn't say, 'The Gospel was *given* to me' ... He says, '**I WAS GIVEN TO IT.**'

**BY THIS TEACHING, WE ARE BEING MOULDED – SHAPED**

**Romans 6: 17-18 **SLIDE****

*But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart **that form of doctrine** to which you were delivered. <sup>18</sup> And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.*

**THE WORD 'FORM' IS A MOULD INTO WHICH YOU HAVE BEEN POURED.**

**SLIDE** *Imagine yourself being molten gold. A divine hand comes and pours you out of your former shape into His divine mould.*

Now as time goes by you start to settle into the same shape as that mould and outwardly you start to display the same characteristics as the mould.

WHAT IS THIS MOULD? It is 'The Doctrine to which you were delivered'

**STOP STRUGGLING TO RETAIN YOUR OLD SHAPE. GO WITH THE FLOW INTO GOD'S SHAPE.**  
SURRENDER YOUR WHOLE LIFE ... YOUR MIND, WILL, EMOTION ... FAMILY FRIENDS ... OCCUPATION.

*'Form my life within your mould, let me come forth pure as gold'*

### THE DIVINE CRAFTSMAN

**NB: YOU WERE GIVEN OVER TO IT.** YOU WERE GIVEN OVER BY A SOVEREIGN HAND.  
Who gave you over? God has given you over.

### GOD IS THE ACTIVE WORKER

A GREATER POWER IS POURING YOUR LIFE INTO THE MOULD OF THIS LIFE FORMING GOOD NEWS.

### WE ARE THE PASSIVE RECIPIENTS

**Philippians 1:6**

*Being confident of this very thing, that **He who has begun** a good work in you **[He] will complete it** until the day of Jesus Christ.*

**Titus 2:11 SLIDE**

*For **the grace of God** that brings salvation has appeared to all men, <sup>12</sup> **teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age,** <sup>13</sup> **looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ,** <sup>14</sup> **who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.***

**NB: IT'S THE GRACE TEACHING THAT CHANGES US ACTIVELY & OUTWARDLY.**

### OUR PART IS THE NEW OBEDIENCE OF FAITH

**Romans 16:26**

*Now to Him who is able to establish you **according to my gospel** and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world*

*began <sup>26</sup> but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith.*

**We don't just believe this teaching; WE OBEY THIS TEACHING FROM OUR HEART. Now it becomes a part of us and changes our whole life.**

**OUR THINKING CHANGES / OUR LIFESTYLE CHANGES / OUR CONVERSATION CHANGES / OUR GOALS CHANGE ETC.**

*I packed up my bags, kissed my dog goodbye, left home and hitchhiked off to Bible College.*

### **SERVE SOMEBODY**

You may be an ambassador to England or France  
You may like to gamble, you might like to dance  
You may be the heavyweight champion of the world  
You may be a socialite with a long string of pearls

#### **CHORUS**

**But you're gonna have to serve somebody,  
Yes Indeed you're gonna have to serve somebody  
Well, it may be the devil or it may be the Lord  
But you're gonna have to serve somebody**

You might be a rock 'n' roll addict prancing on the stage  
You might have drugs at your command, women in a cage  
You may be a business man or some high-degree thief  
They may call you doctor or they may call you chief

#### **CHORUS**

You may be a state trooper, you might be a young Turk  
You may be the head of some big TV network  
You may be rich or poor, you may be blind or lame  
You may be living in another country under another name

#### **CHORUS**

You may be a construction worker working on a home  
You may be living in a mansion or you might live in a dome  
You might own guns and you might even own tanks  
You might be somebody's landlord, you might even own banks

#### **CHORUS**

You may be a preacher with your spiritual pride  
You may be a city councilman taking bribes on the side

You may be workin' in a barbershop, you may know how to cut hair  
You may be somebody's mistress, may be somebody's heir

**CHORUS**

Might like to wear cotton, might like to wear silk  
Might like to drink whiskey, might like to drink milk  
You might like to eat caviar, you might like to eat bread  
You may be sleeping on the floor, sleeping in a king-sized bed

**CHORUS**

You may call me Terry, you may call me Timmy  
You may call me Bobby, you may call me Zimmy  
You may call me R.J., you may call me Ray  
You may call me anything but no matter what you say

**CHORUS**