

CHRISTIAN, KNOW THY (NEW) SELF:

The Royal Road to Glory!

(Romans 6:15-23)

I. PRELIMINARIES

- A. Pastoral prayer
- B. Dismiss Kids
- C. Welcome
- D. Today's Text (Romans 6:15-23)

¹⁵ What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? God forbid! ¹⁶ Do you not know that when you present yourselves as slaves to someone for obedience, you are slaves of the one you obey, whether of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, *which leads* to righteousness? ¹⁷ But thanks be to God that though you once were slaves of sin, you obeyed from the heart that form of teaching to which you were entrusted; ¹⁸ and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. ¹⁹ (I am speaking in human *terms* because of the weakness of your flesh.) For just as you *once* presented your members *as* slaves to impurity and lawlessness, resulting in ⁷ *more* lawlessness, so now you must present your members as slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification. ²⁰ For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹ So *answer me this*: What fruit were you then reaping from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end result of those things *is* death. ²² But now, having been freed from sin, and having become slaves of God, the fruit you are reaping leads to sanctification and *its* end result: eternal life. ²³ For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- E. Prayer for the Ministry of the Word

II. INTRODUCTION

- A. Opening Illustration: The Man Who Forgot Who He Was (S)

- Tell the story
- Like Peter, we were spiritual amnesiacs, having no memory of our true identity, and trying desperately to create one for ourselves
- Like Peter, we are now in the process of waking up to our true identity in Christ (Mark 8:24, "I see men like trees walking.") (HSL)

- B. Introduction: Thinking Biblically About Our New Identity in Christ

- One Bible text in particular gives us a framework for developing a healthy sense of our true identity in Christ (**Slide** of text: Romans 8:29-30)

²⁹ For those whom he foreknew, he also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of his Son, so that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰ Moreover, those whom he predestined, he also called; and those whom he called, he also justified; and those whom he justified, he also glorified.

- Let's think together about this great text
 1. It gives us what's called "the order of salvation" (Slide: Short List: HSL)
 2. The rest of the NT gives us a more complete list (Slide: Fuller List: HSL)
 3. Crucial truths concerning SANCTIFICATION:
 - a. There are two kinds of sanctification: *Definitive* and *Progressive*
 - b. In our text, Effectual Calling and Definitive Sanctification are the same

To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints by calling, with all who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their *Lord* and ours. – 1 Cor. 1

³⁰ But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, ³¹ so that, just as it is written, "LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD."

Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God. – 1 Cor. 6

c. *Definitive Sanctification is the Good News that makes our Progressive Sanctification Sweet* (more in a moment)

d. The great goal of Progressive Sanctification is POSITIVE: Conformity to Christ (HSL)

1. Wholeness / One Whole Human Being
2. Involves saying NO (putting off) (Colossians)
3. Involves saying YES (putting on) (Colossians)

e. Our Great Hope: The eternal, omnipotent God who chose and loves us WILL fulfill his purpose: We WILL be conformed to Christ (HSL)

f. Let's call this order of salvation "The Royal Road to Glory"!
(Slides)

g. MP: Christian, Identify Yourself: I am . . . (HSL)!

C. Introduction: (Rom. 6:1-14)

- It's unthinkable for me to abuse God's grace by continuing to sin! Why?
- Because God has united me to Christ
- Because I am now dead to sin
- Because I am now alive to God
- Because I have born again to a whole new spiritual lifestyle:

1. **Considering** (or **Reckoning**)

Thus, you as well should consider yourselves utterly dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. – Rom. 6:11

2. **Presenting** (or facing towards the Fountain of Grace, apart from whom we can do nothing)

You are to present yourselves to God as those who are alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness to God. – Rom. 6:13

- In today's text, Paul goes on to give us **six specific ways** in which Christians should think about themselves as they walk along the Royal Road to Glory

III. SIX WAYS THE CHRISTIAN SHOULD THINK ABOUT HIMSELF AS HE WALKS THE ROYAL ROAD TO GLORY

A. (1) (15-16) *I will become a slave of the one I obey, whether of sin or of obedience*

¹⁵ What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? God forbid! ¹⁶ Do you not know that when you present yourselves as slaves to someone for obedience, you are slaves of the one you obey, whether of sin, *which leads* to death, or of obedience, *which leads* to righteousness?

- Not under law, but grace: The Good News that Makes Progressive Sanctification Sweet (Reading: Jerry Bridges)
- We ALL are slaves, but we don't all have the same master and destiny

“Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone engaged in sin is a slave of sin; ³⁵ and a slave does not remain in the household forever, *but* a son remains forever. – John 8

B. (2) (17-19a) *I will not become a (permanent) slave to sin because, by God's grace, I am now a slave to righteousness*

¹⁷ But thanks be to God that *though* you *once* were slaves of sin, you obeyed from the heart that form of teaching to which you were entrusted; ¹⁸ and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. ¹⁹ (I am speaking in human *terms* because of the weakness of your flesh.)

- Paul is celebrating: the sovereign grace of God
- The biblical definition of freedom: Slavery to Christ and righteousness
- Example of Dean and the monarchs in St. Francis' Woods

¹⁶ By their fruits you will know them. Do men gather grapes from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles? ¹⁷ Just so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸ A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor *can* a bad tree bear good fruit. ¹⁹ Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ So then, by their fruits you will know them. (Mt. 7)

⁹ No one who is begotten by God practices sin, for his⁴ seed abides in him; so he cannot continue in sin, for he is begotten by God. – 1 John 3:9

C. (3) (19b) *Because of God's purpose and my own new nature, I am obligated to present my members to righteousness, which will result in progressive sanctification.*

For just as you *once* presented your members *as* slaves to impurity and lawlessness, resulting in *more* lawlessness, so now you must present your members as slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification.

- We are indeed under obligation to the Law of Christ

The end of all antinomianism: To the Jews I became as a Jew, so that I might win Jews; to those who are under ¹he Law, as under the Law though not being myself under the Law, so that I might win those who are under the Law; ²¹ to those who are without law, as without law, (*though not being without the law of God, but under the law of Christ*) so that I might win those who are without law. – 1 Cor. 9

- However, it is not a burden, but a delight

³ For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments; and his commandments are not burdensome. – 1 Jn., cf. Mt. 11, Jer. 31, etc.

D. (4) (20-21) *Formerly, when I was a slave of sin, I was unrighteous, spiritually fruitless, and headed for eternal death*

²⁰ For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹ So *answer me this*: What fruit were you then reaping from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end result of those things *is* death.

- The memory of our sin can be helpful: It makes us grateful for God's grace, and motivates to steer clear of sin, but turn our face towards him and press on! (Eph. 2)
- But remember: He has forgotten your sin!

And you were¹ dead in your trespasses and sins,² in which you formerly walked according to the pattern of this present world,² according to the ruler of the domain³ of the air, *the domain* of the spirit now at work in the sons of disobedience,³ among whom also we all formerly conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just like the rest. But God . . . – Eph. 2

E. (5) (22) *But now I am a free and spiritually fruitful slave of God, growing in holiness day by day, and headed for eternal life in the glorious World to Come*

²²But now, having been freed from sin, and having become slaves of God, the fruit you are reaping leads to sanctification and *its* end result: eternal life.

- So much to celebrate! Freedom, fruitfulness, sanctification (real change), and the hope of glory! Christian, identify yourself!
- Next time, Karl will talk about the amazing WAY we bear fruit for God!

³⁶ If then the Son should set you free, you will be free indeed. – John 8:36

F. (6) (23) *Jesus Christ received the wages of my sin, which is death, so that I might gladly and gratefully receive the gift of God, which is eternal life!*

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

- In the Christian life, all is gift, so that all the Christian life may be the gladness born of gratitude!

Song: I had a debt I could not pay, he paid a debt he did not owe

IV. APPLICATION AND CONCLUSION

A. The Woman Who Remembered Who He Was (S)

B. She Prepared Herself:

⁶And I heard *something* like the sound⁴ of a great throng, and *like* the sound of many waters, and *like* the sound of mighty rolls of thunder, saying, “Hallelujah! For *the* Lord our God—the mighty Ruler over all—has come to reign!⁵ ⁷Let us rejoice and be glad and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready, ⁸for⁶ it was granted to her that she should clothe herself in fine linen, bright *and* clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.” ⁹Then the angel said to me, “Write, ‘Blessed are those who are called to the marriage feast of the Lamb.’” And he said to me, “These are the true words of God.” – Rev. 19

C. How?

- She understood who she was
- She confessed who she was
- She turned her face from sin
- She turned her face towards Christ, her betrothed Husband, in obedience, and righteousness
- In short, she fought the good fight of Progressive Sanctification, and won!