

DISCUSSION GUIDE: Romans 6:20-23

October 15, 2017

As we conclude our study in the beautiful chapter of Romans 6, we hear Paul once again highlight our freedom from sin in slave terminology. No longer are we held captive by our sinfulness. On the contrary, we are now held captive by God's righteousness! We have unilaterally been set free. Paul's point in chapter 6 is that, in light of this truth, we ought to strive to live lives of godliness, not wallow in sinfulness.

1. As Paul teases out his point—that even though we have been miraculously and mightily saved from sin we still need to fight sin—he seeks to remind us that the fruits of our past sin are not fruits at all. This reminder is used to motivate our desire to kill sin.
 - There is no better question to start our discussion than Paul's question itself: "What fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed?" This is a very personal question for a group setting. But, in the interest of fellowship and spurring (perhaps younger) fellow believers toward godliness, consider sharing some of your testimony or things you've learned in order to shine light on Satan's lies.
 - Let's flip that question around now. What fruits have you seen in your life as a result of a desire to wholeheartedly fight sin?
2. Think for a moment about our contemporary American culture. Perhaps, think about Hollywood and the messages it daily portrays through film, TV, and performers' views on life and morality. Perhaps you'll think about our government and the things that our society deems worthy of protection and the things some of our politicians deem as worthless or outdated.
 - As you've considered our contemporary culture, no doubt your mind has come to issues that the Bible calls sinful but our culture calls righteous. Sometimes our response to this distortion can be one of condemnation or pride. However, Paul says that "the wages of sin is death." Isaiah 5:18 says, "Woe to those who call evil good and good evil." What do you think our response should be to a culture that embraces the very things that seek to kill it?
 - In light of Paul's assertion that "the wages of sin is death," what are some practical things we can do to help point our culture in the right direction—away from death and to life?
3. Paul ends this beautiful chapter with a stunning sentence, "the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." For those of us who have been Christians a while, we often breeze over phrases like "eternal life." Let's think for a moment about the difference between earthly life and eternal life.
 - If you could imagine your earthly life as a string compared to the string of eternity, what would it look like? What are some ways in which you've tried to wrap your mind around the concept of eternity?

- James 4:14 says that we are “a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.” Our youth-obsessed society sees this as pessimistic. How does it bring you comfort? Again, this might be a chance for the older to mentor the younger.