

Friday Breakfast with our Master's Men

November 25, 2011

Paul Concludes The First 6 Chapters Of Romans With Words From Hebrew Understanding.

Romans 6:15-23

What is the implication? That we are free to sin, now that we are not under law but under grace? Absolutely not! You know full well that if you give yourselves as obedient slaves, you are the slave of the one you obey; you may either be in bondage to sin resulting in death, or obedient to him that results in righteousness? Once you were slaves of sin, but thank God you have given whole-hearted obedience to the pattern of teaching to which you were introduced; and so, being freed from serving sin, you became enslaved to righteousness. I am speaking in human terms because of the limitations of your flesh.

Just as you once surrendered yourselves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now yield every part of yourself as slaves of righteousness into holiness. When you were slaves of sin, you were free as it pertains to righteousness; but what did you gain from the things of which you now have shame? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been liberated from sin and have become God's slaves, the fruit of which is holiness. The end is eternal life. Sin pays a dividend of death, but God's gift is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

1. The teaching is given in Israel's Passover language- Slavery
 - a. If you are in sin you are in slavery - Sin has a harvest - bondage in shame
 - b. The end of this is that you perish
2. God's fruit is servitude to God's righteousness - producing holiness
 - a. God's gift is in Jesus - the Messiah - understanding of righteousness
 - b. The end is life
3. Now what about the Hebrews who reject Jesus the Christ but are righteous in the Law?
4. Chapter seven must be read in the light of those to whom it is addressed:

Romans 7:1 *Surely, brothers and sisters you know (now I am addressing those who know the law), that the law is lord over a person as long as he lives?*

5. Later Paul will write:

Romans 9:30 *What shall we say, then? That Gentiles who did not pursue righteousness have attained it, that is, righteousness through faith; but that Israel who pursued the righteousness which is based on law did not succeed in fulfilling that law.*

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Romans 10:1 *Brothers and sisters, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Jews is that they may be saved. I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but it is not (according to knowledge) enlightened. For, being ignorant of the righteousness that comes from God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. Christ is the end of the law, so that all believers may be made righteous.*

6. Chapter seven describes the slave to sin who is religious under the Law before Christ.