

DESIDERATA¹
ILLUSION OF FREEDOM
Romans 6:15-23
JANUARY 25, 2009

BIG IDEA: SINCE I'M NOT REALLY FREE, I WANT TO CHOOSE THE BEST MASTER.

- I. WHY CHOOSE AN EVIL MASTER? (6:19-23)
- A. Look What Submitting to Sin Does to People
1. **Verses 20-21**, “*20 When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness.*
21 What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death!”
 2. So Paul says, “Check it out, Christian! Look the bankruptcy of sin squarely in the face. Why do you want to go back to that?”
- B. What are the “benefits” of sin?
1. **Galatians 5:19-21** *The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰ idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹ and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.*
 2. **Ephesians 4:25-31** *Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body. ²⁶ “In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷ and do not give the devil a foothold. ²⁸ He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need. ²⁹ Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.*
 3. **Ephesians 5:3-6** *But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. ⁴ Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. ⁵ For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person-- such a man is an idolater-- has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. ⁶ Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient.*
 4. **Colossians 3:5-9** *Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. ⁶ Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. ⁷ You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. ⁸ But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. ⁹ Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices*
- II. WHY CHOOSE A BENEVOLENT MASTER?
- A. Holiness: **Verse 22**, “*the benefit you reap leads to holiness.*”
1. The words holy, saint, sanctify and sanctuary all comes from the same root word. And they all have one powerful idea: “exclusively for God.”
 2. UNPACKING THE VOCABULARY
 - HOLY=Hagios

¹ *Desideratum: Something considered necessary or highly desirable.*

- HOLINESS= Hagiasmos
 - SAINT=Hagios
 - SANTIFICATION=Hagiasmos
 - MAIN IDEAS: SET-APART-NESS; UNIQUENESS
3. BIBLICAL EXAMPLES:
- **Leviticus 20:26** *You are to be holy to me [Man's Part] because I, the LORD, am holy, and I have set you apart from the nations to be my own. [God's Part]*
 - **1 Peter 1:15-16** *But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; ¹⁶ for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy." [Man's Part]*
 - **1 Corinthians 6:11** *And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. [God's Part]*
 - **1 Thessalonians 4:3** *It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; [Man's Part]*
- B. Eternal Life: **Verse 22**, "and the result is eternal life."
1. A lot of people **hope** they're going to make it to heaven. Some **think** they are. But the Christian **knows** he is. **I John 5:13**, "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may **know that you have eternal life.**"
 2. That means heaven someday for sure but it means more. Notice that John says , "you **have eternal life**" not "**will have...**" If you are a Christian, you are **right now** an eternal being.
- C. What are the benefits of holiness?
1. **Galatians 5:22-23** *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*
 2. **Ephesians 4:32 - 5:2** *Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. ^{NIV} **Ephesians 5:1** Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children ² and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*
 3. **Philippians 4:8** *Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable-- if anything is excellent or praiseworthy-- think about such things.*
 4. **Colossians 3:12-16** *Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. ¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.*

CONCLUSION:

Is Jesus' desire to be the Lord of our lives some little fetish of his? Why is it so important to him? Why should we want him to have control of our lives? Besides the fact that he deserves it because of who he is, he knows he is the only one in the universe who can control us without destroying us. No one will ever love you like Jesus.... And the great and joyful paradox is that while he totally transforms us, he makes us more ourselves than ever before.²

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² Rebecca Manley Pippert, *Out of the Salt Shaker and into the World* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, , 1999), 54.