

# **A study of the Letter to the Romans, written by the Apostle Paul in A.D. 57**

## **Answer Guide (ESV Translation)**

### **Romans 6:15-23**

#### **Day 1:**

#### **Read Romans 6:15**

Paul continues his anticipated arguments by asking the same questions he had asked in Romans 6:1-2 a little bit differently, to be certain the question of sin is not misunderstood:

6:1      What shall we say then?

6:15     What then?

6:1      Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound?

6:15     Are we to sin because we are not under Law but under grace?

What are his emphatic responses in verse 2 and verse 15 that being under grace does NOT give license to sin? By no means!

Is sin ever acceptable for a Christian according to these verses? \_\_\_\_\_  
By no means! Absolutely not!!

#### **Read Romans 6:16**

His third question is assumed to be so obvious that everyone would undoubtedly know the answer. Slavery was commonplace in the Roman world. One who is a slave is absolutely not free from his or her master. There were voluntary slaves who presented themselves to a master for life, to obey without question.

In using the phrase “present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves” implies a voluntary relationship.

To whom would this slave belong? To the one whom you obey.

If you present yourself as an obedient slave to sin, who do you obey?  
Satan; the devil.

Where does this lead? To death

If you present yourself as a slave of obedience, where does it lead?  
To righteousness

Is it possible for one who leads a lifestyle of sin to be a Christian, according to Romans 6:15-16?

## Day 2:

### Read Philippians 2:5-8

Let's focus on servanthood today, first looking at Christ Jesus, underlining or highlighting the phrase regarding servanthood:

<sup>5</sup> Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

The following verses identify some men who were obedient servants of Christ Jesus:

Romans 1:1	<u>Paul</u>
Philippians 1:1	<u>Timothy</u>
Colossians 4:12	<u>Epaphras</u>
James 1:1	<u>James</u>
2 Peter 1:1	<u>Peter</u>
Jude 1	<u>Jude</u>
Revelation 1:1	<u>John</u>

What are some things that characterized their lives after they came to know Jesus Christ? (answers vary. Faithful, stood firm in the face of persecution, served others, shared the gospel, etc)

Conclude the study today in prayer presenting yourself to obedience that leads to righteousness.

### Day 3

**Read Romans 6:17-18** **These verses are verses of thanksgiving to God! What is Paul thankful for?**

1. That you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching which you were committed and
2. having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.

Just imagine his joy knowing that there were followers of Christ Jesus among the Romans who have become obedient FROM THE HEART to the standard of teaching which they were committed! It's all about the heart, isn't it? A heart set free from sin is a free heart, indeed!

**Read Romans 6:19a** In the first phrase, Paul is speaking to us as human beings, because we are all limited in the understanding of all of God's depth and the riches of His grace. And we are all limited because we still have the inbred sinful nature.

**Would you agree that we are all weak in the flesh?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Read Matthew 26:41** **What did Jesus say to do because of this weakness?**

<sup>41</sup> Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

**Read Romans 6:19b** **Let's note the contrast between what we once did and what we now are to do:**

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

**Sanctification is a process, and perfection is not possible in the flesh, though we seek Christlikeness in our daily lives as we present ourselves as slaves to righteousness.**

**Add any notes regarding your personal experience with the contrasts above.**

#### Day 4:

- Read Romans 6:20** Why are those who are slaves of sin free in regard to righteousness?  
Review Romans 6:14, and let's reason together: If sin does not have dominion over those who have died with Christ (been saved), then those who are still slaves of sin are under the dominion of sin, therefore they are free in regard to righteousness. Also, as we saw in Romans 6:18, they are slaves of impurity and lawlessness leading to more lawlessness.
- Read Romans 6:21** What is the result of the fruit of the one who is a slave to sin?  
shame and death
- Read Romans 6:22** What contrast is obvious in this verse?  
Set free from sin contrasts with become slaves of God
- There is a contrast between the fruits of the two lifestyles in verses 21 and 22:**
1. The fruit sin is shame and death;
  2. The fruit of slavery to God leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life.
- Read Romans 6:23** The final contrast is one of the most common verses regarding sin and salvation in the Bible. **Write it below, and commit it to memory, if you haven't already done so.**
- For the wages of sin is death,  
but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## **Day 5**

**Review Romans 6:15-23**

**Write below a few contrasts between your life as one who has been set free from the dominion of sin, and your life before you came to know Jesus as your Lord and Savior when you were a slave to sin. Find a way to share these with someone who is still a slave of sin and needs to be set free.**

**WHEN I WAS A SLAVE TO SIN**

**NOW THAT I HAVE BEEN SET FREE FROM SIN'S  
DOMINION**