

FREE AT LAST

I. [Romans 6:15-23](#) [John 8:21-36](#)

A. Noah Webster's 1828 Dictionary defines the word, Redeem, as follows: *"To purchase back; to ransom; to liberate or rescue from captivity or bondage, or from any obligation or liability to suffer or to be forfeited, by paying an equivalent; as to redeem prisoners or captured goods... In theology, to rescue and deliver from bondage of sin and the penalties of God's violated law, by obedience and suffering in place of the sinner..."* (When a slave was purchased off the auction block and then given his freedom, he was redeemed from bondage, he experienced redemption...)

B. Romans 6:15-23 Sin is no longer our master...

1) V17-18 *"But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness."*

2) V22-23 *"But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

3) We once were enslaved to the evil and cruel master named, *Sin*; we now have a new Master--the Righteous One-Jesus!

C. The autobiography titled, *Twelve Years A Slave* is the gripping narrative of a man named Solomon Northup, an educated black man born a free in upstate New York. Solomon works on canals and railroad construction, cuts timber, farms, learns carpentry, and is an accomplished violinist. He's married and the father of three young children. Northup's eventually befriended by two men who hire him to play his violin for a circus, a temporary gig that takes him briefly to Washington D.C. There he's poisoned, wakes up chained in a dark cellar, and when he protests, he's severely beaten. Solomon is kidnapped and illegally sold into slavery down in New Orleans. He is forced to serve under several slave owners, one very kind, others unjust, cruel, and evil. It takes him a dozen years to regain his freedom from slavery...

D. The painfully true story of Solomon Northup is essentially the spiritual narrative of each one of us... Either you have been redeemed from your slavery to sin or Jesus wants to redeem you. How? By His shed blood on the Cross...

E. John 8:31-36 Jesus is the One who can set us free from sin...

1) V33-36 *"We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can You say that we shall be set free?" Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."*

2) Though neutral during the Civil War, many slaves were sold on the courthouse steps in Lexington, KY. Imagine if you found yourself there on the auction block. Countless evil slave owners bid on you and they plan to work you to death. But they lose out to the Lone Good Bidder--the Righteous One. He wins with His own spilled blood. And then He walks you inside that very courthouse, signs the adoption papers, and makes you His very own Son or Daughter. "Free at last, free at last..."

II. [Communion](#)

A. Titus 2:11-14...

B. The Bread & Cup are affirmations of our freedom from slavery to sin. They bring to remembrance the high price of our redemption and the great love which accomplished for us what we could never accomplish by ourselves...

* Pray and serve Communion... * Benediction Verse: Romans 8:1-4...

[Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff](#)

[Romans 6:15-23 \(ESV\)](#)

15 What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! 16 Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? 17 But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed,

18 and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. **19** I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. 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. **20** For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. **21** But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. **22** But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. **23** For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

John 8:31-36 (NIV)

31 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. **32** Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." **33** They answered him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?" **34** Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. **35** Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. **36** So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

Titus 2:11-14 (ESV)

11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, **12** training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, **13** waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, **14** who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

Romans 8:1-4 (NIV)

1 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, **2** because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. **3** For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, **4** in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Edifying Articles & Video Clips

"Amazing Grace" (My Chains Are Gone) by Kendra and Krista (Tigirlily)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oPrMcaYSOjs>

Slaves to Sin or Slaves to God - John Piper

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cYKD-xLQhM8>

12 Years A Slave (Trailer)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z02le8wKKRg>

Sin As Slavery - Message by Tim Keller

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dZO-hVsftB8>

"Free At Last" - Blind Boys of Alabama with Mac Powell of Third Day

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t9-f5cRRNTg>

Star Goalkeeper Tim Howard Says Christ is 'Most Important Thing' in His Life

<http://www.christianheadlines.com/blog/star-goalkeeper-tim-howard-says-christ-is-most-important-thing-in-his-life.html>

Bonus Stuff

Deuteronomy 15:12-18 (NIV)

12 If any of your people—Hebrew men or women—sell themselves to you and serve you six years, in the seventh year you must let them go free. **13** And when you release them, do not send them away empty-handed. **14** Supply them liberally from your flock, your threshing floor and your winepress. Give to them as the Lord your God has blessed you. **15** Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and the Lord your God redeemed you. That is why I give you this command today. **16** But if your servant says to you, "I do not want to leave you," because he loves you and your family and is well off with you, **17** then take an awl and push it through his earlobe into the door, and he will become your servant for life. Do the same for your female servant. **18** Do not consider it a hardship to set your servant free, because their service to you these six years has been worth twice as much as that of a hired hand. And the Lord your God will bless you in everything you do.

[John 15:12-17 \(NASB\)](#)

12 This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. **13** Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. **14** You are My friends if you do what I command you. **15** No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you. **16** You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you. **17** This I command you, that you love one another.

[Quote by C.S. Lewis](#)

"Mankind is so fallen that no man can be trusted with unchecked power over his fellows. Aristotle said that some people were only fit to be slaves. I do not contradict him. But I reject slavery because I see no men fit to be masters." - C.S. Lewis in "Equality" from Present Concerns, quoted in Christianity Today, February 3, 1989, p. 31.

[Peter Marshall's Prayer](#)

"Lord Jesus, thou who art the way, the truth, and the life; hear us as we pray for the truth that shall make all free. Teach us that liberty is not only to be loved but also to be lived. Liberty is too precious a thing to be buried in books. It costs too much to be hoarded. Help us see that our liberty is not the right to do as we please, but the opportunity to please to do what is right."

- Peter Marshall, Before the U.S. Senate.

[John MacArthur Sermon Illustration](#)

It is said that a flippant young man once remarked to a preacher in mocking fashion, "You say that unsaved people carry a great weight of sin. Frankly, I feel nothing. How heavy is sin? Ten pounds? Fifty pounds? Eighty pounds? A hundred pounds?" The preacher thought for a moment, then replied, "If you laid a four-hundred-pound weight on a corpse, would it feel the load?" The young man was quick to say, "Of course not; it's dead!" Driving home his point, the preacher said, "The person who doesn't know Christ is equally dead. And though the load is great, he feels none of it..."

- John MacArthur, "Freedom from Sin: The Believer's Ongoing Battle". To read full sermon, go to: <http://www.gty.org/resources/positions/P13/freedom-from-sin>

[What Does It Mean To Be A Slave of Sin?](#)

By S. Michael Houdmann

<http://www.gotquestions.org/slave-to-sin.html>

Question: "What does it mean to be a slave to sin?"

Answer: Everyone is a slave in the spiritual sense. We are either slaves to sin, which is our natural state, or we are slaves to Christ. The writers of the New Testament willingly declared their status as slaves of Christ. Paul opens his letter to the Romans by referring to himself as a "slave of Jesus Christ" ([Romans 1:1](#)) and his letter to Titus by calling himself a "slave of God" ([Titus 1:1](#)). James opens his epistle the same way, "James, a slave of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ" ([James 1:1](#)). Most translations say "servant" or "bond-servant" in these passages, but the Greek word *doulas* means literally, a slave.

In [John 8:34](#) Jesus tells the unbelieving Pharisees, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin." He uses the analogy of a slave and his master to make the point that a slave obeys his master because he belongs to him. Slaves have no will of their own. They are literally in bondage to their masters. When sin is our master, we are unable to resist it. But by the power of Christ to overcome the power of sin, "You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness" ([Romans 6:18](#)). Once we come to Christ in repentance and receive forgiveness for sin, we are empowered by the Holy Spirit who comes to live within us. It is by His power that we are able to resist sinning and become slaves of righteousness.

Jesus' disciples belong to Him and want to do the things that please Him. This means that the children of God obey Him and live in freedom from habitual sin. We can do this because Jesus has set us free from the slavery of sin ([John 8:36](#)), and thus we are no longer under its penalty of death and separation from God.

[Romans 6:1-23](#) goes even further in this idea of a slave and his master. As Christians we aren't to continue in habitual sin because we died to sin. [Romans 6:4](#) says that since we have been buried and resurrected with Christ we are now able to walk in that newness of life, unlike the unbeliever who is still a slave to sin. [Romans 6:6](#) goes on to say that since we know that our old self was crucified with Him so that our body of sin might be done away with, we should no longer be slaves to sin. And [Romans 6:11](#) says that we are to consider ourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

We are commanded by God to not let sin reign in our bodies, obeying its lusts, but instead we are to present ourselves to Him as instruments of righteousness ([Romans 6:12-14](#)). In verses 16-18 we're told that we are slaves to the one we obey, either of obedience to sin or of obedience to righteousness. We are to be enslaved to God from whom we receive our gifts of sanctification and eternal life. We do this because the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord ([Romans 6:23](#)).

The apostle Paul, the author of Romans, goes on to say that he knows how difficult it can be to not live in sin because he struggled with that even after he became a follower of Christ. This is important for all Christians to know. While we're now set free from the penalty of sin, we still live in the presence of sin while we're alive on this earth. And the only way we can be free from the power of sin is by the power of the Holy Spirit who is given to believers at the moment we come in faith to Christ ([Ephesians 1:13-14](#)), and this seals us in Christ as a pledge of our inheritance as God's child.

The presence of the Holy Spirit in our life means that as we grow in our faith and come to love God ever more each day, we'll have the strength to resist sin more and more. Through the working of the Holy Spirit we are empowered to resist sin, not give in to its temptation, and live according to God's Word. Habitual sins will become more abhorrent to us and we'll find ourselves not wanting to do anything that might hinder our fellowship with God.

[Romans 7:17-8:2](#) is a wonderful encouragement to believers because we're told that even when we do sin, there is no longer any condemnation for those of us who are in Christ Jesus. And [1 John 1:9](#) reassures us that when we do sin as Christians, if we confess our daily sins to the Lord, He is faithful and righteous and will cleanse us from it in order that we might continue to live in a right relationship with Him. Throughout the book of Ephesians, the apostle Paul encourages and exhorts us to walk as children of light ([Ephesians 2:1-10](#), [3:16-19](#), [4:1-6](#), [5:1-10](#)), loving one another as Christ loved us, and to learn what is pleasing to the Lord and to practice it. In [Ephesians 6:10-17](#) Paul shows us how to be strong in the Lord by putting on the full armor of God each day in order to be able to stand up against the schemes of the devil.

When we commit ourselves as followers of Christ to grow and mature in our faith by reading and studying God's Word each day and spending time in prayer with Him, we will find ourselves more and more able to stand in the power of the Holy Spirit and resist sin. The daily victories over sin that we have in Christ will encourage and strengthen us and demonstrate in a powerful way that we are no longer slaves to sin, but are instead slaves to God.

Recommended Resources: [Overcoming Sin and Temptation by John Owen](#) and [Logos Bible Software](#).

- While he is not the author of every article on [GotQuestions.org](#), for citation purposes, you may reference our CEO, S. Michael Houdmann.