

A Walk Down The Romans Road

Sunday, May 3, 2026

10:30 AM

Encountering The Truths of The Book of Romans

As we have been taking a stroll down This Romans Road we have already seen several great Biblical truths

In **Chapter 1** we saw that THE CALL OF THE GOSPEL is a call to FOLLOW and call to be FAITHFUL

- We Must HEAR The Call
- We Must UNDERSTAND The Call
- We Must RESPOND to The Call
- We Must CONTINUE to FOLLOW The Call

In **Chapter 2** we learned that AUTHENTIC CHRISTIANITY...

- Focuses on JUDGING OURSELVES rather than JUDGING OTHERS
- Allows God to be THE JUDGE and understands that He will judge us all according to HIS TRUTH, **not ours**
- Seeks to be filled with KINDNESS, FORBEARANCE and PATIENCE
- Maintains a SOFT and REPENTANT HEART
- Is not a Christian in NAME ONLY
- AVOIDS HYPOCRISY of all kinds
- Is more concerned about WHAT GOD THINKS ABOUT THEM than what OTHERS THINK ABOUT THEM

Chapter 3 revealed that CHRIST IS OUR ATONING SACRIFICE and left us with two important questions...

- Do you believe that Jesus is your Passover Lamb, sacrificed to make atonement for you?
- And have you applied the blood of that sacrifice to the doorposts of your heart by faith?

In **Chapter 4** Abraham's unwavering FAITH taught us that...

- The OBJECT of our Faith is GOD and the Truth of His Word
- Faith is BELIEF... but it is so MUCH MORE than that
 - It is hope
 - It is trust
 - It is assurance
 - It is confidence
 - It is certainty
 - It is being fully persuaded
 - It is declaration
 - It is taking a stand

- Faith is a way of seeing and understanding that does not involve physical eyesight or human understanding
- Faith is BIG not small
- Faith is not without EVIDENCE
- Faith doesn't IGNORE REALITY
- Faith is not the ABSENCE of doubt but the OVERCOMING of doubt
- Faith is ACTIVE not PASSIVE
- Faith doesn't DEMAND it DECLARES
- Faith can be STRENGTHENED
- Faith is SURRENDERING to the will of The Father
- Faith is the ASSURANCE that the BATTLE has already been won
- Faith CONTINUES the JOURNEY with CONFIDENCE

And in **Chapter 5** we rejoiced in the AMAZING GRACE of God. It's amazing because...

- It doesn't make sense
- It isn't DESERVED
- It offers salvation to EVERYONE who will receive it by faith
- It not only forgives our DEBT, but CREDITS our account
- It EMPOWERS and TRANSFORMS us to live righteously and walk in right relationship with God
- It STRENGTHENS us and causes us to PERSEVERE building character and giving us hope even in the midst of severe suffering and trial
- It is GREATER, so much greater, than our transgressions

This morning we continue our journey with Romans Chapter 6 where Paul uses a different picture that illustrates our relationship with God with this key thought...

SLAVES FOR GOD

Romans 6

6 What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? **2** By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? **3** Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? **4** We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. **6** For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— **7** because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.

8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. **9** For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. **10** The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.

11 In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. **12** Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. **13** Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness. **14** For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace.

15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? By no means! **16** Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? **17** But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance. **18** You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.

19 I am using an example from everyday life because of your human limitations. Just as you used to offer yourselves as slaves to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer yourselves as slaves to righteousness leading to holiness. **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! **22** But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. **23** For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6:19

19 I am using an example from everyday life because of your human limitations. Just as you used to offer yourselves as slaves to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer yourselves as slaves to righteousness leading to holiness.

To truly understand Paul's thoughts, we need to answer a few questions about Slavery throughout and beyond the Biblical setting.

Probably the first picture that comes to our mind is that of more modern chattel slavery, in which our country (and every other society in the world) participated in early on in our history. That is a picture of forced servitude, kidnapping, violence, race driven ideology that views one group of people unworthy of having rights or in some cases being treated with any sense of humanity. Sadly, this type of slavery continues in our day with things like...

Forced Labor: People are compelled to work against their will under threat of punishment. This occurs in factories, sweatshops, and even state-run institutions.

Human Trafficking: Victims are forcibly moved or recruited through coercion or deception for exploitation in labor, prostitution, or marriage. Many trafficked individuals remain within their own countries.

Debt Bondage (Bonded Labor): Workers are forced to repay loans through labor, often with manipulated debts making freedom impossible. This can be generational, affecting children born into bondage.

Domestic Servitude: Enslaved individuals work in private homes and cannot leave freely. This form is difficult to detect due to its hidden nature.

Descent – Based

Slavery: The status of being a slave is inherited through family lines, perpetuating enslavement across generations.

Child Slavery: Includes child labor, child soldiers, and forced child marriages. UNICEF reports that nearly 1 in 10 children worldwide are subjected to some form of slavery.

Forced and Early Marriage: Individuals, often women and girls, are compelled to marry against their will, sometimes under threat of violence or social consequences.

*Slavery, whether historical or modern, involves **coercion, exploitation, and restriction of freedom.***

This is the dark, sinful side of the picture of slavery which causes many to question the use of this term as an illustration of our relationship with Christ. Because of this, many translations render the Greek word "doulos" as servant and try to lighten the Bible's association with the term slave.

R Christian Bohlen quotes what Bible scholar and Pastor John MacArthur had to say about the Greek word "doulos." Referring to Kittle, the set of Greek language reference books that are widely considered "*the last word, the consummate word, more than you ever need to know or care to know, about every Greek word,*" [he explains](#) the meaning of doulos:

"There is no need to trace the history of this word; there is no need to discuss the meaning of this word; it has never meant anything in any usage but slave." That is just very rare in that kind of vast lexicography [such as Kittle] because they will give you every possible nuance, every possible translation, in classical Greek, or in Koine Greek, or in any other usage, biblical, non-biblical.

“[Slave] is the universal meaning of the word doulos, and it is the word which most uniquely describes the believer’s relationship to Christ. In fact, to press the issue a little further, it has a companion word – a necessary companion word, without which doulos doesn’t make sense – and the companion word is kurios. Kurios means lord. There’s no such thing as a lord or master without a doulos, so this is the dominant paradigm in which we are to understand our relationship to Jesus Christ: He is Lord, and we are His slaves.”

Let me share two other thoughts about slavery and the Bible to help broaden our understanding of Paul's illustration. Remember, Paul said he was using an illustration from everyday life. A concept they would be familiar with upon which he could make his case - build a picture

From a Hebrew standpoint - an Old Testament standpoint - His readers would have understood a concept of slavery that included two possible scenarios. Indentured servitude - a way for those who had nothing and who were in debt to be hired as a slave, but they still had rights and God's law had built in accommodations for the treatment of slaves.

Slaves were to be treated fairly, receive their just wages, were not to work during the sabbath, and not to be treated harshly or severely harmed (Ex 20:10, Job 31:13-15, Deut 24:14-15, Lev 22:11, Mal 3:5, Lev 19:20-22, Ex 21:20-21, 26-32, also cf. Eph 5:9). Kidnapping of a Hebrew into slavery was punishable by death (Deut 24:7, Neh 5:1-8), and any slave from any nation was to be given refuge and not returned to an owner (Deut 23:15-16).

They were to be released after 6 years or during the year of Jubilee or when a family member redeemed them from their debt.

A slave may elect to become a bond-slave for life if they so chose; but this was done not out of coercion; but out of love for their master and his protection and provision for them.

The second possible scenario from a Hebrew or Old Testament standpoint was captives of war who could be made slaves for life; however, they were still regulations for their humane treatment and they were still afforded the protection and provision of the master while not suffering a worse fate of being executed as a casualty of war.

Of course from a Roman perspective, slavery had much harsher circumstances without the law of God to bring relief and humanity. Even so, this form of slavery was not as harsh as modern slavery

The last thought I want to share about slavery as it relates to the Bible is this. *Recognition of slavery’s reality* (whether it be Jesus, Paul, Other New Testament writers or even the Old Testament) is not approval of or even acceptance of a human concept of slavery as it existed.

Jesus set a similar precedent when he reminded the Pharisees that Laws regarding divorce in the Old Testament were not because God approved of divorce but because their hearts were hard and God gave them laws to protect and provide for those who were being hurt by their evil practices.

In some ways, Paul is using all of these concepts of Slavery, God regulated slavery, and sinful human slavery to paint a picture of the principals of slavery - both good and bad - that give us an understanding of what has happened to us by faith through grace and what that means for us now as we walk in relationship with God.

Key New Testament Figures Referring to Themselves as *Doulos* (Slave):

- Paul: "Paul, a servant [slave] of Christ Jesus..." (Romans 1:1).
s: Paulos, doulos Iēsou Christou, which is literally saying, "Paul, a slave of Jesus Christ."
- Peter: "...Simon Peter, a servant [slave] and apostle of Jesus Christ..." (2 Peter 1:1).
- James: "...James, a servant [slave] of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ..." (James 1:1).
- Jude: "...Jude, a servant [slave] of Jesus Christ..." (Jude 1:1). [[1](#)]

In the New Testament, being a "slave to God" (doulos) signifies a voluntary, total commitment to Christ, shifting allegiance from sin to righteousness. It implies being "bought at a price" (1 Cor. 6:20) and joyfully serving a loving Master, rather than being forced. Key aspects involve obedience, sanctification, and ultimate freedom from sin's control, leading to eternal life.

Everyone is a slave

6 For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— **7** because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.

14 For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace.

16 Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? **17** But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance. **18** You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.

Slaves are chosen

Ephesians 1:4-5

4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love **5** he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—

Slaves are purchased

1 Corinthians 6:20

20 you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

1 Corinthians 7:23

23 You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of human beings.

23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Slaves are free to offer themselves in service to their masters

11 In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. **12** Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. **13** Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness.

19 I am using an example from everyday life because of your human limitations. Just as you used to offer yourselves as slaves to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer yourselves as slaves to righteousness leading to holiness.

Slaves are taken care of and provided for

2 Corinthians 9:8, 10-11

8 And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

10 Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. **11** You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

Slaves have all of the resources of the master available to them

21 What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! **22** But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life.

2 Peter 1:3

3 His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

Slaves don't serve their own interests but the interests of their master

16 Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness?

Slave must choose to be obedient

11 In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. **12** Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. **13** Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness. **14** For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace.

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Slave does not identify the fullness of our relationship with God

- **Friend.** What a beautiful thought for Jesus to consider us a friend. (See [John 15:15](#).)

John 15:15

15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

- **Son.** How intimate! What an unspeakable privilege! (See [John 1:12-13](#).)

John 1:12-13

12 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— **13** children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

- **Heir of God.** To dwell with God to become a joint heir with Christ is beyond comprehension, but it is explicitly stated in scripture. (See [Romans 8:17](#).)

Romans 8:17

17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.