

Am I The Master Of My Fate?

Romans 6.15-23

We like to think that we are in charge of our lives. There is a certain helplessness that we feel when we think things have gotten beyond our power to control. We would rather think that we are invincible. The English author, editor and poet W. E. Henley (1849-1903), in his poem, *Invictus*, sums up the desire of the human soul.

It matters not how strait the gate
How charged with punishment the scroll
I am the master of my fate
I am the captain of my soul.

While we may like to think we are always in control, it is an illusion. You see, freedom is not the ability to do what you want to do; it is the ability to do what you know you should do! And it is possible to forfeit that freedom. True, we have been forgiven and given a new life. But we now must live by this new life Christ has given us.

As believers, what happens when we sin? What effect does sin have on us? What does the choice we make, when we choose to sin, do to us as we seek to live for Christ? Does it matter whether or not we sin, now that we are believers? It certainly does matter, and we are going to describe several effects that sin causes in us, when we choose to engage in it.

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*“What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey – whether you are **slaves to sin**, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that, though you used to be **slaves to sin**, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. You have been set free from sin and have become **slaves to righteousness**. I put this in human terms because you are weak in your natural selves. Just as you used to offer the parts of your body in slavery to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer them in slavery to righteousness leading to holiness.”* Romans 6.15-19

What Benefit Did You Reap?

*“When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? **Those things result in death!**”* Romans 6.20-21

“Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.” Galatians 6.7

What Is That Smell?

*“Those things result in death! But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, **the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life**. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* Romans 6.21b-23

“So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.” John 8.36

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