

Romans 6:15-23

**Pray** That God would give you joy because of the new way of living that the gospel offers us.

**Read** Romans 6:15-23

**Look Closer...** Paul has said over and over that salvation is a gift from God, not something that we work for or can be born into. Yet here in Romans 6, Paul sees the righteousness of the gospel as a lifelong journey. If the gospel is that God has put you to death and made you alive in Jesus, then that process lasts as long as we live!

Look again at v. 18: "You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness." We no longer owe our lives, bodies, and minds to sin. We can offer ourselves wholly to the one who knows what's good for us and loves us so deeply! But do we always do that?

Look again at v. 21: "What benefit did you reap at the time from the things that you are now ashamed of?" Paul asks, *your slavery to sin, was it worth it? Did it bring life that lasts and brings joy?* Of course not! Now we have opened up to us the possibility of living life as God calls us to live: worshiping God only, caring for our souls and others in light of the gospel, helping our neighbors, etc. All these and more give us wisdom and life from God.

**Think about it...** Although we know what's good for us, although we know what will give life, many of us are still stuck in patterns that cause death. We are stuck in patterns of sin, sin that Jesus died for! That breaks God's heart, and it should break ours too.

**Pray about it...** We are offered life from God, and given the opportunity to *live into* the gospel process of dying to sin and living for God. We often don't. So pray that God would forgive you, and that you would experience God's grace and forgiveness in fresh ways, so that your awe in His massive mercy would cause you to put away your sin and pick up new patterns of righteousness.