

Slaves to Sin, Slaves to Righteousness

Scripture Reading — Romans 6:15-23

At the end of your life you will groan... "How I hated discipline! ... And I was soon in serious trouble in the assembly of God's people."

—Proverbs 5:11-14 —

Murder does not generally come from out of nowhere; adultery does not spring full-grown all at once. These sins begin like cute little cubs, from small indulgences that grow and grow till they are raging beasts.

A person may be overcome with love, looking into the eyes of their beloved as they repeat, with good intentions, "I pledge to be true to you, forsaking all others." But when temptations creep in, they may think, "Well, a little wayward thought can't be too harmful."

Or even a nice person, when crossed, may fume and rant inwardly and coddle hate.

"You used to offer yourselves as slaves to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness," says Paul. It grows if you let it. You may think, "Just a little ..." But it doesn't stop at that. Like one too many drinks, the addiction grows.

Being set free from slavery to sin includes taking Christ's yoke onto your shoulders, pulling the plow, and learning from him. Taking up his yoke implies there's some hard work involved when you might want to just lie down rather than pull. That's probably why Paul uses the metaphor of being slaves to righteousness.

True repentance says, "I'm sick of this evil. I want to learn goodness from Jesus." It's the beginning of a new life, of health for the soul.

Prayer

Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart. Help me to follow you and to learn from you. Amen.

Devotion topics: [Christianity](#), [Discipleship](#), [Repentance](#), [Life](#), [Christian Life](#)

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Printed on July 16, 2019

