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Daily Devotional - Monday, December 3, 2018 - Become Slaves of Righteousness

DECEMBER 03RD 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

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Romans 6:15-23

MONDAY

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What comes to mind when you hear the word *freedom*? It's usually associated with the right to live as we please and to pursue ambitions and dreams. But in reality, living for self is never freedom. When Paul said, "You are slaves of the one whom you obey" (Rom. 6:16), he was pointing out we have a choice of either sin or righteousness. So if we aren't living for Christ, we'll find ourselves enslaved to sinful desires, habits, attitudes, and thoughts.

God wants to free us from every form of bondage that prevents us from becoming the person He created us to be. This kind of freedom is not achieved by war but by the knowledge of truth and submission to Christ.

If you're having trouble overcoming a particular sin despite repeated confession and repentance, there may be an underlying root fueling that sin. It doesn't matter how many times you cut off the sinful fruit; if the root remains, it'll produce a new poisonous outgrowth. And at times those roots spring from harmful emotions like anger, jealousy, bitterness, unforgiveness, or worry.

Instead of allowing such emotions to control us, we must let God's truths fill our mind and influence our behavior. When we were saved, Christ freed us from the dominion of sin and gave

us His Spirit to empower us to live righteously. On top of that, God has given us a new nature created in Christ's likeness (Eph. 4:24). Therefore, we're to consider ourselves dead to sin but alive to Christ (Rom. 6:11) and should present ourselves to God for obedience (Rom. 6:13). Remember, God has given us everything we need to live righteously for Him, so believers are never helpless victims of sin.

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