

What is the **KEY** word in verses 1-14?

I Am Not Ashamed – Romans 6:1-23

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I. Know the Facts (1-10)

"Died to Sin" (v.2) does **NOT** mean we are dead to the possibility of sin (v.12, ch.7), but that sin no longer reigns in our life (vv.15-23).

Why does Paul list burial before death?

Jesus was our Substitute in Death (Physical)

Rom 3:21-26

vs.

We are United with Jesus in Death and Life (Spiritual)

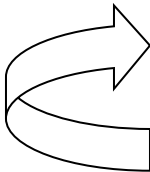
II Cor 5:14-17

Compare vv.2-10 with:

-II Cor 5:14-17
-Eph 2:1-10; 4:20-24
-Col 2:11-15; 3:1,9

II. Consider your State (11-14)

What is the key difference in presenting ourselves to sin vs. presenting ourselves to God?



Anticipated question after presentation in the second half of chapter 5 (5:12-21)

¹What shall we say then? Are we to continue in **sin** that **grace** may abound?

²By no means! How can we who **died** to sin still live in it? How can you live in what you died to?

³Do you not **know** that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were **baptized** into his **death**?

⁴We were **buried** therefore with him by **baptism** into **death**, in order that, just as Christ was **raised** from the **dead** by the glory of the Father, we too might **walk in newness of life**.

⁵For if we have been **united** with him in a **death** like his, we shall certainly be **united** with him in a **resurrection** like his. <- Rom 5:10

⁶We know that our **old self** was **crucified with him** in order that the body of **sin** might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be **enslaved to sin**.

⁷For one who has **died** has been **set free from sin**.

⁸Now if we have **died** with Christ, we believe that we will also **live with him**.

⁹We know that Christ, being raised from the **dead**, will never **die** again; **death** no longer has dominion over him.

¹⁰For the **death** he **died** he **died** to sin, once for all, but the **life he lives he lives to God**.

¹¹So you also must consider yourselves **dead** to sin and **alive to God** in Christ Jesus.

¹²Let not **sin** therefore **reign** in your mortal body, to make you **obey** its passions.

¹³Do not **present your members to sin** as instruments for **unrighteousness**, but **present yourselves to God** as those who have been brought from **death** to **life**, and your **members to God** as instruments for **righteousness**.

¹⁴For **sin** will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under **grace**.

Likely Paul faced accusations that his message would lead to immoral living.

-Rom 3:8
-Gal 5:13-15

What did Paul assume about these Christians? Why?

Baptism is Essential!
Acts 9:1-19; 22:1-16

The conversion of Paul
-Consider these questions:
(1) Did he have a dramatic experience? (9:3)
(2) Did he fast during those three days? (9:9)
(3) Did he pray during those three days? (9:11)
(4) Did he believe in Jesus? (9:5)
(5) When were his sins washed away? (9:18; 22:16)

Falling From Grace?

-I Cor 10:12
-Gal 5:1-4
-I Tim 4:1-16
-Heb 3:12-14
-Heb 6:4-6
-Heb 10:26-31
-Heb 12:15-17
-II Peter 2:20-22
-Rev 2:1-7
-Rev 3:1-6
-Rev 3:14-22

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Slaves

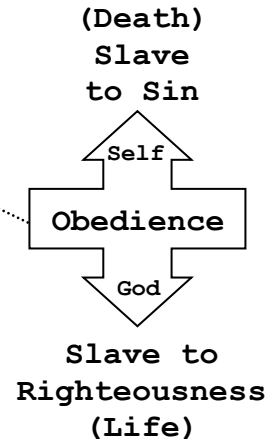
-How do we know where our allegiance lies?
-"you are slaves of the one whom you _____"

*Mt 7:15-16;

*Jn 8:34

*2Pet 2:19

*1Jn 2:3-6, 5:2-3



III. Surrender to Righteousness (15-23)

Receiving salvation must accompany a change of bondage...from Sin to Righteousness

Compare to Verse 1 and Gal 5:13-15

¹⁵What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under **grace**? **By no means!**

¹⁶Do you not **know** that if you present yourselves to anyone as **obedient slaves**, you are slaves of the one whom you **obey**, either of **sin**, which leads to **death**, or of obedience, which leads to **righteousness**?

¹⁷But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become **obedient** from the heart to the *standard of teaching to which you were committed*,
¹⁸and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of **righteousness**.

¹⁹I am speaking in *human terms*, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as *slaves to impurity* and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as *slaves to righteousness* leading to sanctification.

²⁰For when you were slaves of **sin**, you were free in regard to **righteousness**.

²¹But what *fruit* were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is **death**.

²²But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of **God**, the *fruit* you get leads to *sanctification* and its end, *eternal life*.

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

Matt 6:24 - You can't be slaves to both (though we often try)

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Romans Chapter 6 - Questions for Discussion

Memory Verse:

Romans 6:1-2 (ESV)

¹What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ²By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?

What is the key word for the first 14 verses?

What is the reason for the question in verse 1?

“Died to Sin” (vs. 2) - Does not mean that we are _____ to the _____

of sin, but instead that _____ no longer _____ in our life. (vv. 2, 12-13)

- In a practical way, what does this mean for us? (vv. Rom 8:12-13)

What does Paul automatically assume about these Christians? (v. 2)

Explain the significance of baptism? How does baptism relate to “death?” What does it mean to be “set free from sin?” (vv. 3-7)

How can we sum up our lives before and after our baptism into Christ? How does Paul use the life of Christ to illustrate this? (vv. 1-11)

How do verses 12 & 13 address the concept of eternal security?

Explain the meaning of the following phrases? What is the significance of being a “Slave?” What is the result of each? (vv. 15-23)

- Slave to Sin
- Slave to Righteousness

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Paul's Anticipated Question

Romans 3:8 (ESV)

⁸ And why not do evil that good may come?—as some people slanderously charge us with saying. Their condemnation is just.

Romans 5:12–21 (ESV)

¹² Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned— ¹³ for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. ¹⁴ Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come. ¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. ¹⁶ And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. ¹⁷ For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. ¹⁹ For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. ²⁰ Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, ²¹ so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Galatians 5:13–15 (ESV)

¹³ For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. ¹⁴ For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁵ But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.

Parallel Passages

2 Corinthians 5:14–17 (ESV)

¹⁴ For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; ¹⁵ and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised. ¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

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Ephesians 2:1–10 (ESV)

¹ And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³ among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. ⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Ephesians 4:20–24 (ESV)

²⁰ But that is not the way you learned Christ!— ²¹ assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, ²² to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, ²³ and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Colossians 2:11–15 (ESV)

¹¹ In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, ¹² having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³ And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

Colossians 3:1 (ESV)

¹ If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

Colossians 3:9 (ESV)

⁹ Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices

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Substitute vs. Union

Romans 3:21–26 (ESV)

²¹ But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— ²² the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. ²⁶ It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

2 Corinthians 5:14–17 (ESV)

¹⁴ For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; ¹⁵ and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised. ¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

Necessity of Baptism

Acts 9:1-19 (ESV)

¹ But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ² and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³ Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴ And falling to the ground he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" ⁵ And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶ But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." ⁷ The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. ⁸ Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹ And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank. ¹⁰ Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." ¹¹ And the Lord said to him, "Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, ¹² and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." ¹³ But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. ¹⁴ And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name." ¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. ¹⁶ For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." ¹⁷ So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸ And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; ¹⁹ and taking food, he was strengthened. For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus.

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Acts 22:1-16 (ESV)

¹“Brothers and fathers, hear the defense that I now make before you.”

²And when they heard that he was addressing them in the Hebrew language, they became even more quiet. And he said:

³“I am a Jew, born in Tarsus in Cilicia, but brought up in this city, educated at the feet of Gamaliel according to the strict manner of the law of our fathers, being zealous for God as all of you are this day. ⁴I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering to prison both men and women, ⁵as the high priest and the whole council of elders can bear me witness. From them I received letters to the brothers, and I journeyed toward Damascus to take those also who were there and bring them in bonds to Jerusalem to be punished.

⁶“As I was on my way and drew near to Damascus, about noon a great light from heaven suddenly shone around me. ⁷And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?’ ⁸And I answered, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ And he said to me, ‘I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting.’ ⁹Now those who were with me saw the light but did not understand the voice of the one who was speaking to me. ¹⁰And I said, ‘What shall I do, Lord?’ And the Lord said to me, ‘Rise, and go into Damascus, and there you will be told all that is appointed for you to do.’ ¹¹And since I could not see because of the brightness of that light, I was led by the hand by those who were with me, and came into Damascus.

¹²“And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, well spoken of by all the Jews who lived there, ¹³came to me, and standing by me said to me, ‘Brother Saul, receive your sight.’ And at that very hour I received my sight and saw him. ¹⁴And he said, ‘The God of our fathers appointed you to know his will, to see the Righteous One and to hear a voice from his mouth; ¹⁵for you will be a witness for him to everyone of what you have seen and heard. ¹⁶**And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.’**

Critical Questions in Paul’s Conversion:

1. **How many days did Saul wait after he lost his sight?**

Acts 9:8–9 (ESV)

⁸Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹And for **three days** he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

2. **Did he have a dramatic experience? (v. 3)**

Illustration: Carmen telling his story on TBN

Acts 9:3–4 (ESV)

³Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴And falling to the ground he heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?”

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3. Did he fast during those three days? (v. 9)

Illustration: Asceticism in Eastern Religions

Acts 9:8–9 (ESV)

⁸ Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹ And for **three days** he was without sight, and **neither ate nor drank**.

4. Did he pray during those three days? (v. 11)

Illustration: Sinner's Prayer / Tony Alamo pamphlet

Acts 9:11 (ESV)

¹¹ And the Lord said to him, "Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying,

5. Did he believe in Jesus? (v. 5)

Illustration: Taking verses out of context

John 3:16 (ESV)

¹⁶ "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Acts 16:30–31 (ESV)

³⁰ Then he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" ³¹ And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household."

Acts 9:5 (ESV)

⁵ And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting..."

6. When were his sins washed away? (v. 18; 22:16)

Acts 9:18 (ESV)

¹⁸ And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized;

Acts 22:16 (ESV)

¹⁶ And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.'

Acts 2:21 (ESV)

²¹ And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

Romans 10:13 (ESV)

¹³ For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

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Falling from Grace

1 Corinthians 10:1-13 (ESV)

¹ I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ² and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³ and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. ⁵ Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness. ⁶ Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷ Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play." ⁸ We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹ We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, ¹⁰ nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. ¹¹ Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. ¹² **Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.** ¹³ No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

Galatians 5:1-4 (ESV)

¹ For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. ² Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you. ³ I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law. ⁴ You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; **you have fallen away from grace.**

1 Timothy 4:1-16 (ESV)

¹ **Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons,** ² through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared, ³ who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. ⁴ For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, ⁵ for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer. ⁶ If you put these things before the brothers, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, being trained in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine that you have followed. ⁷ Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness; ⁸ for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. ⁹ The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance. ¹⁰ For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe. ¹¹ Command and teach these things. ¹² Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. ¹³ Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching. ¹⁴ Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you. ¹⁵ Practice these things, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress. ¹⁶ **Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.**

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Hebrews 3:12-14 (ESV)

¹² Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. ¹³ But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. ¹⁴ For we share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.

Hebrews 6:4-6 (ESV)

⁴ For it is impossible to restore again to repentance those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, ⁵ and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, ⁶ if they then fall away, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt.

Hebrews 10:26-31 (ESV)

²⁶ For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, ²⁷ but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. ²⁸ Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. ²⁹ How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has spurned the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? ³⁰ For we know him who said, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay." And again, "The Lord will judge his people." ³¹ It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Hebrews 12:15-17 (ESV)

¹⁵ See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no "root of bitterness" springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled; ¹⁶ that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal. ¹⁷ For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears.

2 Peter 2:17-22 (ESV)

¹⁷ These are waterless springs and mists driven by a storm. For them the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved. ¹⁸ For, speaking loud boasts of folly, they entice by sensual passions of the flesh those who are barely escaping from those who live in error. ¹⁹ They promise them freedom, but they themselves are slaves of corruption. For whatever overcomes a person, to that he is enslaved. ²⁰ For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. ²¹ For it would have been better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them. ²² What the true proverb says has happened to them: "The dog returns to its own vomit, and the sow, after washing herself, returns to wallow in the mire."

Revelation 2:1-7 (ESV)

¹ "To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: 'The words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands. ² " 'I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false. ³ I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary. ⁴ But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. ⁵ Remember therefore

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from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. **If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place**, unless you repent. ⁶ Yet this you have: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. ⁷ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.¹

Revelation 3:1-6 (ESV)

¹ "And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: 'The words of him who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. ' 'I know your works. You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead. ² Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God. ³ Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it, and repent. **If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you.** ⁴ Yet you have still a few names in Sardis, people who have not soiled their garments, and they will walk with me in white, for they are worthy. ⁵ The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and **I will never blot his name out of the book of life.** I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels. ⁶ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'

Revelation 3:14-22 (ESV)

¹⁴ "And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: 'The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's creation. ¹⁵ ' 'I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! ¹⁶ So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, **I will spit you out of my mouth.** ¹⁷ For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. ¹⁸ I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see. ¹⁹ Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent. ²⁰ Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. ²¹ The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. ²² He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'

Serving Two Masters

Matthew 6:24 (ESV)

²⁴ "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

Slaves

Matthew 7:15–16 (ESV)

¹⁵ "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. ¹⁶ You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?

I Am Not Ashamed – Romans 6:1-23

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John 8:34 (ESV)

³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin.

2 Peter 2:19 (ESV)

¹⁹ They promise them freedom, but they themselves are slaves of corruption. For whatever overcomes a person, to that he is enslaved.

1 John 2:3–6 (ESV)

³ And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. ⁴ Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, ⁵ but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: ⁶ whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

1 John 5:2–3 (ESV)

² By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³ For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.