

But when we yield ourselves in obedience to Christ and call upon Him for the strength to do His will, we are “released.” The result is increasing righteousness (Rom. 6:16).

Jesus assures us, “*If the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed*” (John 8:36).

Christ broke the bonds of sin, that I
Might know His strong eternal tie;
This blood-bought liberty I bring
To be Your bond-slave, Master-King. —F. Hess

Christ releases us from sin’s slavery into salvation’s liberty.



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Central Mountains Baptist Church

18 MARCH, 2012

Catch And Release

I’m a “catch and release” fisherman, which means I don’t kill the trout I catch, but net and handle them gently and set them free. It’s a technique that ensures “sustainability,” as conservation officers like to say, and keeps trout and other target species from disappearing in heavily fished waters.

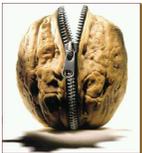
I rarely release a trout without recalling Paul’s words about those who have been “taken captive” by Satan to do his will (2 Tim. 2:26), for I know that our adversary the devil does not catch and release but captures to consume and destroy.

We may think we can deliberately sin in a limited way for a short period of time and then get ourselves free. But as Jesus teaches us, “Whoever commits sin is a slave of sin” (John 8:34). Even “little” sins lead to greater and greater

unrighteousness. Sin becomes the consequence of sin. We find ourselves entrapped and enslaved, and like a luckless trout, we cannot wriggle free.

Sin enslaves us.





Romans: Truth in a Nutshell

(unzipped for you)
Your Choice

Romans 6:15-23 sets out two alternatives from which to choose:

1. _____, verses 16, 19, 20-21, 23,

(Romans 6:16) "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?" [KJV]

(Romans 6:16) Don't you realize that whatever you choose to obey becomes your master? You can choose sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God and receive his approval.

{paraphrase}

(John 8:34) "... Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin."

(Hebrews 11:25) "... the passing pleasures of sin,"



2. _____, verses 19, 16-19, 22-23, 15

(Romans 6:17) Thank God! Once you were slaves of sin, but now you have obeyed with all your heart the new teaching God has given you.[paraphrase]

(Exodus 21:5-6) "'But if the servant plainly says, 'I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free,' {6} 'then his master shall bring him to the judges. He shall also bring him to



the door, or to the doorpost, and his master shall pierce his ear with an awl; and he shall serve him forever."

Verses 15-23 have given us three reasons to choose R _____:

◆ F _____, verse 15

(Ephesians 2:8-10) "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, {9} not of works, lest anyone should boast. {10} For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

◆ F _____, verse 18

◆ F _____,

(Psalms 45:7) "You love righteousness and hate wickedness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness more than Your companions."

(Matthew 6:24) "'No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."



To enjoy victory in your Christian life, take note of the keys in this passage:

1. Make the initial choice to be _____, verse 17

2. Understand the _____ that will bring, verse 18

3. _____ sin, verses 21-22

4. Love the _____ of _____, verse 22

5. Choose _____, verse 19

