

“Enslaved to God”

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Read Romans 6:15-7:6

“But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life.” (Rom. 6:22)

What kindness can we ascribe to our Master and Lord? How can we go about unfolding the strength of His reign over us and the love exuded from the extension of His gracious touch? His people are enslaved to Him. We are His slaves. Such imagery is heady because of historical precedence. We do not see slavery as a good thing. Wars are fought over issues of slavery and conquered nations sit in servitude before their conquering adversaries. Misery and injustice are painted on the walls of antiquity that cry out against its cold and sterile grip. Yet Christians are slaves of God.

It is an enslavement that resulted in freedom from sin. Freedom from sin caused the enslavement to God. Neutrality is impossible. Both are mutually exclusive. Neither one tolerates disloyalty. Both demand complete and exclusive fidelity. Sin's slavery is dark and foreboding. In contrast, our enslavement to God is different . . . significantly different.

His voice soothes the agitated soul. His touch calms the quivering of the body. His look stills the unsettled spirit that rages within seeking to overthrow the ocean's calm.

*“In the light of a king's face is life, and his favor is like a cloud with the spring rain”
(Prov. 16:15).*

*“The king's wrath is like the roaring of a lion, But his favor is like dew on the grass”
(Prov. 19:12).*

His gifting surpasses performance. There is something within Him that engulfs all that I am in the midst of my troubled existence and sets me firmly on the rock of His choosing. His direction is soft, and His paths are pleasant. Purity and justice flow freely from His handling of life's moments. There is no fear in this enslavement; His wisdom guarantees that only the best means are chosen to accomplish the highest good. This enslavement is marked by contentment and rest.

The wage sin pays is one of death, but the free gift of God that pours forth in abundance to those enslaved is eternal life. Such life is rooted in who Christ is and what He has done, not in who we are or what we have done or failed to do. The overwhelming sense of release swallows up the enslaved. They heave a sigh of freedom.

Slavery implies submission. It speaks of having been conquered. It communicates obedience. The enslaved kneel before their master. This is all present in the

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Christian's enslavement to God. Yet for the believer the bowing is one of adoration and worship. It is gratitude that bends the knee and bows the heart. The very nature of the service rendered is completely voluntary although inescapable. The benefits to the enslaved far outweigh any expression of control expressed by the Lord. Submission and obedience are for the profit of the enslaved.

How can we understand this enslavement? What word pictures can be painted against the walls of our hearts? Consider the lyrical content of a modern hymn. It captures who He is and the joy that results from our enslavement to Him.

Beautiful Savior

Artist (Band): **Casting Crowns**

All my days I will sing the song of gladness
Give my praise to the fountain of delights
For in my helplessness, you heard my cry
And waves of mercy poured down on my life

(chorus)

Beautiful Savior, wonderful counselor
Clothed in majesty, Lord of history
You're the way, the truth and the life
Star of the morning, glorious in holiness
You're the risen one, heaven's champion
And you reign, you reign over all

I will trust in the cross of my Redeemer
I will sing of the LAMB that never fails
Of sins forgiven, of conscience cleared
Of death defeated and life without end

(chorus)

Beautiful, beautiful Savior,
Wonderful counselor, beautiful risen one

(chorus)

I long to be where the praise is never ending
Yearn to dwell where the glory never fades
with countless worshippers sing one song
And the voices of the nations
Sing worthy, worthy, worthy
Worthy beautiful, beautiful one
Jesus you are worthy, beautiful, beautiful one
Jesus you're worthy, beautiful, beautiful one
You are worthy, beautiful, risen one

Those who are enslaved to God cannot imagine life any other way. May we see ourselves as a community of the enslaved to the beautiful Savior and may our devotion overflow in ceaseless praise before Him in every aspect of our lives. Truly, "having been freed from sin [we are now] enslaved to God." Praise Him.