**Slaves, One and All**

*Joyfully Obeying Our Loving Master*

(Romans 6:15-19)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How do Christ’s words in Matthew 6:21 help us understand the principle Paul is explaining in Romans 6:15-19? How do you know where someone’s heart (allegiance, treasure, joy) resides? In your own words, explain why the notion of slavery is difficult to understand and apply. In light of Paul’s argument in Romans 6:15-19, how would explain the idea of free will? What does fallen mankind really need?
2. Read Romans 6:15 and describe the ways that someone could twist Paul’s words to justify a life of unrepentant sin. How has Romans 6:1-14 helped us understand why Paul would respond with another “By no means!” in verse 15? How do Jesus’ words in Matthew 6:24 help us better understand what Paul is saying in Romans 6:15-16? Describe how the following quote from Matthew Henry help us understand what Paul is driving at: “If we would know to which of these two families [sin or righteousness] we belong, we must inquire to which of these two masters we yield our obedience.”
3. According to Romans 6:17-18, who is credited with the salvation of sinners? Why is it critical to understand this truth? Explain how the following passages reinforce this idea: Jeremiah 31:33-34, Ezekiel 36:25-27, John 3:4-8, Acts 16:13-15, 1 Corinthians 1:26-31, 2 Corinthians 4:1-6, Ephesians 2:1-10. In what practical ways does pondering God’s grace motivate us to fight sin?
4. In what practical ways does pondering God’s grace motivate us to fight sin? How has God’s powerful grace changed your desires so that your allegiance and practices have changed? In what practical ways have you found it increasingly easier to present yourself as a slave of Christ rather than a slave of sin? How should the knowledge that, as Christians, we no longer must sin change the way you think and act? What areas of your life would benefit if you pursued righteousness as energetically as you once pursued sin?