

Choose your Master

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Romans 6:15-23.

B. These verses are all one needs to know about victory in Christ, but practicing it involves a learning process.

1. This is a great fact, which our faith in God rests on.
2. We are to act upon the fact.
3. We must rest upon the mighty indwelling power of Jesus Christ within us.

II. Problems of walking in the Spirit.

A. Part time victory.

1. One must change because if there is no change there is a serious doubt whether one has become a Christian at all.
2. Should we sin even once after conversion?
3. Problems arise that make it possible for a defeat like at Ai. (Joshua)

B. The permissibility of occasional sin.

1. The problem is incomplete acceptance of the death of the old life in the believer.
2. This is an attempt at a part time victory, which is part time failure.
3. We cannot ask for permission with some things and strength against others.
4. Man is made to be mastered by something—we need a cause.
 - a. Everything we do relate to either Christ or self.
 - b. For so long we only were able to love ourselves.
 - c. Obedience to any of it puts you under the power of all of it.
5. You choose Christ in your struggles, and He gets more of a grip on you.
6. One must simply choose his master.

C. The end of sin is death—if a man sows death, he will get death.

1. Man has no right to declare that something has a right to live that God says does not.
2. Death is not referring to hell here because it is written to Christians—it is a picture of barrenness and emptiness.
3. It is easy to be impressed by what one is in contrast to what God is—this one will stand ashamed before God.
4. One can experience the power of Christ in you to live in the present.

Application questions:

1. Why is it that if we are not mastered by Christ, we are mastered by sin?

2. What is the result of refusing to walk in the Spirit?

3. What would you tell someone the secret to finding victory over sin is in light of the message?
