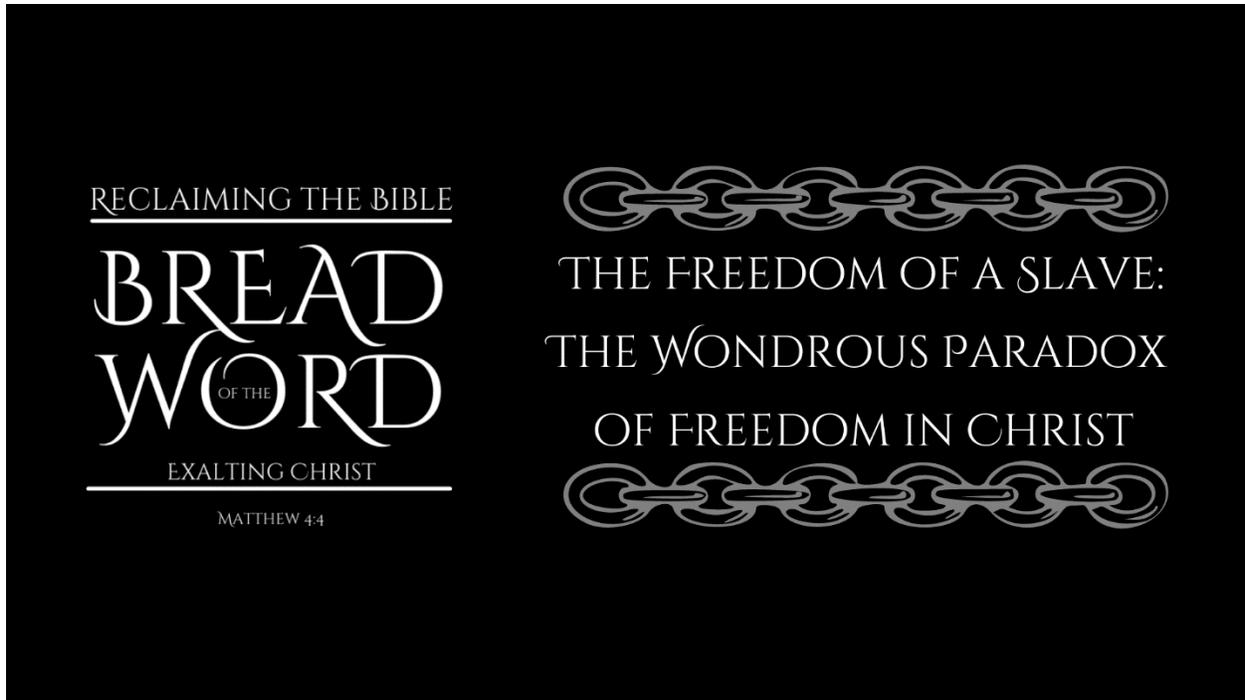


Bread of The Word

Trail of Breadcrumbs



Tyler Noe | October 4, 2021

*For when you were **slaves of sin**, you were free in regard to righteousness. But 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. But 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. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. ([Romans 6:20–23 ESV](#))*

The Bible uses strong language to describe our Eternal State. The Word of GOD tells us that we are slaves to sin (Romans 6:20), that we are dead in sin (Ephesians 2:1), that we are children of wrath (Ephesians 2:3). The bottom line is that mankind has a very sincere problem. Sin, that being, the violation of the Law of a holy and righteous GOD, has a hold on us as a slavemaster. We are in bondage to sin and are unable to change that disposition.

From this original corruption, whereby we are utterly indisposed, disabled, and made opposite to all good, and wholly inclined to all evil, do proceed all actual transgressions.

-WCF, Chapter VI.

But there is hope. GOD sent us Jesus in Human flesh to atone for that Sin to which we were in bondage. He died in our place on a Cross and rose triumphantly from the dead. Having conquered both Sin and Death (Romans 8:1-2), he now sits at the Right hand of the Father and reigns over both Heaven and Earth (Hebrews 1:1-3). Christ has made a way for many to be saved according to the riches of His glorious grace and mercy, which He has lavished upon us. We who were undeserving of such mercy have been brought near to GOD and been grafted into His family (Romans 8:14).

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. (Romans 8:1 ESV)

This presents us with a paradox: We are made free in Christ, but also a slave of Christ. How can this be? Freedom and bondage are not the same thing. How can these possible coexist?

The term slave is an appropriate rendering of the Greek word δοῦλος (doulos). This word was understood by the first century Greeks as slave. While ancient Greek slavery was vastly different from the American slave trade, there are some transferrable elements. Slaves often were subjected to hardships. Their rights were defined differently than other members of society. But perhaps the most significant factor is the sovereignty of the slaveholder.

Paul wrote that you and I were slaves to sin. Sin owned us. As our owner, sin determined where we could go, what we would do once we got there, who we could be around, and much more. Our lives revolved around the desire of sin. We likely thought we were free, for righteousness was a foreign concept to us. But GOD's Law, among many other things, makes us aware of the depth of our sin. It proves to us just how enslaved you and I were to sin. We were in bondage to all that is wicked, unjust, and downright sinful. This was our natural state, one of inability. The Bible tells us that that road ends with death. The fruit of sin is death.

In addition, GOD is just and must deal with Sin justly and completely. Christ's work on the Cross absorbed that justice. Christ took our place and suffered the consequences of our sin. Having done that, His Righteousness is imputed, or transferred, to our account. We are declared right with GOD according to the merits of Christ, the perfect everlasting man.

But 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. (Romans 6:22 ESV)

This introduces to us the glorious paradox of Redemption. We are freed from sin and made to be slaves of GOD. How can this be? What does this mean? As previously stated, the slaveowner has a level of authority over the slave. GOD, as the new owner, has determined where we can go. GOD has become our authority in this life and the next. Our lives are firmly held in His hands. We rest in the palm of His complete sovereignty.

“The dominion, or reign, of sin has been broken through our union with Christ. In Christ, we are no longer the people we once were; we belong to the new creation—the old has passed away, the new has come (2 Cor. 5:17). We have died to sin; we can no longer live in it.”

*- Sinclair B. Ferguson
“By Grace Alone”*

For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. (Romans 14:8 ESV)

In addition, GOD not only has sovereignty over the course of our lives, but He preserves us. GOD keeps His people where they ought to be. This is why Paul can say with certainty that the fruit of bondage to GOD leads to our Sanctification. GOD preserves us; and in the Holy Spirit, He sanctified us. Paul uses the term slave to establish the assurance that we can have; assurance that we belong to the LORD. He owns us, and He is faithful. He does not abandon His people.

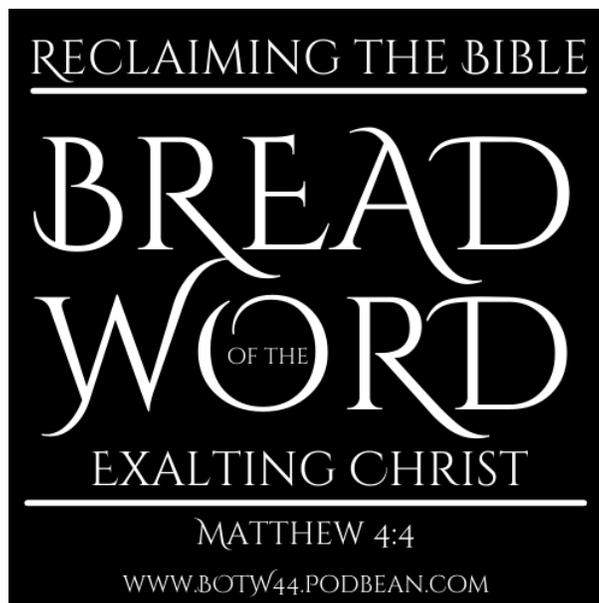
*The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness. (Lamentations 3:22-23 ESV).*

As we continue in His Grace, we can have hope, peace, and assurance that the faithful GOD who has redeemed us (Ephesians 1:7), adopted us (2 Corinthians 5:21), and has made us His own (John 1:12) will keep us in His Grace.

We are slaves of GOD in the sense that we are tied to Him. We are joined into His House, and only He can take us out of it. We belong to Him. Yet, we are free in the sense that the binding condemnation of the Law holds no salvific power over any of us. Christ accomplished the work the Law required in order that we may be redeemed and adopted into the family of GOD. In short, we are the LORD's.

ALL those that are justified, God vouchsafed [granted], in and for his only Son Jesus Christ, to make partakers of the grace of adoption: by which they are taken into the number, and enjoy the liberties and privileges of the children of God; have his name put upon them, receive the Spirit of adoption; have access to the throne of grace with boldness; are enabled to cry, Abba, Father; are pitied, protected, provided for, and chastened by him as by a father; yet never cast off, but sealed to the day of redemption, and inherit the promises, as heirs of everlasting salvation.

-WCF XII.



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*“Man shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”* ([Matthew 4:4 ESV](#))

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*“Man’s chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.”
-Westminster Shorter Catechism*