

PHILEMON

Lesson 5: Being in Bondage; part 1

29 January, 2016

You don't have to be behind bars to be in bondage. Sin captivates men and women every day so that they are in bondage to it, obeying it as a slave would obey a master, powerless to break free from the sin, the vice, or the habit that controls them and keeps them bound.

JOHN 8:31-35

Here's a conditional fact: The truth shall make you free (vs. 32) IF (!)—you believe on Jesus, IF (!)—you continue in His word, and IF (!)—you make yourself a disciple (vs. 31).

Israel's religious leaders claimed they were never in bondage to any man (vs. 33), though they have a long history of being slaves in Egypt and being taken into captivity by other nations (Philistia, Chaldea, Babylon, Rome).

The longer you remain in bondage, the less it will seem like bondage to you. You'll get used to it. Sin is exactly like that. When you do something sinful for so long that you can't stop, you will say that it doesn't control you, but it does. In fact, you won't realize how enslaved you are until Jesus sets you free.

As soon as you sin (vs. 34), you are captured like a fish on a hook. One sin creates a craving and an appetite for more. You need more because sin doesn't satisfy. This presents the need to increase the quantity or magnitude of sinful practices in an attempt to get satisfaction from it. But sin never satisfies.

What satisfies your appetite for depravity TODAY—does not satisfy your appetite for depravity TOMORROW. It's always going to increase; it's always going to get worse.

Jesus Christ is the only One who can completely set you free from the bondage of sin (vs. 35).

ROMANS 6:20-22

A person who is in bondage to sin cannot do right (vs. 20). When Jesus sets you free from that bondage, you won't want to ever talk about your shameful past and you certainly would never brag about it.

GALATIANS 5:1

Jesus Christ has set you free from the yoke of bondage. Sin was in that yoke with you, directing your ways. Christ offered you His yoke (Matt. 11:29), which is easy. Now he leads you in the paths of righteousness (Psalm 23:3).

Be not entangled AGAIN with the yoke of bondage! --This indicates that there will be temptations to go back to your old life. We are commanded to stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free. Don't look back. Stay far away from those things that kept you in bondage and messed you up.

THE MEGACHURCH (Leaves people in the bondage of sin)

- A seeker-sensitive movement (seeking to give people what they want)
- Wants to discard the old ways of “doing” ministry and replace it with a new way.
- De-emphasizes the believer’s personal responsibility for Bible study and the importance of Bible doctrine.
- Emphasizes feelings, meeting “needs” of seekers, programs, and crafty marketing to increase numbers.
- Eliminates teaching and preaching about sin, righteousness, repentance, and judgment.
- Casual, relaxed, entertaining atmosphere (rock bands and drama presentations). No Bibles needed.
- Mega-churches are built by demographic studies, professional strategists, and marketing research.
- No evangelism or soul-winning.
- Focus is on the “new and improved.” Considers traditional churches to be “dinosaurs.”
- Their strategies and practices do not produce disciples of Christ (their own study proved this).
- Auditoriums are packed with lost people who will never get saved and baby Christians who will never grow as long as they stay there.
- The foundation of this church is sinking sand (Mt. 7:26). It’s not a Bible based church.

SECOND PETER 2:18-20

People who are still slaves to sin do not want you to be free from sin. They’ll try to convince you to go back into bondage (vs. 18). They’ll suggest that you are the one in bondage and persuade you to get free from the “hardship” of serving the Lord, though they are the ones who are slaves to sin (vs. 19).

If you go back into bondage, it will be worse for you than it was in the beginning (vs. 20). When you were lost, someone came to you and told you Jesus could set you free. They offered you hope and you took it. If you later walk away from Jesus and go back to your old ways, you’re saved, but you’ve lost your hope. You’re not going to listen to another Christian who tries to get you back on track because you’ve already heard it all before. They’ve got nothing more to offer you. That’s why it’s “worse.”

PSALM 2:1-4

Ungodly rulers try to convince the people to free themselves from the bondage of religion (break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us).

If you are saved, you are free from the bondage of sin. Those who are in bondage to sin think you’re the one who has no freedom. They don’t realize that they do the things they do because they have to. They’re in bondage. They want to fit in with a certain crowd and be accepted. They’re a slave to the opinions of others.
