

Verse 20.— When we were "employed by sin we owed no duty to righteousness." (Phillips) This emphasizes the opposite, that is, when we become servants of Righteousness we no longer owe any duty to sin.

Note: (1) It should also be noticed that holiness is not a dormant state; it is a state of activity, of service. It is not enough simply to be separate from all that defiles. The Christian must be actively engaged in positive holiness in order to advance the cause of Christ.

(2) Paul speaks here as though there were only two choices for an individual -- serving sin or serving Righteousness. This is exactly the case. See Matthew 12:30, 6:24. Observe also that Paul is speaking to all Christians here and not only to those who have been called into a full-time ministry.

### III. Our reward. Romans 6:21-23.

The appeal is to the past experience of those to whom the letter was addressed. Since this letter is for us as well as the Romans, it is for us to recall our past experience in service to sin. How profitable was it?

The service: to sin --

The fruit: absolutely none  
The end result: death (eternal)

The service: to Righteousness --

The fruit: holiness (living that pleases God)  
The end result: everlasting life

Paul is not saying that everlasting life is earned by service to Righteousness. This is made clear in verse 23:

wages of sin = death  
gift of God = everlasting life

The word "wages" is the translation of a word which was used to designate that which was paid to a soldier as remuneration for his services. Paul does not say in the second half of the verse that the "wages" of righteousness is everlasting life. Everlasting life is a gift of God's free grace. We do not serve Him because He has purchased salvation for us with His own blood. Our service is a service of love.

Those who serve sin will get what they rightly deserve. Those who serve righteousness do so because they have already received what they never could possibly deserve.

### Conclusion.

We who are Christians are under obligation (the love of Christ constraineth us) to yield ourselves to the service of our Lord and Master. The duties of this service involve the placing of ourselves at the disposal of our Lord. We then should be as soldiers, ready to obey His every command. The fruit of this service is holiness, being what God intended us to be. After concluding our service upon this earth we will enjoy unending bliss in the presence of the Lord Himself.

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### Personal Bible Study Guide for Romans 7:1-6

In Romans 7:1-6 Paul shows the Christian's relationship to the Law. At the same time he adds a new thought to our relationship to Christ. In chapter 6:15-23 we are called upon to be "servants" of our Lord. In Romans 7:1-6 we are bound to Christ in marriage.

1. The nature of this marriage, verses 1-4.
2. The results of this marriage, verses 5,6.

How does this relationship to Christ effect our service for Him? Trace the concept of marriage to Christ through Scripture.