

Bible reading Romans 6:12-23

Hymn 345- Singing-The Faith- *And Can it be that I should gain*

## Romans 6: 12-23

Therefore, do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

## Slaves of Righteousness

What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms because

of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification.

When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## *New International Version (NIV)*

### Reflection

When reading the text from Romans, Hymn 345 came to my mind. And can it be that I should gain, an interest in the savior's blood? A very reflective question. What gain was it to Christ to die for us. It was our again not Christ's! To save humanity from perishing. There is nothing that we have done to deserve the grace of Christ dying for us on the Cross. It's just unmerited favour. When Abraham was called by God his tribe used to worship many Gods. It was just God's favour that he was chosen and blessed to be father of a great nation. God has chosen you and me to be

liberated from the bondage of sin. This is what Paul is reminding the Romans church that they should not be answerable to sin as their master but be answerable to God. Paul is urging the church that they should not be used as instruments of wickedness but to present themselves to God with gratitude as instruments of righteousness. We are living in broken communities, society and world, riddled with sin, hate and unforgiveness. What role do we have in such a community, society and world? Indeed, we have a special role, a role to reject sin by doing what is right before God and not bow down to the devil as our master. We only have one master therefore, make righteousness your master and not the devil. Let us be the light that shine in a dark world. Let us be peacemakers and bring peace to a warring world. In his sermon on the mount Jesus spoke about the beatitudes and the blessings rewarded to those who are slaves of righteousness. We should not let sin take grip of our lives and lead us astray by instilling doubt and fear in our lives. Let us remember that eternal life is from God and the wages of sin is death. Eternal life is a gift from God which we did not work for or deserve it is grace that found us. Maybe this is something that we can reflect on this week and think of our actions, things that we have said to others, or our actions towards others. What can we do to show that our master is righteousness not sin?

## Prayer

Heavenly father, we confess that we have sinned against you, family, friends and neighbours. We have walked in darkness rather than light. We have named the name of Christ but have not followed him and shown the world his love. Have mercy on us father for the sake of Jesus Christ who perished on the Cross to forgive our sins and bring us to true repentance. In repentance and faith, we receive the promise of grace and the assurance of pardon. Here are the words we may trust, words that merit full acceptance: “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners like me”. I thank you Lord for my sins are forgiven. Amen 🙏🙏

*Prayer adapted from Book of Common order*

*Prepared by **Rev Mary Sachikonye Methodist Minister for (Mile Cross, Costessey, Trinity Thorpe Marriott, Hosford and Drayton) for a time as this. We are a church without walls. We should therefore, continue to proclaim the good news. I will be sending **Words of Hope** every week so that we may continue to nourish our spirits and continue to live in HOPE!***