

The image features a background of ancient Roman ruins, including a large, circular stone structure and various rectangular blocks. A semi-transparent cross-shaped overlay is present on the right side of the image. The word "ROMANS" is written in a large, black, serif font across the center of the image.

ROMANS

Romans 6:11-14 – The Hinge-point of Paul’s Letter.

- **Chapters 1-3:** The sinful condition of every person.

Consequences:

- God’s wrath: *I will not go with you.*
- God’s judgment: Separation & Death.

²⁰ No one is righteous ... ²³ Everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard.

Romans 6:11-14 – The Hinge-point of Paul’s Letter.

- Chapters 1-3: The sinful condition of every person.
- **Chapters 3-5: The Good News for all of us - Jesus!**

Consequences:

- Christ’s justification offered for us.
- God’s righteousness is extended to us.

²³ Everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard.

*²⁴ **Yet God, in his grace, has justified us** – making us right in his sight.*

*He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins, ²⁵ presenting Christ as the sacrifice on our behalf. **People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood.***

Romans 6:11-14 – The Hinge-point of Paul’s Letter.

- **Chapters 1-3:** The sinful condition of every person.
- **Chapters 3-5:** The Good News for every person.
- **Chapter 6:1-14** We are free from Sin!

*⁶ We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. **We are no longer slaves to sin.** ⁷ For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin ...*

¹⁴ Sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace.

Dilemma: If sin is no longer my master, why do I still struggle?

- If I live under grace ... why is sin still so attractive to me?
- Am I really justified in Jesus ... while still sinning so often?
- Has God saved me ... because I don't feel very righteous.

I am free from sin ... but am I free from sinning?

*¹¹ ... Count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. ¹² Do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. ¹³ **Do not offer the parts of your body to sin as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness.** ¹⁴ For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace.*

Romans 6

This Week: Three Truths About My New Life in Jesus. (Romans 6:11-23)

Truth #1. My Body ... Mortal, for now.

¹² Do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires.

- My soul has been *justified*, but my body is still subject to death.
 - I will receive a new body in eternity, but until then the old sinful nature will tempt me to go back to my old behaviors.

Note: This does not mean my body is evil ... just mortal.

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Truth #1. My Body ... Mortal, for now.

¹² Do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires.

- My soul has been *justified*, but my body is still subject to death.
- The control of my body is mine... by my will I decide who to give it to ... the *sinful nature* that tempts me, or the *Spirit of God* that dwells in me.

Paul – 1 Corinthians 6

12 You say, “I am allowed to do anything”

- *but not everything is good for you. And even though “I am allowed to do anything,” I must not become a slave to anything.*

13 You say, “Food was made for the stomach, and the stomach for food.”

(This is true, though someday God will do away with both of them.)

- *But you can’t say that our bodies were made for sexual immorality. They were made for the Lord, and the Lord cares about our bodies.*

15 Don't you realize that your bodies are actually parts of Christ? ...

19 Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you & was given to you by God?

You do not belong to yourself, ²⁰ for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body.

How sobering to realize that the control of your body is in your hands, and by an act of your will, you decide who controls it ... However, the right decision is not made simply by willpower or self-effort; we have the Holy Spirit living within us to enable us to live a life of victory, but we must decide to let Him have control – this is not a passive matter, but a personal choice and act of the will. By doing this we determine not to let the sin nature have control of our bodies. Once we make this decision, God's power through His Spirit begins to perform in us the desire and behavior to accomplish that which pleases Him.

T. H. Epp

This Week: Three Truths About My New Life in Jesus. (Romans 6:11-23)

Truth #2. My Authority ... Jesus Christ.

¹⁴ Sin is no longer your master – you no longer live under the burden of the law. Instead, you now live under the freedom of God's grace.

- I am no longer enslaved by sin and death. I have a new Master – Jesus, and a new goal – righteousness.

¹⁴ Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the burden of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God's grace ...

*¹⁷ Thank God! Once you were slaves of sin, but now you wholeheartedly obey this teaching we have given you. ¹⁸ **Now you are free from your slavery to sin, and you have become slaves to righteous living.***

- I am no longer enslaved by sin and death. I have a new Master – Jesus, and a new goal – righteousness.
- I was formerly free from the obligation to do right! ... but no longer.

20 When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the obligation to do right. 21 And what was the result? You are now ashamed of the things you used to do, things that end in eternal doom. 22 But now you are free from the power of sin and have become slaves of God. Now you do those things that lead to holiness and result in eternal life.

The Point: My body is now an instrument of God's righteousness.

- I will not give this instrument to the enemy!

¹I urge you brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

Romans 12

Sin cannot function unless it has members of a body to carry out its will. Paul is literally saying in this verse, "Do not give your weapons to the enemy." ... yet this is exactly what the believer does when he yields his body to the cause of sin.

T. H. Epp

This Week: Three Truths About My New Life in Jesus. (Romans 6:11-23)

Truth #3. My Freedom ... I Decide Which Master to Serve.

¹⁹ Because of the weakness of your human nature, I am using the illustration of slavery to help you understand all this. Previously, you let yourselves be slaves to impurity and lawlessness, which led ever deeper into sin ... ²² But now you are free from the power of sin and have become slaves of God. Now you do those things that lead to holiness and result in eternal life. ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

This Week: Three Truths About My New Life in Jesus. (Romans 6:11-23)

Truth #3. My Freedom ... I Decide Which Master to Serve.

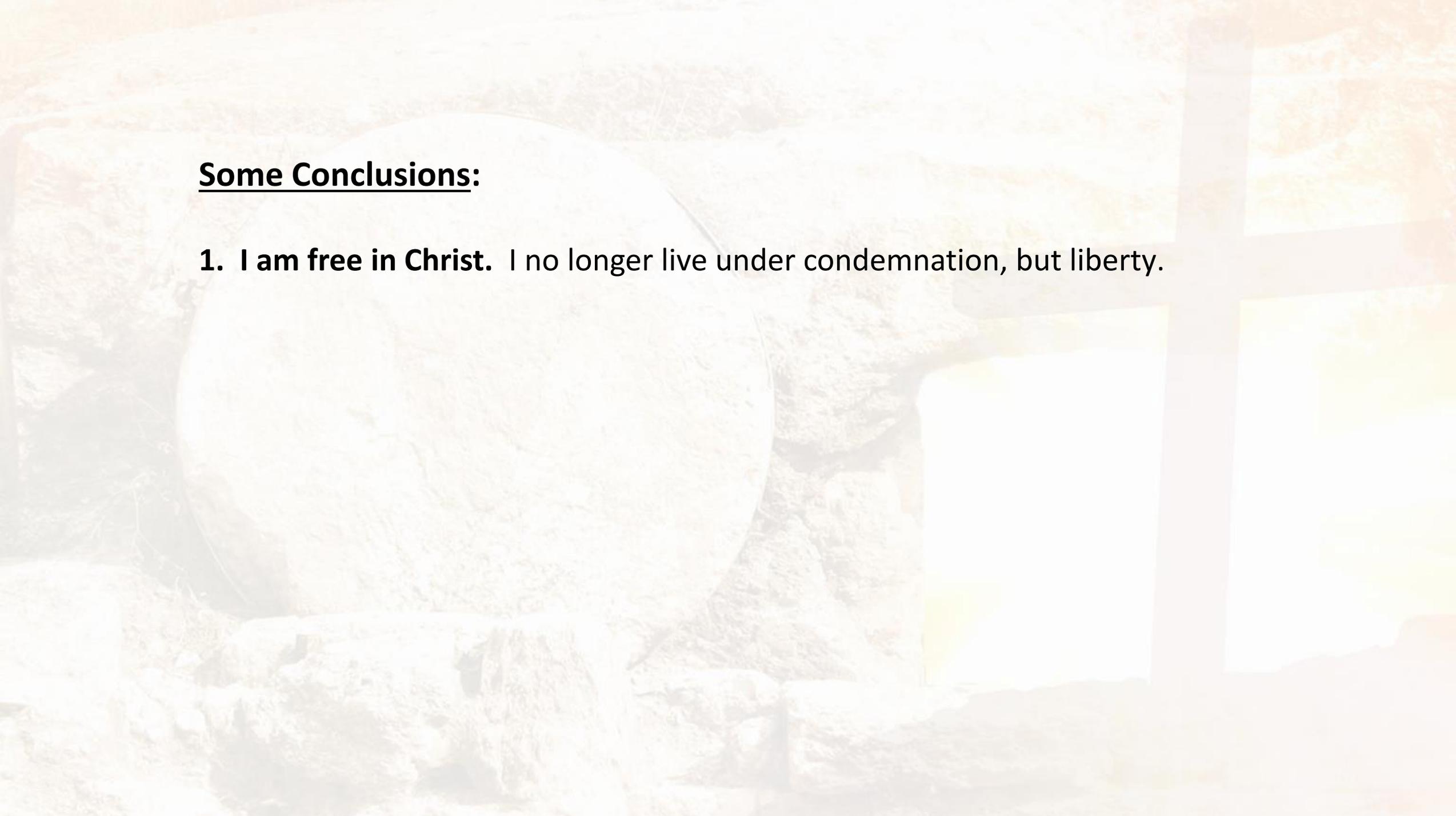
- I know the truth – it's very clear to me, now.
- I choose who to obey ... my old sinful nature, or Jesus, my Lord.
- I reap what I sow ... the stench of sin, or the fragrance of righteousness.

The Point: This is not about my *justification*, but my *sanctification*.

*²² Now you are free from the power of sin and have become slaves of God. **Now you do these things that lead to holiness and result in eternal life.***

The Christian is not under condemnation but liberty ... We should not think that our yielding is so God can do something for us. He has already done all that is necessary to provide salvation and all that we need for godly living. Rather, our yielding is to be an objective yielding where we become totally available to Him to carry out His will and to accomplish His purposes.

T. H. Epp



Some Conclusions:

1. I am free in Christ. I no longer live under condemnation, but liberty.

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 - from a captive slave to death, to a freewill slave to Jesus.
 - from shame to glory ... forever.

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3. **Sin is not dead ... but in Christ I am dead to it.** It is no longer a stronghold holding me prisoner.

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3. Sin is not dead ... but in Christ I am dead to it. It is no longer a stronghold holding me prisoner.
4. **I am responsible to choose what will dominate the rest of my life:**
 - **sin, or righteousness.**

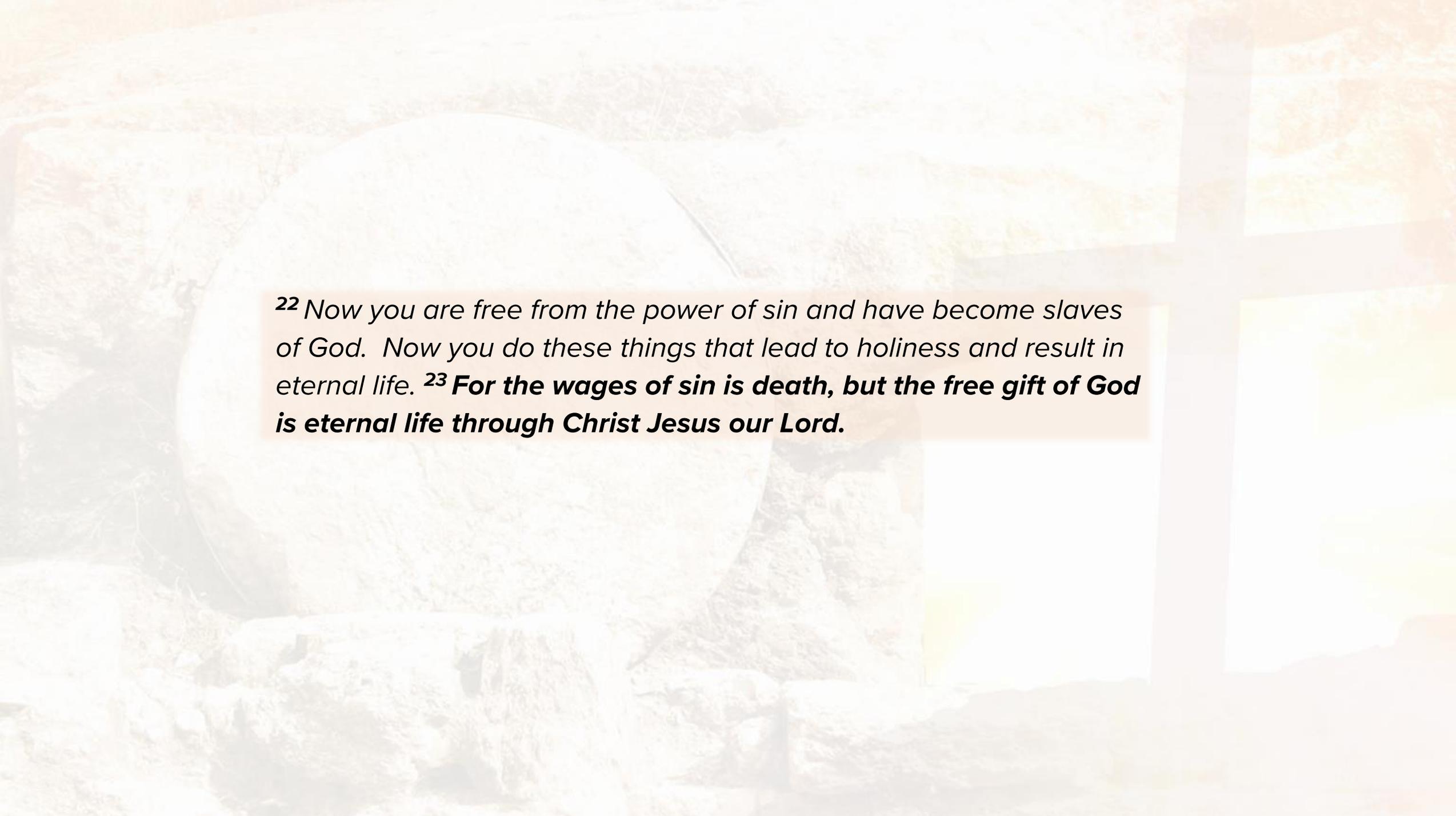
Two Dangers:

1. It is possible to be free, but still live like I am enslaved.

- If you have embraced Jesus as your Lord & Savior, live in freedom ... resist sin each day & put on the clothes of righteousness.

Two Dangers:

1. It is possible to be free, but still live like I am enslaved.
2. **It is possible to be enslaved, yet believe I am free.**
 - If you are trying to live a good life without Jesus, do not be deceived any longer ... being good will not satisfy God's righteousness. You need a new Master - Jesus.



*²² Now you are free from the power of sin and have become slaves of God. Now you do these things that lead to holiness and result in eternal life. ²³ **For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.***