

ROMANS 6:15–23

# Mastering the Sins that Master Us

*Student Inductive Bible Study Guide*

## What is Inductive Bible Study?

Inductive Bible study is a method of examining a text and seeking to determine its teaching, meaning, and application through observation and questions designed to help us understand and apply what the text teaches. It involves four simple steps you can take on your own or in a group discussion.

<b>1. READ</b>	Read the passage slowly. Have the group members read different portions of the text aloud.
<b>2. OBSERVE</b>	What does the text say? Notice who speaks, key terms, repeated concepts, commands, and interesting points of grammar (verb tenses, unusual uses of a word, passive voice, etc.).
<b>3. INTERPRET</b>	What does the text mean? Identify the main point, major doctrinal ideas, and how it fits the larger argument Paul is making in this section of Romans.
<b>4. APPLY</b>	How should this text change me? What truths must I believe? What will I do differently this week?



*Pastor Sam's sermon on this passage will help you understand the text more deeply. Scan the QR code or use the link provided to access the message before or during your study. Here you can find all the notes from his sermon - fill-in, outline, and the full manuscript.*

## Reading the Text Together — Romans 6:15–23

- ▶ *Unit 1: The Question Paul Addresses (6:15)*
- ▶ *Unit 2: The Explanation Paul Provides (6:16)*
- ▶ *Unit 3: The Assurance Paul Gives (6:17–18)*
- ▶ *Unit 4: The Illustration Paul Uses (6:19)*
- ▶ *Unit 5: The Motivation Paul Employs (6:20–22)*
- ▶ *Unit 6: The Power God Supplies (6:23; 7:6)*

## OBSERVING THE TEXT CAREFULLY

*Keep Romans 6:15–23 open before you as you answer questions 1–8.*

1

How is the question Paul answers in 6:15 different than the one he answers in 6:1?

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2

What are the repeated terms in 6:16–18? How are the terms "obedience" and "slaves" (bond-servants) related?

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3

What does Paul state is the identifying or verifying mark of whom we serve in 6:16?

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4

To what does Paul say we were delivered over (committed), and who did the handing over in 6:19?

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5

What are the two different kinds of slaving or serving described by Paul in 6:19, and what was surprising about the outcome of serving one master or the other?

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6

What is the fruit or wage of slaving for sin in 6:19 and 6:21?

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7

What is the fruit or recompense for serving God in 6:22?

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8

Why did Paul use the illustration of slavery in 6:19?

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## INTERPRETING THE TEXT THOUGHTFULLY

*Pastor Sam's sermon notes on this passage may provide additional helpful information for questions 9–14.*

9

What is the difference between continuing in/under sin (6:1) and continuing to sin (6:15)?

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10

What do you think Paul means when he describes us as "presenting" our bodies to one of two masters in this section of Romans 6? How might that be informed by the use of this term in Romans 12:1?

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11

What three things did God deliver us over to when we were dead in trespasses and sins? (Hint: Romans 1:24, 26, and 28.) What did God deliver us over to when we became Christians? (Hint: note the reference to a "standard" or "pattern" in 6:17.)

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12

What did God do that makes it possible for us to obey the Gospel and His Word with an obedience that comes from the heart? (Hint: Read Jeremiah 31:33 and Ezekiel 36:25–27.)

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13

How does obedience to truth relate to sanctification and eternal life (6:22)?

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14

What gives us the power to serve and obey God in this new way? (7:6)

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## APPLYING THE TEXT PERSONALLY

*Ask yourself the tough questions from this text — questions 15–20.*

**15**

What sins have such a grip on my life that I am almost ready to make a quiet peace with them and just move on to other areas of my spiritual life?

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**16**

Why does Paul say it is such a big deal for a Christian to think he or she can continue to practice sins that are hard to break, since they are no longer under the condemnation of the Law for doing them?

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**17**

How is the slavery Paul describes in Romans 6 different from the sinful slavery that was common in Europe and the USA in the 17th and 18th centuries? Why should we feel comfortable describing ourselves as "slaves" or "bondservants" to God?

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**18**

What are some examples of things that die when I let sin go on in my life?

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**19**

How does the gospel bring those things back to life?

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**20**

What is one way that the Gospel gives us power and motivation to recommit to the fight against habitual sin in our lives?

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## A PRAYER TO CLOSE YOUR STUDY

### Based on Romans 6:15–23

*Heavenly Father, we come before You as those who have been set free — freed not merely from the penalty of sin, but from sin's dominating power. We confess that there are still habits, patterns, and sins that seek to reclaim mastery over us. Forgive us for the times we have made peace with what You have already condemned.*

*Lord, remind us this day that we are no longer slaves to sin, but servants of righteousness — not by our own effort or willpower, but because You have delivered us over to a new Master. You have written Your law upon our hearts, given us Your Spirit, and made us alive in Christ. You have done what the Law could never do.*

*Strengthen us to present our bodies to You — fully, willingly, and without reservation — as instruments of righteousness. When temptation comes, help us to remember whose we are and what we have been given. Help us to see sin for what it truly is: a wage that pays in death. And help us to treasure Your gift, which is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

*We pray this not in our own strength, but in the power of the Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead and who now dwells in us. May the Gospel not merely inform our minds, but transform our lives — today and every day. In the name of Jesus, who is both our Savior and our Lord. Amen.*