

# **LA1. Being Enslaved to God & His Righteousness, & Not by Sin.**

*We are to be enslaved to God and His righteousness, and not by sin.*

This precept is derived from His Word (blessed is He):

## **Key New Testament Scriptures**

John 8:34-36

*Yeshua answered them, "Yes, indeed! I tell you that everyone who practices sin is a slave of sin. Now a slave does not remain with a family forever, but a son does remain with it forever. So if the Son frees you, you will really be free!"*

Romans 6:16-23

*Don't you know that if you present yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, then, of the one whom you are obeying, you are slaves- whether of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to being made righteous? By God's grace, you, who were once slaves to sin, obeyed from your heart the pattern of teaching to which you were exposed; and after you had been set free from sin, you became enslaved to righteousness. (I am using popular language because your human nature is so weak.) For just as you used to offer your various parts as slaves to impurity and lawlessness, which led to more lawlessness; so now offer your various parts as slaves to righteousness, which leads to being made holy, set apart for God. For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in relationship to righteousness; but what benefit did you derive from the things of which you are now ashamed? The end result of those things was death. However, now, freed from sin and enslaved to God, you do get the benefit- it consists in being made holy, set apart for God, and its end result is eternal life. For what one earns from sin is death; but eternal life is what one receives as a free gift from God, in union with the Messiah Yeshua, our Lord.*

1 Corinthians 7:21-24

*Were you a slave when you were called? Well, don't let it bother you; although if you can gain your freedom, take advantage of the opportunity. For a person who was a slave when he was called is the Lord's freedman; likewise, someone who was a free man when he was called is a slave of the Messiah. You were bought at a price, so do not become slaves of other human beings. Brothers, let each one remain with God in the condition in which he was called.*

## **Additional New Testament Scriptures**

Matthew 6:24

Luke 16:13

John 8:35-36

Romans 1:1, 6:6, 16-22, 7:4

Galatians 4:7, 5:1

Ephesians 6:5-8

Colossians 2:8

James 1:1

2 Peter 1:1

Jude 1:1

### **Related New Testament Mitzvot**

LA02 Not Returning to a Yoke of Slavery

### **Supportive Tanakh Scriptures**

Leviticus 25:55

*For to me the people of Isra'el are slaves; they are my slaves whom I brought out of the land of Egypt; I am ADONAI your God.*

### **Comment**

Several *Mitzvot* from the Mosaic and pre-Mosaic Covenants are what we call “shadows of things to come,” a term derived from Colossians 2:17. It refers to *Mitzvot* having physical components in earlier covenants that transition to spiritual components in the New Covenant. Such is the case with the *Mitzvot* of slavery. Slavery in the earlier covenants refers almost exclusively to the physical bondage of one person owning another (See Commentary #LA0), whereas in the New Covenant and this *Mitzvah*, the term is used metaphorically in transitioning from the bondage of sin to becoming bond-servants (translated “slaves” in the CJB) to God.

Also used metaphorically in some of the supporting Scriptures is the word “yoke.” A physical yoke is a device that is attached to the necks of oxen to keep them pulling together; the word as used here means anything that keeps us attached to a life of sin.

John 8:34-36 speaks of enslavement to sin as not merely committing sin on occasions, but of “practicing sin” which infers wilfulness and repetition.

### **Related Mitzvot in Volumes 1 & 2**

A07 Confessing, Repenting, and Making Restitution for Our Sins

G08 Serving, Worshiping, Praising, & Praying to God

G13 Dedicating Ourselves to God

M01 Pursuing Righteousness & Doing What Is Right

M11 Resisting Temptation to Sin