

SERMON NOTES

5th Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 8, Year A * July 2, 2023

Sermon by the Reverend Tom Rutherford

Jeremiah 28:5-9 * Psalm 89:1-18 * Romans 6:12-23 *

Matthew 10:40-42

Sin NEVER Helps

Do not offer any part of your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness. Romans 6:13

Why?

Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey – whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? Romans 6:16

✠ S _____ NEVER H _____. It makes us a S _____.

What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! Romans 6:21

✠ S _____ NEVER H _____. What G _____ did it do you?

But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. Romans 6:22

✦ Benefits:

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23

✠ S _____ NEVER H _____.

Next Week's Lessons

Zechariah 9:9-12 * psalm 145 * Romans 7:15-25a *

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Chewing on Our Daily Bread

Questions for conversation in your family, a Home Group, or with a friend

1. Tell about a time you did something you knew was wrong, but you thought it would benefit you. Did it?
2. What is something unhealthy in your life – an attitude, habit, action, tendency, or addiction – God has set you free from? And how did that happen?
3. How do you make sure that what you talked about in #2 above doesn't take you prisoner again?
4. What are some benefits you enjoy by being obedient to God and living his way, instead of only your own?
5. PRAY:
 - ✦ Thanking God for setting you free from what you mentioned in #2 above.
 - ✦ Thanking God for helping you STAY free from it.
 - ✦ For grace to let go of anything unhealthy in your life right now that threatens to enslave you.
 - ✦ For any needs in your group.