

WHEN IN ROME VI THE HUSTLE

ROMANS 6:19-22

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Where is your hustle taking you?

Romans 6:19-22

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 lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification. ²⁰ For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹ But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. ²² But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life.

Hustle and progress

- The progress of sin: It never stops – 6:19-20 *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 lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification. ²⁰ For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness.*
- The cost of sin: Shame + Death – 6:21 *But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death.*

Jeremiah 12:13

they have tired themselves out but profit nothing.

Habakkuk 2:13-14

Behold, is it not from the Lord of hosts that peoples labor merely for fire, and nations weary themselves for nothing? ¹⁴ For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

Isaiah 55:2-3a

Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. ³ Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live;

- The Gospel, at first glance, is a really hard sell. Sin advertises and spotlights all the pleasure but passes right over the fine print.
- The Gospel leads us out of naivety because we're able to see the end result of the wages of sin.
- The liberation from sin: Sanctification (progress) + Eternal life (perfection) – 6:22 *But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life.*
 - Jesus exchanges our shame for His gift of sanctification.
 - Jesus exchanges our spiritual death for His gift of eternal life.

“Freedom is not a question of whether or not we would like to serve but the choice of which master we will serve.” – Robert Mounce¹

Action steps

- Think past the first layer. Think past this moment. Think past today. The Christian life is all about the long game but also provides perspective and power in the moment.
- Invite, invite, and invite for Good Friday & Easter!

¹ Robert H. Mounce, *Romans*, vol. 27, *The New American Commentary* (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1995), 158.