



- Your love, O LORD, forever <sup>1</sup> will I sing;  
 from age to age my mouth will pro- <sup>1</sup> claim your faithfulness.
- <sup>2</sup>For I am persuaded that your steadfast love is estab- <sup>1</sup> lished forever;  
 you have set your faithfulness firmly <sup>1</sup> in the heavens.**
- <sup>3</sup>I have made a covenant with my <sup>1</sup> chosen one;  
 I have sworn an oath to Da- <sup>1</sup> vid my servant:
- <sup>4</sup>I will establish your <sup>1</sup> line forever,  
 and preserve your throne for all <sup>1</sup> generations.” R**
- <sup>15</sup>Happy are the people who know the <sup>1</sup> festal shout!  
 They walk, O LORD, in the light <sup>1</sup> of your presence.
- <sup>16</sup>They rejoice daily <sup>1</sup> in your name;  
 they are jubilant <sup>1</sup> in your righteousness.**
- <sup>17</sup>For you are the glory <sup>1</sup> of their strength,  
 and by your favor our might <sup>1</sup> is exalted.
- <sup>18</sup>Truly, our shield belongs <sup>1</sup> to the LORD;  
 our king to the Holy <sup>1</sup> One of Israel. R**

*Sin is an enslaving power which motivates us to live self-serving, disobedient lives. Sin's final payoff is death. We, however, have been set free from sin's slavery to live obediently under God's grace, whose end is the free gift of eternal life.*

Do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. <sup>13</sup>No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. <sup>14</sup>For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

<sup>15</sup>What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! <sup>16</sup>Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? <sup>17</sup>But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you

were entrusted, <sup>18</sup>and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. <sup>19</sup>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 greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification.

<sup>20</sup>When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. <sup>21</sup>So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. <sup>22</sup>But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. <sup>23</sup>For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## Gospel

Matthew 10:40-42

*When Jesus sends his disciples out as missionaries, he warns them of persecution and hardships they will face. He also promises to reward any who aid his followers and support their ministry.*

[Jesus said to the twelve:] “Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. <sup>41</sup>Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in

the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; <sup>42</sup>and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”