

Liberating the Land
Joshua 23

1. The power of sin has been broken in our lives because God has fought for us and continues to fight for us
2. There is much work left to do to oppose sin in our lives and in our world
3. God has promised to help us overcome sin within us and around us

Go Further – Read Romans 6:1-23

1. What question does Paul ask in verse 1? Why might an understanding of God's grace extended through the cross of Christ (Romans 5:8) tempt someone to ask this question?
2. In verse 2, to what does Paul say we have died? What does this mean for you?
3. In verse 3, to what two things does Paul say our baptism joins us?
4. In verse 4, what meaning does the fact that Christ rose from the dead have for our daily lives?
5. According to verse 6, what has happened to our old man, our old self that was once joined to Adam (see Romans 5:12-21)? What two effects flow from this change?
6. According to verse 7, what happens to the power of sin over someone who has died?
7. In verse 8, what does Paul say inevitably happens so someone who dies in Christ? What does this mean for our life now? What hope does this give us for life in the world to come?
8. According to verse 9, what happened to death's power over Jesus and why?
9. According to verse 10, what is the purpose and focus of Jesus' resurrection life?
10. According to verse 11, how should Jesus' new life inform our own attitudes and priorities?
11. What does Paul urge us not to do in verse 12?
12. In verse 13, how does Paul describe what our relationship with God should be like? How should we serve God?
13. In verse 14, what does Paul say should control our lives?
14. What does Paul say that slaves have to do in verse 16?
15. What change in our status does Paul describe in verses 17 and 18?
16. What does Paul encourage us to do in verse 19? What should be the result of the change he wants us to make?
17. According to verse 21, what was the result of our former condition of slavery?
18. According to verse 22, what are the two results of our new condition in verse 22?
19. Verse 23 contrasts wages with a gift – what is the difference between these two ideas? What were our wages in our old life, and how do they compare with what God gives us now?

Apply:

1. Why do you think Paul has to urge his readers to consider themselves dead to sin but alive to God? Are you ever tempted to "play dead" even though you have new life in Christ? In what ways?
2. Thinking about the extent to which Paul says our lives should be given to God, are there parts of your life that you are holding back from God? What changes do you need to make to walk with Christ more consistently?
3. How does knowing that we have been given the grace of God make you more willing to live a new, more God-centered life?