

Slaves No Longer

Pastor Greg Laurie's book, *Steve McQueen: The Salvation of an American Icon*, will be released as a movie on September 28. McQueen, "The King of Cool", had his first starring role in the movie *The Blob* (1958), produced by a Christian company. Daily the cast and crew prayed for McQueen, as did many others. In June 1979, after retired stunt pilot Sammy Mason witnessed to Steve, he accepted Christ as his Savior.

Steve was a slave to sin no longer, marrying his girlfriend and calling a long list of friends and associates, apologizing to those whom he had wronged, including his first wife, Neile. Six months after his conversion, he was diagnosed with cancer, dying on November 8, 1980.

How You Live Reveals Four Facts About You:

1. The _____ (Identity) of Your _____ (Master)
 - a. *"What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey – whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness." Romans 6:15-16.*
 - b. Two choices are repeatedly given by Jesus. We have a choice of two gates, two roads, two trees, two fruits, two builders, and two foundations (Matthew 7). The choices we make will determine whether Jesus or Satan is our master. *"The thief comes to steal and kill and destroy. I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." John 10:10.*
 - c. Best-selling author Jack Higgins, when asked what he knew now that he wished he'd known earlier in life, said, "I wish I had known that when you get to the top, there is nothing there." *"What will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, yet loses his own soul?" Mark 8:36.*

2. The _____ (Source) of Your _____ (Values)
 - a. *"But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholehearted obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted." Romans 6:17. A godly person's delight will be "in the law of the Lord and on his law he meditates day and night." Psalm 1:2. He will be blessed with life-giving prosperity as his "leaf does not wither" (Psalm 1:3).*
 - b. King Solomon spent much of his life living according to the wisdom of man. *"Everything I wanted I took – I never said no to myself. I gave in to every impulse, held back nothing. I sucked the marrow of pleasure out of every task." Ecclesiastes 2:10 (The Message).* In like manner, Steve McQueen filled his early life with sex, drugs, and fast cars.

3. The _____ (Condition) of Your _____ (Heart)

- a. *“You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.” Romans 6:18. Godly living brings real freedom and real happiness.*
- b. Think about what exactly makes you happy. C.S. Lewis said, “God designed the human machine to run on Himself. He himself is the fuel our spirits were designed to burn...God cannot give us a happiness and peace apart from Himself, because it is not there.”
- c. Nothing brings lasting happiness until we put God first in our lives. *“Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all of these things shall be added unto you.” Matthew 6:33.*

4. The _____ (Reality) of Your _____ (Salvation)

- a. *“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:23. The rightful payment for a life of sin is spiritual death. Eternal life is offered to us as a gift. *“But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life.” Romans 6:22.**

When Steve McQueen was dying of cancer, he made two cassette tapes proclaiming his faith in Jesus, and the change he experienced. Four days before he died, Billy Graham visited Steve, giving him a Bible. As Billy left, Steve said, “I’ll see you in heaven.” When he died, he was found clutching the Bible Billy gave him, his most prized possession.

Discussion Questions

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1. Were you a fan of Steve McQueen? What was your favorite movie that he was in? Why do you think it took so long for him to come to Christ in spite of many believers who witnessed to him over the years?
2. Read Romans 6:15-23. How does the manner in which you live reveal the identity of your master? What did Jesus teach in Matthew 7 about the two choices that we face? Why does living for yourself ultimately come down to following Satan as your master? What does Jesus teach in John 10:10? What did Jack Higgins say he wished he would have known earlier? What is taught in Mark 8:36?
3. Read verse 17. How does the manner in which you live reveal the source of your values? What does Psalm 1:1-3 teach about the godly person and their commitment to the Scriptures? What is the promise that God gives for the one who meditates on the Word of God day and night? Have you experienced or observed how this promise has been fulfilled in your life or others? How does Ecclesiastes 2:10-11 demonstrate that Solomon lived much of his life according to the wisdom of man? Where did that lead him? How is Steve McQueen's life like that?
4. Read verse 18. How does the manner in which you live reveal the condition of your heart? Do you believe godly living truly brings you real freedom and real happiness? How have you observed or experienced this? What does C.S. Lewis say about happiness? Why does the key to lasting happiness involve putting God number one in your life? What is taught in Matthew 6:33?
5. Read verse 23. How does the manner in which you live reveal the reality of your salvation? What are the two absolutes that are contrasted in Romans 6:23? How does Romans 6:22 show that a true Christian will be characterized by godly living? Why do we need to be patient with new believers as they begin to live a godly life? How do we see Steve McQueen's life gradually transform? Why do you think Steve made two cassette tapes before he died, proclaiming his faith in Jesus? What were the last words he said to Billy Graham? Are you confident you are on the road to heaven? Why or why not?

