

## **When is One Free?**

The apostle Paul gives us the answer to this important question in Romans 6:17-18: *“But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness”* (Romans 6:17-18). Note they obeyed THEN were made free. What did they obey? *“The form of doctrine delivered to them.”* What was that? Look back to verses 3-5, *“Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection”* (Romans 6:3-5). The doctrine is the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. The form is the likeness of that death, burial, and resurrection. One dies to sin, is buried in baptism and is raised to walk in newness of life. This is the form - likeness of the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. When one does this he has obeyed from the heart and is free.

-Steve Hudgins, “Search” October 7, 1977