By nature under the devil, the wicked are "free" to sin (i.e. slaves to sin)

Romans 6:18-21 And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. ¹⁹ I speak in human *terms* because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members *as* slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness *leading* to *more* lawlessness, so now present your members *as* slaves *of* righteousness for holiness. ²⁰ For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹ What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things *is* death. ...

God sets us free from the eternal wrath of God through faith in Christ promised in the Word

- Romans 3:20-24 ... Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin. ²¹ But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed **by the Law and the Prophets**, ²² even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus...
- John 8:31-32, 36 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in **My word**, you are My disciples indeed. ³² And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you **free**."... ³⁶ Therefore **if the Son makes you free**, you shall be free indeed.
- 1 John 5:4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world— **our faith**.

The conscience knows that with faith in Christ, God is no longer wrathful, but merciful and gracious Matt 3:7b "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

- Rom 2:8 but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—indignation and wrath,
- 1 Thessalonians 1:9b-10 ...and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, 10 and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.
- Other freedoms, too.--Romans 6:22-23 ... But now having been set **free from sin**, and having become slaves of God, you have **your fruit to holiness**, and **the end, everlasting life**. ²³ For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

<u>Using the law to refrain from sins or produce good works will NOT provide freedom from wrath—only the Word and faith in Christ.</u>

- Galatians 2:4 And this occurred because of false brethren secretly brought in (who came in by stealth to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage),
- Acts 15:10 Now therefore, why do you test God by putting **a yoke** on the neck of the disciples which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?
- 2 Pet 2:19 While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage.

The sinful nature is not gone from believers, rather we fight against and resist it.

1 John 1:6-10, If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

John 8:33-36 ... They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How *can* You say, 'You will be made free'?" ³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, **whoever commits sin is a slave of sin.** ³⁵ And a slave does not abide in the house forever, *but* a son abides forever. ³⁶ Therefore **if the Son makes you free**, you shall be free indeed.

The Law reveals (original) sin and sins which brings wrath and death

- Romans 3:19-20 Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and **all the world may become guilty before God**. Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.
- Romans 5:13 For until the law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law.
- Romans 7:5, 7, 13 For when we were in the flesh, the sinful passions which were aroused by the law were at work in our members to bear fruit to death.... Is the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, "You shall not covet." ... Has then what is good become death to me? Certainly not! But sin, that it might appear sin, was producing death in me through what is good, so that sin through the commandment might become exceedingly sinful.
- Romans 7:23 But I see **another law in my members**, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to **the law of sin** which is in my members.

Believers have freedom from the Law, death, wrath, etc.

- Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- Romans 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.
- Romans 5:9, 21 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. ... so that as sin reigned in death, even so **grace might reign** through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- Romans 8:2-4, 9 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. ³ For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ... But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.
- Romans 8:21 because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.
- Galatians 3:13 **Christ has redeemed us** from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"),
- Galatians 4:4 But when the fullness of the time had come, **God sent forth His Son, born of a woman,** born under the law, ...
- Revelation 12:10, Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.
- Galatians 5:13 For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not *use* liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.
- Galatians 5:1 Stand fast therefore in **the liberty by which Christ has made us free**, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.