

# The Pilgrimage To A Spirit-Led Life

## Part Fourteen

**Romans 6:6** [NIV] *“For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the **body of sin** might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin”*

Paul continues to expose and deal with “the old man” - “*the body of sin*”.

We all know and can see in our minds eye **the three crosses on the hill of Golgotha**, the central one being higher than the other two.

For whom was the central cross made?

It was made for Barabbas, it was there waiting for Barabbas, the rebel.

Jesus at the last moment took his place on the cross.

**I accept that Jesus died in my place, therefore I am Barabbas the rebel.**

**That cross was made to measure for ME, I should have been on it.**

**This was God’s vivid portrayal that the “old man” the rebel was crucified in Jesus.**

**What we have to do is believe it.**

**Isaiah 1:2-4** [NIV] *“Hear, O heavens! Listen, O earth! For the LORD has spoken: “I reared children and brought them up, but they have rebelled against me. The ox knows his master, the donkey his owner’s manger, but Israel does not know, my people do not understand.” Ah, sinful nation, a people loaded with guilt, a brood of evildoers, children given to corruption! They have forsaken the LORD; they have spurned the Holy One of Israel and turned their backs on him.”*

**Israel was always a rebellious nation.**

**Isaiah 1:5-6** [NIV] *“Why should you be beaten any more? **Why do you persist in rebellion?** Your whole head is injured, your whole heart afflicted. From the sole of your foot to the top of your head there is no soundness, only wounds and bruises and open sores, not cleansed or bandaged or soothed with oil.”*

**These two verses describe God’s dealing with Israel, the rebel, they are also a vivid description of Christ on the cross as he took on him the justified end we should have received as a rebel.**

**Isaiah 52:13-14** [NIV] *“See, my servant will act wisely; he will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted. Just as there were many who were appalled at him, **his appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any man and his form marred beyond human likeness**”*

**This pictures the reality of Jesus on the cross.**

**This is what should have happened to us.**

**Isaiah 53:6-10** [NIV] *“We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; **and the LORD has laid on him [Jesus Christ] the iniquity of us all.** He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. By oppression and judgment he was taken away. And who can speak of his descendants? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my*

*people he was stricken. He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth. Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the LORD makes his life a guilt offering, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand."*

*"His own way"* – the way of rebellion. *"Iniquity"* – Hebrew – perverseness – crooked – rebellious –

**Jesus identified with our rebellion and all the evil due to our rebellion came upon Jesus so that all the good due to his perfect obedience may be offered to us.**

Every way we look at this exchange that Jesus made it was total.

Jesus was **punished** that we might be **forgiven**.

Jesus was **wounded** that we might be **healed**.

Jesus took **on our sin** that we might have **his righteousness**.

Jesus died **our death** that we might share **his eternal life**.

Jesus was made a **curse** that we might receive a **blessing**.

Jesus endured **our poverty** that we might share **his abundance**.

Jesus bore **our shame** that we might share in **his glory**.

Jesus endured **our rejection** that we might have **his acceptance**.

Jesus not only bore **our rebellion** but all the evil consequences of our rebellion so we may enter into all the blessings of **his perfect obedience**.

**This all can be summed up in one word – grace.**

**We can't earn it; we don't deserve it; we have no claim on it; and there is only one way to receive it – that is as a gift through faith in what Jesus has done for us.**

**Isaiah 53:1** [NIV] *"Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?"*

When Isaiah presents this picture of Jesus Christ the *"suffering servant"* he begins with a warning against unbelief *"who has believed our message."*

**The great barrier to receiving the blessings of Christ's sin cleansing sacrifice is our unbelief.**

**Our understanding of the New Covenant baptism is the key that unlocks for us the treasure of God's grace.**

**God to ensure we fully understood this wants us not only to hear it, read it, but also to act it out in our lives, through physical baptism.**

**Romans 6:6** [NIV] *"For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin"*

*"we know"* – I hope now we can say this with Paul, so that we can now progress on with this knowledge as the basis of our future life.

Only when we accept Christ's death as a substitute to our own deserved death can *"the body of sin"* be *"done away with"* or *"made to be of no effect in our lives."* **The crucified man did not die instantly.**

**It was a slow painful death that could take days to complete.**

Our “old self” remains alive and kicking in our rebellious sub-conscious mind after baptism trying to influence our conscious mind and thus influence the decisions we make on a day to day basis.

**We can have our past sins forgiven and still be a slave of sin at times.**

**Romans 6:7** [NIV] *“because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.”*

When we do die with Christ we are freed from sin.

Why?

**When we die the law has no claim over us.**

We cannot be put to death a second time.

We have had the death penalty paid by Jesus Christ.

**Romans 6:8** [NIV] *“Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.”*

“**I**” – we have to acknowledge the death of “**I**” if we are to have any “**F**”uture with Christ.

**Philippians 2:5-8** [NIV] *“Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, **but made himself nothing**, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, **he humbled himself** and became obedient to death, even death on a cross!”*

**Over the next few verses, Paul will show that the key to acknowledging this death of self is to take on the mind of a servant, the very mind of Jesus.**

**The servant [bond slave] does not consider any part of their life to be their own, every moment is available to be used by their master.**

**Romans 6:9-10** [NIV] *“For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.”*

As we identify with Jesus in death we also identify with the resurrected Jesus that death no longer has any power over him, and he now lives for ever “to” God.

“to” – Greek indicating motion toward an object with the purpose of reaching and touching it.

**Romans 6:11** [NIV] *“In the same way, count yourselves **dead to sin** but alive to God in Christ Jesus.”*

**The same way we should look on our future life.**

**The Greek indicates a restful relationship but also an active fellowship with Jesus Christ.**

A beautiful picture of what life with Jesus Christ is like.

**Proverbs 31:10-31** is as a vividly portrayed wife of Jesus is like.

**This union with Jesus is the perfect marriage union, that can be experienced in part now during the betrothed period as we prepare for that marriage.**

**Revelations 19:5-9** [NIV] *“Then a voice came from the throne, saying: “Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, both small and great!” Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: “Hallelujah! For our Lord God*

*Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear.” (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.) Then the angel said to me, “Write: ‘Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!’” And he added, “These are the true words of God.”*

Now is our time of preparation for that marriage.

What does “*dead to sin*” really mean?

**Sin no longer has the attraction it did in the past, our lives are no longer governed by it.**

Paul now gives practical advice on how to apply the solution given in first part of this chapter.

**Romans 6:12-14** [NIV] *“Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.”*

These instructions can only be acted on by people who have believed and are experiencing what was covered in first part of chapter.

**Christianity is not only an emotional experience, it is a way of life.**

Emotion must be translated into action, true religion is never only an experience we have in the secrecy of our mind, it must be a life that is lived day by day.

**God is looking for hands to use; we are saved to serve.**

**God in great wisdom has limited the expression of His Love for all mankind to what He can do through human instruments, so that those human instruments may learn by experience just what the Love of God really is.**

**When God wants a word spoken, a deed done, a person cheered, encouraged, strengthened or helped, He seeks a human being to do it.**

Satan is also looking for people to do his work of bringing pain, oppression, discouragement, blindness and death to mankind. Satan seduces people into doing his work by making it look attractive on the outside and pleasurable to the basic human senses.

**How can we avoid falling for Satan’s seduction?**

**Paul gives the answer; by reckoning we are under grace and not under the law.**

How can this help?

What difference does this make?

How does this empower us to resist sin?

When we are under grace and **not** under the law we are no longer trying to satisfy the demands of the law, but are trying to be worthy of the gifts of love we have received through Jesus Christ.

We no longer regard God as a stern judge but as one who unconditionally loves all humanity.

**There is no inspiration in the world greater than love.**

**When we are loved it inspires us with a desire to become a better person.**

The Christian life is no longer any intolerable burden to be borne, it is a privilege to be lived up to.

**We desire not to hurt, grieve or disappoint God who has loved us with a great unconditional love.**

**The inspiration of the Christian comes, not from a fear of what God will do to us but from what God has done for us.**

This analogy of the yielding servant is played out in the statutes of the Old Covenant.

**Deuteronomy 15:12-17** [NIV] *“If a fellow Hebrew, a man or woman, sells himself to you and serves you six years, in the seventh year you must let him go free. And when you release him, do not send him away empty-handed. Supply him liberally from your flock, your threshing-floor and your winepress. Give to him as the LORD your God has blessed you. Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and the LORD your God redeemed you. That is why I give you this command today. **But if your servant says to you, “I do not want to leave you,” because he loves you and your family and is well off with you, then take an awl and push it through his ear lobe into the door, and he will become your servant for life. Do the same for your maidservant.**”*

When a person became bankrupt under the Old Covenant, they had to join themselves to a successful family and live day and night for six years as servants, all the time learning to be successful in life by example of one who was successful.

At the end of six years, the servant was freed and sent out to have a second chance for success, well supplied with all they needed by the master.

**But if they loved the master and his family so much that they didn't want to leave, they could yield all their rights to the master and become a bond slave forever.**

**This is the response God wants us to have to the unconditional love He has shown to us through Jesus the Christ.**

**Romans 6:16-19** [NIV] *“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? But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness. I put this in human terms because you are weak in your natural selves. Just as you used to offer the parts of your body in slavery to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, **so now offer them in slavery to righteousness leading to holiness.**”*

The more we yield, first our will, then our bodies [all our talents] to God the less we will be yielding to Satan and sin.

The closer we live with Jesus the more we will think and act as he does just like the servant becomes more like his master.

**Romans 6:20-23** [NIV] *“When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! 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. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

The end result [fruits] of this yielding to God are

(a) **“holiness”** Greek “hagiasmos” [hag-ee-as-mos] – purification – sanctification – the manifestation of quality in personal conduct that distinguishes us from others.

**1 Thessalonians 3:12-13** [NIV] *“May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.”*

It is the exercise of love as the means by which God develops likeness to Christ in His children, so establish in us Christian character that we may be vindicated of any charge which may be brought against us.

(b) **“everlasting life”** Note the holiness comes **before** we receive the **gift** of eternal.

**Romans 9:14-24** [NIV] *“What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all! For he says to Moses, **“I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.”** It does not, therefore, depend on man’s desire or effort, but on God’s mercy. For the Scripture says to Pharaoh: **“I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.”** Therefore God has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy, and he hardens whom he wants to harden. One of you will say to me: **“Then why does God still blame us? For who resists his will?”** But who are you, O man, to talk back to God? **“Shall what is formed say to him who formed it, ‘Why did you make me like this?’”** **Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for noble purposes and some for common use?** What if God, choosing to show his wrath and make his power known, bore with great patience the objects of his wrath — prepared for destruction? **What if he did this to make the riches of his glory known to the objects of his mercy, whom he prepared in advance for glory, even us, whom he also called, not only from the Jews but also from the Gentiles?”***

We all have to yield to Christ that we may then be moulded by him into a state of holiness, as a master potter moulds clay.

**We have to be pliable in the hands of our master, Jesus Christ, for Him to be able to mould us into His Likeness.**