



**A Passion for Holiness – Part 2**  
**Romans 6:14**  
**GCSP – 03/14/2009**

We sang the hymn, "Take My Life and Let It Be" just a few moments ago. I want us to look at the words again in case your mind may have been drifting during the singing.

Take my life and let it be  
Consecrated Lord to Thee  
Take my moments and my days  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise

Take my hands and let them move  
At the impulse of Thy love  
Take my feet and let them be  
Swift and beautiful for Thee

Take my voice and let me sing  
Always only for my King  
Take my lips and let them be  
Filled with messages from Thee

Take my will and make it Thine  
It shall be no longer mine  
Take my heart it is Thine own  
It shall be Thy royal throne

Don't raise your hand but answer the following questions in your heart: Is this where you truly long to be in your life? Can you honestly say that your heart's desire is for the Lord to take every facet of your life and being to do with as He pleases?

For every Christian this is truly the soul's deepest desire, but there lies within us an opposing force that is in constant conflict with the soul's desire to consecrate every faculty of our mind and body to God's will. That opposing force is our flesh and it is at war with our soul and spirit to dominate our hearts and minds at every turn. It is a battle that can be won on a moment-by-moment basis but it is a battle you will be engaged in until you are free from this earthly tent, as the Apostle Paul calls it.

And before we dig in let me say that there are some false teachings out there that claim once we have been immersed in the Holy Spirit that we will no longer commit sin. I have even heard one prominent preacher down in Colorado Springs say that we do not have to ask forgiveness for our sins any longer. He claims that since all of our sins, past, present, and future, were once and for all forgiven at the Cross, asking for forgiveness is unnecessary. I'm not sure what this preacher does with **1 John 1:9** and many other passages like it which were written to believers after the Cross – "**If we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**"

Yes, all of our sins, past, present, and future have been forgiven from a positional standpoint in Christ Jesus; and any sins we do commit after salvation will not be held against us in regards to spending eternity with the Lord in heaven, but sins we commit after salvation still need to be confessed and repented of. This heresy of somehow believing that a Christian can reach a state of sinless perfection while on this earth is contrary to God's Word.

I have even heard teachings that we will no longer have to deal with sins of commission but only sins of omission; meaning you will not do anything that is sinful but only not do things that you should do. I'd love to get a peak into the minds of people who think like this because this belief means you will never have a lustful or hateful or slanderous thought go through your mind; it means there will never be a careless word falling from your lips; it means nothing but love and peace and tranquility will flow from you when a thoughtless driver cuts you off in traffic and cause you to swerve off the road.

Beloved, our natural instincts demand indulgence and our mortal bodies provide dens for the foxes of sin. Sin is a domineering force that must be conquered every moment of every day. No one can sin up to a certain point and say this is as far as I can go. Sin is hungry for mastery over you and our souls are hungry for mastery over sin.

In **Zechariah 14:21**, the Prophet describes one facet of the eternal kingdom by saying, "**And there will no longer be a Canaanite in the house of the Lord.**" We know that our bodies are the house of the Lord at the present time and we too should be looking forward to that day when there will no longer be sin in the house of the Lord.

With that being said, we must be about the business of subduing the flesh and crucifying the flesh every moment of every day if we truly desire to be like Jesus Christ. We are no longer slaves to sin as we were prior to salvation through Jesus Christ and prior to the Holy Spirit's presence and control of our lives.

Sin is a tyrant and many have succumbed to its tyranny and relinquished the throne to him. Others have put up a fight but have become weary in the battle and stopped short of dethroning the tyrant. A few have grabbed hold of the fact that "**greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world**" and are successfully keeping the tyrant under their feet more often than not. Yet the tyrant lives, and he will continue to live until God once and for all exterminates sin just prior to the appearance of the new heaven and the new earth.

Turn with me in your Bibles to the Book of **Romans**.

### **Romans 6:14**

Let's pray.

Those who are in Christ Jesus find themselves in a peculiar position according to this verse. It says, "**You are not under the law.**" All of us are physically born under the law and consequently are condemned by it because we break its commands from the time we have a conscious thought.

How many of you had to teach your children how to sin?

Apart from our Lord Jesus, every one of us are criminals under sentence waiting for the appointed hour of our execution. But the Bible says that believers have died in Christ and by His death we have escaped from under the demands of the law. The penalty of the law has been satisfied in the death of Jesus Christ and everyone who confesses Jesus Christ as the Lord of their life and believes in their heart that God raised him from the dead fall under His satisfaction of the penalty of the law. All of the law's requirements have been met and it has no more demands on our lives from that standpoint.

The moral points of the law are still to be a guide for our lives and a goal to aim for, but our success or failure in attaining this goal no longer has any bearing on our eternal destiny. Not under the law means we are not trying to earn eternal life by our obedience to it but we are instead treated under the mercy and love of grace. Justice is no longer a word we have to fear.

**“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Romans 5:1).**

**“Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death” (Romans 8:1-2).**

Let's count just a few of the privileges of this peculiar position we have in Christ Jesus.

#### We No Longer Dread the Curse of the Law

How many of you have attempted to talk to an unbeliever about spiritual things and find they want nothing to do with talking about death? Whether they understand it or not they have the knowledge within them of the penalty of breaking God's law. They are in essence dreading the curse of the law. So they shake it off temporarily by ignoring any conversation about death. They do everything they can to eliminate thoughts of death and eternal judgment. It wouldn't surprise me to find out that the use of drugs and alcohol is primarily to numb the mind from thoughts such as these. Outwardly they may have other issues they are trying to escape but if you dug a little deeper I believe the knowledge that God has placed in every person's heart is what they are truly attempting to escape.

Turn back a few pages with me in your Bibles to **Romans 1:18-19**.

You want to know why unbelievers don't want to talk about death; because they fully understand God's law. God has made it evident to all people whether or not they have ever cracked open a Bible in their life. The person you work with and the person in the deepest darkest jungle of the Amazon have this internal evidence of God and His law; and it is an awareness that causes dread in their hearts.

Believers do not have this dread because our sins have been laid upon the back of Jesus. His suffering and His death paid the penalty on our behalf.

**Isaiah 53:5** – “But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed.”

**Galatians 3:13** – “Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us.”

**Romans 8:33** – “Who will bring a charge against God’s elect? God is the one who justifies.”

**Psalms 103:12** – “As far as the east is from the west, so far He has removed our transgressions from us.”

Jesus Christ has secured all of His children from all risk of God’s eternal wrath. The unquenchable fires of hell are not reserved for them and neither will the pit close its mouth on them, for they are not under the law and they have no dread for the curse of the law.

#### We No Longer Walk in Unwilling Obedience to Gain a Measure of Merit

The person under the law is so very careful to make an attempt at being obedient to its tenets even when he or she really has no desire to do so. They feel duty bound to do works of righteousness and penance to obtain a certain level of goodness that will secure their place in heaven. But he or she never has any peace in this pursuit because all the good works in the world does not atone for even one lie.

Believers know that Christ fulfilled the law and cried out, “**It is finished!**” Believers rest in the work of Jesus and find peace in His loving arms. Believers understand that no works of the law obtains favor with God because we already have favor with God through the blood of His Son Jesus Christ. The favor of God has come to us freely and undeservingly, and we rejoice in this truth. We have a high ambition to be obedient to God’s law but from a heart of love not a compulsion to earn His favor. We strive to live apart from sin but never dream of being able to make atonement for our own sins.

#### We Are No Longer Uncertain as to the Continuance of God’s Love

Under the law no man’s standing can be secure for a single sin forfeits his position. If a legalist ever reaches a sufficient point in his own mind that he is safe and secure, he cannot guarantee being able to continue in his self-exalted position. However pure and holy a man may consider himself to be it is a condition he cannot maintain – if he was ever there in the first place.

Faith is the only way in which we can walk, because if you are truly honest with yourself any good works you do are polluted by your motives beforehand, the spirit in which they are accomplished, or the proud reflections afterward. We dare not to even trust in our prayers, or devotions, or offerings, or even our repentance, but must rest solely upon the merit of Jesus Christ alone, right?

We can rest in the fact that God’s love is ours through Christ. There is absolutely nothing you can do to cause God to love you less and there is absolutely nothing you can do to make God love you more. His love for you is perfect and never changes

regardless of your success or failure in adhering to His law. A genuine believer will never take this privilege lightly or take advantage by declaring open season for sin, but will only rejoice and be utterly grateful for this undying and unchanging love.

#### We Are No Longer Afraid of Judgment Day

Under the law all men fear a day of reckoning. Again, even if they are unaware of what the Bible specifically says concerning the final judgment, the law of God is written on their hearts and there is an internal fear that they will be judged for their behavior in this life. These fears are valid for one day they will stand before God at the Great White Throne Judgment, as written about in **Revelation 20:11-15**. At this judgment the unbeliever's works, good and bad, will be compared with the requirements of God's law. And since the requirement is absolute and flawless adherence to every aspect of God's law, all who stand before this judgment will be declared guilty and must pay the penalty which is eternal punishment in the lake of fire. This is not purgatory and this is not temporary; this is eternal.

Believers will not stand before the Great White Throne Judgment, but will instead stand at the Bema Seat (**2 Corinthians 5:10**). The Bema (the Greek word for judgment as translated in **2 Corinthians 5** – a different word is used in **Revelation 20**) Seat is the seat of reward. Yes, all of our works will also be judged but not as a matter of eternal glory or eternal punishment, but as a way of determining the scope of our reward. All of our deeds and works before salvation are null and void for they were forever cast away at the point of salvation. All of our deeds and works after salvation are separated into two categories: works of value and works that are worthless. The Bible calls our works of value, "**Gold, silver, and precious stone**" and our works that are worthless are called, "**Wood, hay, and straw**." All of these works are tested by fire which will obviously consume the worthless and purify the valuable (**1 Corinthians 3:10-15**). The gold, silver, and precious stone that remains will determine what we have to lay at the Savior's feet and will relate to the level and amount of responsibility we have in the kingdom (**Matthew 25:14-30**).

So our good works and obedience to God's law are important, they just have no bearing on Judgment Day for the believer; because we won't be there.

Believers are not only in the peculiar position of not being under the law but we also have the special assurance that "**sin shall not be master over us**." If we are to truly have a passion for holiness it is very needful that we understand this special assurance. Those who are in Christ are called to walk according to the Spirit and not according to the flesh. We no longer have any obligation to live by the flesh according to **Romans 8**.

Turn there with me in your Bibles.

#### **Romans 8:12-17**

Prior to salvation and being filled with the Holy Spirit we were in bondage to the works of the flesh; we did not have the ability or wherewithal to not sin. We were walking according to the flesh and the flesh is opposed to the Holy Spirit.

Turn with me in your Bibles to the Book of **Galatians**.

### **Galatians 5:16-26**

Here is one of the best descriptions in Scripture of the battle that rages within us. The desires of the flesh are in direct opposition with the desires of the Holy Spirit. The flesh and the Spirit face off against each other all the time and even though we know that the flesh is no match for the Spirit, God leaves the deciding vote to us. We can have victory over the flesh each and every time because the victory has already been won by Jesus Christ. The flesh simply cannot defeat the Holy Spirit but the Holy Spirit will never go against our will, but instead the Spirit will step aside if we choose to indulge the flesh.

Do you understand the implication of this? It would be like going onto the battlefield with tanks and F-14's and Howitzers and nuclear missiles, against one enemy soldier with a bow and arrow. The only way you lose that battle is if you send all of that support home and surrender. This is what we do when we succumb to the flesh and engage in sin.

Paul wraps up his admonition by saying, **"If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit"** – meaning, if you are spiritually alive because of the finished work of Jesus Christ on the Cross and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, then act like it! Stop living a defeated life after the victory has already been won! The flesh may be a persistent foe but it is absolutely no match for the Spirit! When we surrender to the flesh we believe the lies of Satan and make a mockery of the Holy Spirit's power.

Sin shall not be master over you!

**James 4:7** says, **"Resist the devil and he will flee from you."** Do you know why he will flee from you? Because he knows he is no match against the Holy Spirit. The one and only way the devil has any power over you at all is when you choose to give him that power.

Turn with me in your Bibles to the Book of **Ephesians**.

### **Ephesians 6:10-16**

Does it say anywhere in those verses that you should run and hide? Is there even an implication in this passage that Satan has any chance whatsoever to defeat us when we are standing firm in the strength of the Lord?

Then why is our faith so weak at times? Why do we fall for the tricks and schemes of Satan and turn the keys of our life over to him? Why do we believe his lies? Why do we let him twist God's Word and somehow believe that we have discovered some new revelation to live by?

God's Word is not a mystery to His children. We don't have to create new obscure teachings. Sin shall not be master over you – unless you let it.

The world doesn't have to plot and scheme on ways to destroy the church. If they would just leave us alone we will be glad to do it for them! Churches do not die and fold up because of external pressures and persecution, the church dies because of the factions and fighting from within. We create our own personal theologies or believe some obscure teaching that only comes from reading into what Scripture says, as opposed to

simply believing what we read, and the next thing you know we have turmoil in the church. We haven't resisted the devil we have invited him in with open arms.

Sin shall not be master over you!

Sin will never give you the satisfaction you desire. When you yield to sin, and be careful to understand that sin can manifest itself as ministry and religion just as easily as it does in worldly pursuits, you will find no rest and no contentment.

Do not be deceived. Read God's Word for all its worth and believe what you read in all of its purity and clarity. If you do so I promise you that sin shall not be master over you; and you will be on the path to pursuing holiness with a godly passion.

Let's pray.