

## A MINDSET OF ABSOLUTE VICTORY

### Part Four of Romans Chapter Six

#### Romans 6:6-8

*'Knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, [In order] that the body of sin might be done away with [rendered inoperative], that we should no longer be slaves of sin. <sup>7</sup> For he who has died has been freed from sin [Justified]. <sup>8</sup> Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, <sup>9</sup> knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him.'*

*NB Sin is mentioned 3 times in the first 2 verses*

#### **WHAT IS SIN?**

*Last week a person asked me a great question. It was, 'What is sin?' I've heard definitions such as, 'missing the mark' which I never really did understand.*

#### **1 John 3:4**

*'Sin is lawlessness' - i.e. violation of law (Literal).*

*Sin is having a heart that has turned away from God's divine law of right & wrong ... that claims other values of right & wrong.*

*Adam & Eve chose to eat from 'THE TREE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD & EVIL' ... or we could call it ... THE TREE OF NEW VALUES. SLIDE Values different from God's. Values that defined what they considered right & wrong – a subjective view of right & wrong.*

*However, as they rejected God's values they separated themselves from God's light & their hearts became darkened.*

#### **Romans 1:21 SLIDE**

*'For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God [the supreme divine One] nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking [reasoning] became futile [perverted & idolatrous] and their foolish hearts were darkened.' NIV*

*Adam & Eve also separated themselves from the life of God & death entered them.*

*They also separated themselves from the love of God & hatred was born ...*

*His peace left & strife entered ... His abundant provision was gone & strife entered.*

#### **LET'S LOOK AT SOME OTHER CONSEQUENCES & EFFECTS OF THIS SIN**

*Before sin there wasn't a problem in the world. After ONE SIN THE WORLD BECAME FILLED WITH PROBLEMS because, sin is the root cause of all our problems!!!*

*'Sin' brings guilt & condemnation: Romans 5:18 '... one man's offense (sin) resulted in condemnation ...'*

*'Sin' brings addiction: John 8:34 'Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin.' NASB (Romans 6:16)*

*'Sin' brings death: Romans 5:12 ...'sin entered the world & death through sin'*

*'Sin' lies & deceives: Romans 7:11*

*Sin brings fear: Genesis 3:10 - straight after Adam sinned he hid. He said, 'I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself.'* NASB

**SLIDE** *Sin brings shame & embarrassment: Ezra 9:6 ... 'O my God, I am utterly ashamed; I blush to lift up my face to you for our sins are piled higher than our heads, and our guilt has reached to the heavens.'* NLT

**SLIDE**

*Sin brings sickness: Psalm 38:3 ... 'There is no health... in my bones because of my sin.'* NIV

*Sin brings depression: Psalm 38:4 'My guilt overwhelms me— it is a burden too heavy to bear.'* NLT

**SIN IS NOT YOUR FRIEND ... IT'S A CORRUPT TERRORIST ... A LAWLESS EXTREMIST ...  
A DEGENERATE DICTATOR ... AN INSIDIOUS DECEIVER.**

*If only we could overcome sin in all its forms ... we would be completely free from all of sin's effects and consequences. **BUT NO PERSON CAN EVER OVERCOME SIN.**  
And yet Christians still try.*

*Here are three futile ways Christians are taught & try to overcome sin.*

### **PHASE 1: PEOPLE TRY HARDER TO NOT SIN**

*There have been many sermons about 'Living the Victorious Christian Life' ... most of which tell you, you have to do something. They say you must 'read the Word' ... pray ... give ... separate yourself ... talk a certain way ... become a member of a church.*

#### **ONE GUY WROTE**

*Being an ideal Christian is a title reserved for very few ... But a better Christian?*

*That's doable, and something we all should strive for. But how do you do it?*

*By working on yourself ... you can be the type of Christian everyone looks to for inspiration.*

He then lists 6 things **YOU MUST DO** to be free from sin & live an outstanding Christian life.

1. *Read your Bible*
2. *Pray regularly*
3. *Always praise the Lord*
4. *Practice forgiveness*
5. *Be modest & humble about your Christian Faith*
6. *Try to participate in religious activities*

**NB how many times Jesus is mentioned ... NOT ONCE!**

**SLIDE SIN CAN NEVER BE OVERCOME BY THE RELIGIOUS EFFORTS OF MAN**

**SIN IS A GREATER POWER THAN MAN'S EFFORT. IT IS THE POWER BEHIND DEATH** (Romans 5:12)

*Even if we could overcome sinful acts ... the very success of overcoming our outward sins would result in pride & self-righteousness ... greater sins than actually sinning outwardly. We not only have to overcome outward sins like stealing ... lying ... adultery etc, but the inward sins ... such as hate, envy ... lust ... anger ... etc.*

*SOME PEOPLE CONCLUDE, 'I CAN NEVER OVERCOME SIN MYSELF. I NEED GOD'S HELP.'*  
*So they go to phase 2.*

### **SLIDE PHASE 2: PEOPLE PRAY FOR GOD TO DELIVER THEM FROM SIN**

*However, even though I plead, 'Lord please take this sin away from me', it still dominates & oppresses me. It seems God isn't answering & I feel He's abandoned me. This is because I don't understand or know God's way for me to deal with ongoing sin. The Scripture teaches us in Romans that ... **SIN IS NOT TAKEN AWAY FROM US ... WE ARE TAKEN AWAY FROM SIN.** PRAYER CANNOT TAKE AWAY SIN.*

*SO SOME PEOPLE HAVE READ THE SCRIPTURES ABOUT DYING TO SIN & GO TO PHASE 3.*

### **SLIDE PHASE 3: PEOPLE TRY TO DIE TO SELF**

*Now we realise ... we have to die to self for Romans 6:7 tells us, 'He who has died has been freed from sin'.*

*Ah ha! That's it. I need to kill myself & I'll be free.*

*So NOW we begin this weird & unscriptural Christian ritual of, 'Dying to Self'.*

*This involves shutting down any natural feelings & emotions ... killing all personality ... adapting an intense religious seriousness ... completely separating myself from any pleasure & all unsaved people. In other words, **I SHUT DOWN SO SIN CANNOT AFFECT ME.** We no longer serve the Lord in gladness but in sadness & madness.*

*People like this are so caught up in their rigid façade & narrow restrictions they are blind to the fact they've been deceived by a greater sin – **THE SIN OF RELIGIOUS PRIDE & SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS.** WHILE DYING TO SELF, THESE PEOPLE AWAKEN TO RELIGIOUS PRIDE.*

*THEY DEVELOP ... An imitation of the Spirit ... but not the Holy Spirit.*

*A façade of righteousness – but not the righteousness of God.*

*An artificial love – but not the love of Christ.*

*They smile with pseudo smiles ... They condemn instead of comfort.*

*How much wasted time & energy is expended in futility because **WE DON'T KNOW.***

*BUT PAUL TELLS US THERE IS A WAY OF OVERCOMING ONGOING SINS – THE KEY IS TO ... TRULY KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO US WHEN JESUS DIED.*

*Our text tells us ... 'KNOWING THIS' IS THE KEY ...*

Romans 6:6-7 **SLIDE** *'Knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, [In order] that the body of sin might be done away with [rendered inoperative], that we should no longer be slaves of sin. <sup>7</sup> For he who has died has been freed from sin [Justified].'*

**NB** The result of **'knowing this'**:

*'That we should no longer be slaves of sin.'*

Paul has already stated this in Romans 6:3 -

*... DON'T YOU KNOW WE WERE BAPTISED INTO CHRIST'S DEATH?*

**KNOWING WHAT???**

PAUL TELLS US, 'KNOWING ... *that our old man was crucified with Him*' (Romans 6:6) is the key!

KNOWING WE ARE ALREADY DEAD WITH CHRIST IS THE FIRST KEY TO FREE US FROM ONGOING SIN & ITS HORRIFIC CONSEQUENCES.

IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH WHAT WE DO OR DON'T DO.

IT HAS EVERYTHING TO DO WITH **KNOWING WHO WE'RE NOT**.

Paul states 'KNOWING' WHO YOU'RE NOT is the first step to 'No longer being a slave to sin'

**BUT WHO AM I NOT? I AM NOT THAT OLD DECREPIT SINFUL MAN ANYMORE.**

- LOOK AT WHO WAS CRUCIFIED ...

*It was 'OUR OLD MAN' ... That OLD SINFUL NATURE ... Our old identity in ADAM.*

- LOOK AT WHAT HAS ALREADY HAPPENED TO THIS 'OLD MAN':

*HE WAS CRUCIFIED ... THERE IS NO MORE DYING TO BE DONE!*

*This old nature has been completely obliterated from your life.*

*Dr Martin Lloyd Jones states, 'We are never called to crucify the "Old Man" '. That's because it's been done.*

Galatians 2:20

*'I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.'* NIV

**SLIDE**

THE WHOLE PROBLEM WITH US IN CHURCH TODAY IS THAT **WE DON'T KNOW WHO WE ARE & WE DON'T KNOW WHO WE'RE NOT!**

**SLIDE**

*We still think we're that Old Nature & we fight an imaginary fight & wrestle with what's not there. We believe a lie propagated by sin & circumstances & condition. WHY?*

**BECAUSE WE DON'T KNOW WHO WE'RE NOT. SO WHO ARE WE?**

**SLIDE YOU AREN'T WHO YOU WERE AND YOU ARE WHO YOU WEREN'T.**

## Romans 6:8-9 **SLIDE**

'Now if we **died with Christ**, we believe that we shall also **live with Him**, <sup>9</sup> **knowing** that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him.'

Notice the second time Paul emphasises the importance of '**KNOWING**'.  
Once again we must emphasise this is **KNOWING WHAT HAPPENED TO US WHEN CHRIST DIED & ROSE AGAIN**. WE WERE **WITH HIM** IN ALL HE DID & HIS VICTORY IS OUR VICTORY ... HIS BLESSING IS OUR BLESSING ... HIS LIFE IS OUR LIFE

## Romans 6:5

'If we have been **united together** in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be ~~in~~ **the likeness** of His resurrection.'

### **WHAT DO WE NEED TO KNOW THAT HAPPENED TO US WHEN CHRIST ROSE?**

- Knowing we have come into an endless life that has already begun.

NB: Paul emphasises that Jesus rose ... never to die again (Romans 6:9). This means to us that once we have this life ... it can never be taken from us.

**ONCE 'IN LIFE' ... ALWAYS 'IN LIFE'!**

- Knowing we have entered a victorious life that has already been won

Paul tells us that the dominion of death doesn't control us anymore. The Father does (Romans 6:22).

My father survived a Japanese POW camp for years. He knew & believed his physical life was in God's hands. He told me, 'If God wanted me to die, I was ready; but if God didn't want me to die ... then nothing that the Japanese soldiers did could kill me.' The Christian's life is under the control of God our Father. He alone decides our time ... not Death.

- Knowing we have come into a sinless life that we have received now.

A lady in the church shared about a church service she'd seen on TV where they honoured the Cross of Christ. She told how they knew it was God's provision to make them the people He'd called them to be. **I SAID, IT SHOULD BE ... THE PEOPLE THEY ALREADY ARE.**

**THE PROBLEM IS, WE DON'T KNOW WHO WE ARE **NOW** IN CHRIST.**

**WE BECOME WHO WE ARE.** In time we grow into who God has already made us in Christ. **THAT'S WHY IT'S IMPERATIVE TO KNOW WHO WE ARE & WHO WE'RE NOT.**

## 2 Corinthians 3:18 **SLIDE**

'But we all, with unveiled face, **beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord**, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.'

*Someone said, the Word of God is like a mirror ... it shows us how ugly we are ... so we see how bad we are ... a reflection of our Old Man.*

**BUT HE IS DEAD!**

Here I see His Glory on me – **THE TRUTH ABOUT WHO I AM IN CHRIST** ... And as I continue to look at this beautiful reflection I start to morph into the same image.

**WHAT'S THE MIRROR? The Good News of God in Christ Jesus written in & taught from His Word.**

*But you say, 'I feel such a failure ... I just don't make the grade ... I'm not as good as others ... '*

**SLIDE WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?**

**DO YOU SEE YOUR NEW SELF ... THE GLORIOUS IMAGE OF WHO YOU ARE IN CHRIST?**

**2 Corinthians 5:17 SLIDE**

*'If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.'*

**Colossians 2:10**

*'You are complete [finished] in Him, who is the head of all [a]principality and power.'*

**THIS IS A POSITIONAL TRUTH WHICH TAKES PRECEDENCE OVER OUR CONDITION FACT. WHAT GOD SAYS ABOUT YOU TAKES PRECEDENCE OVER WHAT YOUR CONDITION SAYS ABOUT YOU ...**

**WHAT GOD SAYS ABOUT YOU TAKES PRECEDENCE OVER WHAT OTHER PEOPLE SAY & THINK ABOUT YOU ...**

**WHAT GOD SAYS ABOUT YOU TAKES PRECEDENCE OVER WHAT THE DEVIL SAYS ABOUT YOU & TELLS YOU ABOUT YOU.**

**THIS POSITIONAL TRUTH IS SOOOOO POWERFUL THAT ALL OTHER FACTS MUST BOW TO ITS SUPERIORITY.**

**THIS RESULT OF KNOWING WILL CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK ABOUT YOURSELF. THIS REVELATION WILL CAUSE YOU TO OVERCOME THE DECEIT OF THE DEVIL WHO WILL ALWAYS ACCUSE YOU DAY & NIGHT.**

**THIS KNOWLEDGE WILL CAUSE YOU TO LIVE VICTORIOUSLY OVER SIN & GUILT.**

**YOU WILL HAVE A MINDSET OF ABSOLUTE VICTORY!**