

Romans 6:1-23

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Title: “Dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus”

Phases of our journey with God (salvation)

- a. Justification, meaning you are freed from penalty of past sins. You now stand in the right position before God, namely in Christ.
- b. Sanctification, meaning you are set free from power of sin in everyday life because of the fact that you are set free from it and continue to make the right decisions in Christ.
- c. Glorification, meaning the time when we are set free from the presence of sin in our midst (earth), being in heaven.

The word “saved” in the NT is used in 3 tenses or senses, e.g. you have been saved, you are being saved and you will be saved.

We think our initial commitment to Christ is all that counts, while that was the mere beginning and God focuses a lot on the journey following your conversion. When you commit your life to the LORD you start a process, a journey of walking in God’s way. You need to renew your mind to begin to think in a Kingdom way (Rom 12:2) This is a process. When you were saved, you have access to heaven, but the process of transformation (mind renewal) then starts and that takes time and continued faith.

Romans 6:1-4 - Meganoito

1 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? 2 May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? 3 Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

Paul uses a very strong Greek word in Rom 6:1 when dealing with the thought that Christians can continue to live in sin. Rom 6: 1 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? 2 May it never be! (Meganoito). Meganoito is an absolute denial. Let it never be! It is a word that Paul use 65 times in his epistles, an expression of unthinkable horror when an idea is too repugnant to think about. It means...God forbid, perish the thought, may it never be, don’t even think that way. Some Bibles say, shall we continue to sin? “by no means”. That is a weak translation. If we’ve been crucified with Christ, we live every day manifesting resurrection life, free from sin’s control. When we sin, we confess it and receive forgiveness (1 John 1:9), but we are not mastered by sin any longer.

What hinders your spiritual growth?

The things that hinder your growth are:

- a. The world
- b. Your flesh
- c. The devil and his dark forces.

How you deal with your flesh (natural man) in your spiritual journey is vitally important. You need to crucify the flesh.

Paul says in Romans 1 & 2 that we can fall into the works of the flesh through

1. Licence (Gentiles)
2. Legalism (Jews)

The appeal of the NT is, because you have been crucified with Jesus, put to death the fleshly desires. What you do with your body is important. Your body can be an instrument of sin, or you can use it for righteousness.

Water baptism

There is a mystery surrounding baptism. Water baptism is an action and symbol of our baptism into Christ. When you are baptised in water something happens spiritually. Paul also says that we are being baptised into Christ's death and into His resurrection. How can we after being united with Christ like this choose to live in sin? Baptism is not just a symbol; it is a unification with Christ through faith.

There's only one way to deal with the flesh: co-crucifixion with Christ (Galatians 2:20). Your old man, who was alive and well back when you were under Adam's headship, has been crucified (Romans 6:6) and now you are dead to sin and the power thereof. As one who has been crucified with Christ, you are commanded to continually consider yourself dead to sin, and alive to God (Romans 6:11-12). You have victory in Christ over sin, you just need to learn to walk in it.

Rom 6:11 Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Whose slave are you?

Rom 6:16 you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?

Whose slave are you? Now you might not think of yourself as a slave, but the Bible tells us that everyone is a slave to something. Everyone serves somebody. The Bible teaches that you are either a slave of sin, or a slave of God. When you are a slave to God you have eternal life and you must understand that you are dead to sin. When you become a Christian you exchange one slavery for another. You moved from being a slave to sin to being a slave to God.

Your senses can be the ground of temptation that can draw you back, e.g. lust of the eye (what you see), the lust of the flesh (sexual, etc.)

The sad thing is that many Christians allow themselves to become slaves again to other masters, e.g.

- Alcohol
- Lust – porn
- Work
- Food. Often for ladies, the desire to be called "beautiful" results in sin in the area of how they view their body. There is discontentment regarding the body God has created that results in under-eating. On the flip side, there is over-eating.
- Entertainment (addicted to be entertained, movies, tv, phone)
- FOMO – Fear Of Missing Out (social media)
- Self-image (style, clothing, appearance, etc.)
- Materialism – We want to get more "stuff" to better our lives, but it does not work.

Whatever or whoever you are a slave to, it is leading to somewhere. All these above mentioned masters steer you towards destruction. The only slave we are called to be is a slave to righteousness, to do the right things from God's perspective. Many Christians are so use to sin, that they feel they are losing their identity when cannot partake of certain addictions or sin anymore.

Jesus did it all. He not only delivers us from the penalty of sin, but also the power of sin over our lives. We don't pay the penalty for our sins, Jesus payed it, but we need to respond to Jesus' work in the right way. We cannot say. "seeing that Jesus took the punishment and I am not going to be punished by God, I can now do what I want." Paul argues against the fact that the grace of God is a licence to sin. That is where many Christians are.

Jesus did not deal with sin so that we can continue to partake in it. He set you free so that you don't sin. As a Christian you yield to temptation because you want to, not because you have to.

(Antinomianism - Antinomianism in modern times is commonly seen as the theological opposite to Legalism or Works righteousness, the notion that obedience to religious law earns salvation. This makes antinomianism an exaggeration of justification by faith alone.)

Everlasting life is not just quality of life (for ever), but also quality of life, e.g. Joy, peace, love, self-control,

Wages of sin is death

Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Wages, meaning the stipend or payment of sin is death. Sadly, many Christians today are entertained by sin, e.g. movies, games, activities. The goal of saving us is not just to forgive us, but to make us perfect. Salvation is a constant process.

Apostolic Gospel of Salvation

We primarily focus on justification, while we often forget about sanctification and glorification. For Paul, pressing on was as important as starting the journey. Paul said, I am pressing on... he was serious and dedicated in finishing the race, his earthly walk with God.

Phil 3:14

I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

2 Tim 4:7

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

Paul was absolutely against falling back or standing still on the process of salvation. He was absolutely against Christians offering their bodies up for sin and to partake in sin whatsoever. When gentiles fall back they fall back into sin and when the Jew falls back he falls back into law and therefore he warns us against not pressing on in faith within the completed work of Christ.

The Apostolic Gospel of salvation involves more than just justification. It encompasses the whole process from start to finish, ending off one day when even your body will be fully saved when you receive a glorified body.... At this moment your body is still affected by sin. We die.

It's not only the faith that you begin with that saves you, but the faith that you end with.

Walking in the flesh or in the spirit

Christians can choose to walk according to the flesh or they can walk according to the spirit. Paul's letter (Epistles) focuses extensively on what we do with our bodies.

1 Cor 10:23 (NLT)

You say, "I am allowed to do anything"--but not everything is good for you. You say, "I am allowed to do anything"--but not everything is beneficial.

1 Cor 10:23 (Berean Study Bible)

"Everything is permissible," but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible," but not everything is edifying.

God saves us from the following

- a. God saves us from our sins
- b. God saves us from the penalty of our sin
- c. God saves us from the power and the presence of sin in our lives.

Therefore, embrace this reality and live a holy life with the LORD.