

The Call To Surrender

In the last study we saw that Jesus and Jesus alone is our hope and our Saviour from the penalty that our rebellious nature has earned us.

The sacrifice of Jesus Christ, the shedding of His blood, is the substitute for our deserved death.

Is this the totality of what Jesus Christ does for us as sinning, rebellious human beings?

No!

Romans 5:7-10 [NIV] *“Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. **Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him!** For if, when we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall **we be saved through his life!**”*

“Justification” [being made just as if we had never sinned] is only the essential first step in our Christian life.

Accepting the sacrificial blood of Jesus Christ the Son of God, cleanses us of our past sins but does **not** bring us salvation.

As we read above we *“shall [future tense] be saved by His [resurrected] life.”*

What does this mean and what is involved in this process of salvation?

Remember the two-fold reason for the original creation of human beings.

“Image” – shadow **not** the real thing.

“Likeness” – son – two for one – character.

We are talking about a spiritual creation.

In this spiritual creation which is essential for our eternal life in the presence of our Holy Creator God, two components are involved.

Job 32:8 [NIV] *“But it is the **spirit in a man**, the breath of the Almighty, that gives him understanding.”*

The spirit element in human life that enables us to think, plan and choose.

John 14:15-18 [NIV] *“If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he **will give you another Counsellor to be with you for ever, the Spirit of truth**. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; **I will come to you.**”*

Jesus Christ the Son of God is the second essential component.

Jesus Himself tells us in the scripture that He, God, will come to us, be a constant companion, through the Holy Spirit [the spirit of truth – see verse **26**] who is also God.

Jesus mentions also in this scripture we need to come to the point where we love Him and obey what He commands.

John 15:12-16 [NIV] *“My command is this: **Love each other** as I have loved you. **Greater love has no-one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.** You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.”*

Let us meditate on what Jesus is telling us in this scripture.

This is what He is commanding.

Love other people.

How do we do this?

By sacrificing our own selfish life.

Romans 12:1-2 [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, **in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship.** Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed **by the renewing of your mind.** Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is, his good, pleasing and perfect will.”*

Our response to what Jesus has done for us, that we could never do for ourselves, *“offer your bodies.”*

The Greek word translated *“bodies”* is *“soma”*, refers to our whole life, body, mind and spirit.

“Living sacrifice” – this reflects Jesus the Son of Man who sacrificed His life but was resurrected back to life.

This is how we worship our Creator God in a way that pleases Him.

This living sacrifice involves the *“renewing”* [making new] our mind, and **not** conforming the way the rest of humanity, without God, lives.

This living sacrifice is daily laying aside our own desires to follow Jesus Christ.

Surrendering all our energy and resource to Jesus’ disposal and trusting Him to guide us.

Remember that is how we express our gratitude for all that Jesus has done for us.

Romans 6:1-4 [NIV] *“What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning, so that grace may increase? By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or **don’t you know that all of us who were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death?** We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, **just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.**”*

The same *“living sacrifice”* attitude of mind is amplified in these verses.

“We die to sin” it must **not** now be a way of life.

“Baptism” – total immersion that is likened to death and burial, is an outward sign of what has already happened in our mind, spirit and body.

Following Jesus Christ’s example we are resurrected to a new life.

The *“glory of the Father”* refers to the work of the Holy Spirit, whose active presence is essential for our *“new resurrected life.”*

John 3:3-8 [NIV] *“In reply Jesus declared, “I tell you the truth, **no-one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.**” “How can a man be born when he is old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb to be born!” Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, **no-one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.** Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”*

This new life is a total change like a new birth, that is brought about by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

Note:- This new birth is essential if we are to enter into the Kingdom [created family] of God.

John 15:16 [NIV] *“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.”*

All Christians have been called and chosen by God to produce lasting fruit.

What are these lasting fruits and how are they produced?

Lasting fruits cannot be physical because the physical rots and dies, not lasting.

What is being referred to is character, the “likeness” of our Creator God.

How are the fruits produced?

Galatians 5:22-25 [NIV] *“**But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.**”*

This is a list of the characteristics of the Holy Creator God.

How do we receive these fruits that are eternal?

“Live by the Holy Spirit” – surrender to the influence of the Holy Spirit.

“Keep in step with the Holy Spirit” – allow the Holy Spirit to guide the decisions and choices we make on a day-to-day basis.

If we desire that these eternal fruits grow in us we have to be joined to Jesus Christ by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

John 15:1-5 [NIV] *“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. “I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”*

Without Jesus Christ in our lives we can do nothing that is lasting.

John 17:3 [NIV] *“Now this is **eternal life:** that they may **know** you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.”*

The word “know” is a very intimate Greek word “*gnōskō*”, used to describe the union between a husband and wife in marriage [**Luke 1:34**].

To have this close relationship with God is the result of certain conditions on our part.

Matthew 7:21-23 [NIV] *“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’”*

Not everyone who claims to be a Christian will be allowed to enter the Kingdom [the created family of God].

Luke 13:24-28 [NIV] *“Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to. Once the owner of the house gets up and closes the door, you will stand outside knocking and pleading, ‘Sir, open the door for us.’ “But he will answer, ‘I don’t know you or where you come from.’ “Then you will say, ‘We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.’ “But he will reply, ‘I don’t know you or where you come from. Away from me, all you evildoers!’ “There will be weeping there, and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but you yourselves thrown out.”*

There is only one restricted way for us to enter the Kingdom of God.

God’s terms for us to enter into the Kingdom of God are very clear.

1 John 1:8-10 [NIV] *“If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.”*

We have to admit we are a sinner.

John 3:16-18 [NIV] *“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.”*

Believe what Jesus Christ has done for us by His life, death and resurrection.

Acts 4:12 [NIV] *“Salvation is found in no-one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.”*

Jesus Christ is God’s **only way** for us to receive pardon, forgiveness and new life.

This is the only way we can enter into a relationship with Jesus Christ.

This is how we begin a brand new life.

Becoming a Christian is NOT just adding something to what we have been before it is a complete transformation.

Becoming a Christian demands a re-birth, the old life has to die and a new life “*in Christ*” begins.

Memory verse:

Romans 5:8 [NIV] *“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”*

In the next study we will consider what is involved in becoming a created child of God.