

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

A Message of Hope and Fulfillment For Those Longing For God

Devoted to God

Romans 6: 12-19

In our review of the primary (and recurring) themes of the first eight chapters of Luke, we identified four areas which Jesus emphasized to His disciples. Having taught these four themes over and over and modeling them before them, He called them aside and sent them out to proclaim the Kingdom message and perform healing and deliverance. It would be helpful to analyze these essential themes as they are explained to the developing Church, principally in the letters of Paul, James, and John.

The primary and dominant theme is absolute devotion to God and dependence on the Holy Spirit. The key passage in Paul's letters to explain what this means is Romans 6.

I. Significant Events Associated with New Birth (Occurring Simultaneously)

- A. Those alive from the dead—we have come to life in Christ (6:13)
We have been reborn, no longer dead to God and dead in trespasses and sin, but alive to God in Christ by the Holy Spirit
- B. Freed from the Law and brought under grace (6:15)
We are no longer under the demands of an external written code of *dos and don'ts* and driven by fear of punishment, but under grace we love God and are motivated internally by His Spirit
- C. Freed from sin (the law of sin) (6:18)
We are no longer under a compulsion to sin, following our carnal Nature, we have been released to obey, out of love, from the heart

II. Crucial Choices Arising from the New Birth

- A. It is possible to continue to allow sin to rule your new life in Christ; it is also possible to refuse to allow it to have control (6:12,14,15)
- B. Being freed from sin and made alive in Christ, you can choose your Master
 1. You can allow sin to continue to exert its influence and live under its control—a life of defeat and frustration
 2. You can make a decision to devote yourself entirely to God and live in the victorious resurrection power of the Holy Spirit
- C. The crucial steps in making the choice for victorious living are:
 1. Deny sin the right to control your life
 2. Devote yourself entirely to God—absolute surrender
 3. Specifically give your senses and functional attributes to God for use by His Holy Spirit; invite Him to take over each one of these "members" for His work in you
- D. Understand clearly that there is no option "C"—that is, remaining independent and autonomous in self-determination

III. Amazing Results of Spirit Filled Living (Or Not!)

- A. You are the servant of the one whom you obey and failure to choose is, in itself, a choice which results in a useless life (ineffective, dead, of no eternal value)
- B. Devotion to God and absolute surrender results in
 1. Obedience from the heart (victorious living) out of love
 2. Sanctification—being set apart and becoming useful to God in His eternal work, practical holiness and powerful service

Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace. What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? May it never be! Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness? But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh.

