2Thess #155

You are a slave of the one whom you obey!

Open up today in Acts chapter 28 RF.

Our recent study has us looking at what it means to be carnal.

/Carnality is the normal state of the OSN. Therefore, whether we fall into its grasp or others around us do so, it should never lead us into emotional waves of frustration, shock and awe. This is the battle we are called to fight! This doesn’t mean the Bel should accept corruption, deceit or attacks while laying down as a doormat. It means the Bel must advance to maturity and apply problem solving skills appropriately.\

You cannot resolve problems with emotions and human viewpoint leading the way.

The word of GOD applied by a SPIRIT filled Christian warrior, can handle any adversity or corruption in front of them.

Now as we look at Acts 28 – this is a pertinent lesson on just how the cosmic system and the carnality of mankind operate.

This is the account of when the Apostle Paul was ship wrecked on the island of Malta.

At the time the Apostle Paul is under the authority of Roman guards – as usual, the Apostle Paul is under arrest.

The island natives were very accommodating and friendly at first.

Act 28:1 When they had been brought safely through, then we found out that the island was called Malta.

[Act 28:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/act/28/2/s_1046002) The natives showed us extraordinary kindness, for they kindled a fire and took us all in because of the rain that had started and because of the cold.

Act 28:3 But when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and laid them on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat and fastened itself on his hand.

/[Act 28:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/act/28/4/s_1046004) When **the natives saw the creature hanging from his hand**, they *began* saying to one another, “**Undoubtedly this man is a murderer**, and though he has been saved from the sea, **justice has not allowed him to live**.”

Carnality is very comfortable as judge and jury over others. Carnality goes far beyond immoral behaviors – MA sins are often overlooked and yet at the root of most overt carnality.\

Keep in mind they have no idea why Paul is being escorted by Roman guards.

He is a prisoner and yet they assume they know the crime and history of the stranger in front of them.

This is nothing more than the core arrogance of the OSN.

[Act 28:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/act/28/5/s_1046005) However, Paul shook the creature off into the fire and suffered no harm.

/[Act 28:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/act/28/6/s_1046006) Now **they were expecting** that he was going to **swell up or suddenly fall down dead**. But after they had waited a long time and had seen nothing unusual happen to him, **they changed their minds** and *began* to say that **he was a god.**

Human expectations are often nothing more than extensions of deep emotional desires, insecurities or fears.\

Be careful of your expectations – there are some good expectations you can have.

You should expect to be treated with respect and dignity - but do not go too far beyond that.

Many expectations, are nothing more than extensions of what we think is right (human viewpoint), or what we want or what we may be insecure about.

 REPEAT

Remember the Jews had expectations about the Messiah, yet those expectations were not tethered to the truth of scripture.

The majority of the crowd followed Jesus for several years, yet in the end, that same crowd gladly followed the corrupt Sanhedrin and shouted – Crucify HIM!

When Jesus was healing and performing signs and wonders – they were amused and attracted to HIM.

Many of that crowd never became born again and saved, they simply enjoyed the show.

Showing us the truth - that miracles, signs and wonders do not bring negative people closer to salvation.

Jump over to Romans chapter 6 RF.

The old sin nature has an essence. We see and know this from such phrases as *“the body of sin,”* seen in Romans 6:6; or Colossians 2:11.

The word ‘body’ indicates that the old sin nature is in the cell structure of the physical body and has many members.

/Col 2:10 and **in Him you have been made complete**, and He is the head over every ruler and authority; 11 and **in Him you were also circumcised** with a circumcision performed without hands, **in the removal of the body of the flesh** by the circumcision of Christ,\

The whole lesson within the OT circumcision taught to Abraham for the people of Israel – was the removal of the old nature and being born again in a new nature. This is why Yahweh created the nation of Israel, the new creation.

HE called them HIS own people – HIS children – just as we are called that today.

The shadows of the OT laws, rituals and principles, all pointed forward to the person and work of TLJC, and then directly into who we are today in Christ.

 REPEAT

In Romans chapter 5, the Apostle Paul is teaching on the results of true justification.

We are now given the righteousness of Christ and entered into the grace plan of GOD.

Much of the teaching viewed in the book of Romans points to adjusting to the justice of GOD and walking in the new nature - while pulling away from the old nature.

If sin doesn’t exist after salvation and if free will doesn’t matter, the teaching such as seen in Romans among many other letters, is blatant foolishness.

 REPEAT

The Apostle Paul was no fool - in fact, he is considered one of the greatest theologians in Christian history.

The lesson is designed to assist the Bels in Rome to get away from lust patterns, legalism and deceptions of the OSN.

/Rom 6:1 **What shall we say then?** Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase?

Greek present tense, and the question is laid out as rhetorical. This is a warning against using grace as a license to sin!\

The present tense - noting the continuation of sin after salvation. As well as the common problem the Apostle Paul was addressing, which was disrespecting the grace plan of God.

Many rhetorical questions are used as teaching tools in this letter to the church of Rome.

/[Rom 6:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/6/2/s_1052002) **Far from it!** How shall we who died to sin still live in it?

*Ginomai mē ginomai! –* two powerful negatives used to bring a definitive conclusion. Never let this be true! Or perhaps – GOD forbid! \

 GIN-NO-MY MAY GIN-NO-MY!

The Apostle Paul uses the Greek idiom to express his disgust of an any false conclusion which condones sins of legalism or lust.

An extremely strong rebuke.

[Rom 6:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/6/3/s_1052003) Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?

Baptized, meaning - identifying with the death, burial and resurrection of our LORD.

That was the symbolism of water baptism – it was another teaching tool.

[Rom 6:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/6/4/s_1052004) Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too may walk in newness of life.

[Rom 6:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/6/5/s_1052005) For if we have become united with *Him* in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be *in the likeness* of His resurrection,

For this time period (CA) – Jesus Christ is the first and only one with a resurrected body.

Our position is secure in heaven – we are guaranteed the resurrection because we are union with Christ!

Just as in our eternal position the OSN is gone! Your daily condition is not the issue, your eternal position is the key!

 REPEAT

/The baptism of the Holy Spirit that happened at salvation, ensures us the divine results of retroactive positional truth. Which breaks the ruling power of the old sin nature in this temporal, human life. Yet we must use the grace gift of our own freedom (free will), to make choices and steps in the right direction. Just as certain as all true Believers will go to heaven and have resurrected bodies (current positional truth). So too is the fact that your flesh was nailed to the Cross of Christ.\

You were given a spiritual circumcision and a new creation arose within your soul the moment you truly believed upon the person and work of Christ.

The OSN can never be salvaged - it is dead and crucified.

/[Rom 6:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/6/6/s_1052006) **knowing this, that our old self was crucified with *HIM*,** in order that **our body of sin might be done away with,** so that we would **no longer be slaves to sin**;

BODY OF SIN (singular), meaning the OSN within our very DNA. We have freedom from the power and the tyranny of the OSN as the ruler of our temporal lives.\

The body of the sin nature – MIGHT BE DONE AWAY WITH!

Once again we see the doctrine of the first divine institution – free will, playing a role in the spiritual life.

If you want to walk in the new nature -and in this case the Apostle Paul is strongly, telling the church of Rome to go forward in the grace and freedom of the new nature.

The Apostle Paul is addressing a predominately Gentile, Roman culture, and they needed to fully understand these principles.

That is why he uses the present tense – in the term; *knowing this* – meaning, either you have heard it before.

Or just now you finally heard it, but continue to understand this and teach it to others.

All of this is written in a very strong, uncompromising set of terms as a leader teaching those under his authority.

/[Rom 6:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/6/7/s_1052007) for the one who has died is **freed from sin**.

You no longer need to walk in a body of death, a slave to that nature. Bels have the ability to walk in the newness of a spiritual life.\

[Rom 6:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/6/8/s_1052008) Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him,

IF – is a Greek first-class condition…this is a dogmatic statement of fact.

[Rom 6:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/6/9/s_1052009) knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him.

/[Rom 6:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/6/10/s_1052010) For the death that He died, **He died to sin once for all *time****;* but the life that He lives, He lives to God.

Jesus Christ died for the sin nature of everyone ever born (Unlimited Atonement). He became a sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.\

Jesus was the only true, perfect and pure satisfactory offering for the eternal debt of fallen mankind.

Nothing but HIS perfect work and no one, but HIS impeccable body could satisfy the justice of God for fallen man.

/[Rom 6:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/6/11/s_1052011) **So you too, consider** (*logizomai*) yourselves **to be dead to sin**, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Written in the present tense, imperative mood – very seriously consider, keep dwelling upon this truth. To dwell upon the facts, to have hope or faith in a certain direction.\

LOW-GEEZ-OH-MY, this is used dozens of times by the Apostle Paul, certainly referencing justification in this letter to the Romans.

The imperative mood is almost always a type of military command.

The Apostle Paul is being very commanding and telling us all, to keep considering and dwelling upon what GOD has given us – the righteousness of Christ!

[Rom 6:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/6/12/s_1052012) Therefore sin is not to reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts,

/DO NOT continue to allow a power of darkness and dead flesh to control you. The shorter accounts with the OSN ensures greater freedom, growth and calm assurance, which eventually gives a Bel true discernment and spiritual strength. The shorter accounts with the flesh, also ensure you are not the stumbling block for others around you!\

Rom 6:13and do not go on presenting the parts of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those who are alive from the dead, and your body’s parts *as* instruments of righteousness for God.

/[Rom 6:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/6/14/s_1052014) For **sin shall not be master over you**, for you are not under the Law but **under grace**.

Church Age Bel – you are no longer under the LAW, nor under the death of slavery to a sinful nature. You will find true freedom in the grace of GOD’s gifts and plan.\

You are not called into religious rituals or called back into the person you were as an Unbel – you are called into a relationship with the Creator of the universe.

Make those decisions for the positive while mindfully avoiding the negative.

[Rom 6:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/6/15/s_1052015) What then? Are we to sin because we are not under the Law but under grace? Far from it!

/Rom 6:16 Do you not know that *the one* to whom you present yourselves *as* slaves for obedience, **you are slaves of *that same one* whom you obey**, either of sin **resulting in death**, or of obedience **resulting in righteousness**?\

We will open up next lesson with a look into the challenge of the problems and also the solutions in relation to the OSN, and this battlefield of the cosmic system.

/The Problem of our flesh combined with the devil’s world (1 John 2:15-17), is seen in the - Lust of the flesh, Lust of the eyes & Pride of this life.

The solutions are – Flee the flesh, Deny the kingdom of darkness and resist the devil. (1Tim 6:11, 2Tim. 2:22, Rom 7:18-24, Rom 6:12-13, Rom 8:13, 1Pet 5:8, 1Pet 5:9) \