

Christian Students @ SAC
Bible Study - Spring 2022
Week 5

THE NORMAL CHRISTIAN LIFE
Chapter 6

THE PATH OF PROGRESS: PRESENTING OURSELVES TO GOD

(1)

Scripture Reading: Rom. 6:12-23

Rom. 6:12 Do not let sin therefore reign in your mortal body so that you obey the body's lusts;

Rom. 6:13 Neither present your members as weapons of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as alive from the dead, and your members as weapons of righteousness to God.

Rom. 6:14 For sin will not lord it over you, for you are not under the law but under grace.

Rom. 6:15 What then? Should we sin, because we are not under the law but under grace? Absolutely not!

Rom. 6:16 Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves as slaves for obedience, his slaves you are whom you obey, whether of sin unto death or of obedience unto righteousness?

Rom. 6:17 But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you have obeyed from the heart the form of teaching into which you were delivered.

Rom. 6:18 And having been freed from sin, you were enslaved to righteousness.

Rom. 6:19 I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves to uncleanness and lawlessness unto lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness unto sanctification.

Rom. 6:20 For when you were slaves of sin, you were free with regard to righteousness.

Rom. 6:21 What fruit then did you have at that time? Things of which you are now ashamed, for the end of those things is death.

Rom. 6:22 But now, having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you have your fruit unto sanctification, and the end, eternal life.

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

Our study has now brought us to the point where we are able to consider the true nature of consecration. We have before us the second half of Romans 6 from verse 12 to the end. In Romans 6:12-13 we read: "Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey the lusts thereof: neither present your members unto sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves unto God, as alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God." The operative word here is "present," and this occurs five times in the chapter, in verses 13, 16, and 19.

Many have taken this word "present" to imply consecration without looking carefully into its content. Of course that is what it does mean, but not in the sense in which we so often understand it. It is not the consecration of our "old man" with his instincts and resources, his natural wisdom, strength, and other gifts, to the Lord for Him to use.

This will be at once clear from verse 13. Note there the clause "as alive from the dead." Paul says, "Present yourselves unto God, as alive from the dead." This defines for us the point at which consecration begins. For what is here referred to is not the consecration of anything belonging to the old creation, but only of that which has passed through death to resurrection. The "presenting" spoken of is the outcome of my knowing my old man to be crucified. Knowing, reckoning, presenting to God: that is the divine order.

When I really know I am crucified with Him, then spontaneously I reckon myself dead (verses 6 and 11); and when I know that I am raised with Him from the dead, then likewise I reckon myself "alive unto God in Christ Jesus" (verses 9 and 11), for both the death and the resurrection side of the Cross are to be accepted by faith. When this point is reached, giving myself to Him follows. In resurrection He is the source of my life—indeed He *is* my life; so I cannot but present everything to Him, for all is His, not mine. But without passing through death I have nothing to consecrate, nor is there anything God can accept, for He has condemned all that is of the old creation to the Cross. Death has cut off all that *cannot* be consecrated to Him, and resurrection alone has made consecration possible. Presenting myself to God means that henceforth I consider my whole life as now belonging to Him.

The Third Step: "Present Yourselves ..."

Let us observe that this "presenting" relates to the members of my body—that body which, as we saw earlier, is now unemployed in respect of sin. "Present yourselves ... and your members", says Paul, and again: "Present your members" (Romans 6:13,19). God requires of me that I now regard all my members, all my faculties, as belonging wholly to Him.

It is a great thing when I discover I am no longer my own but His. If the ten shillings in my pocket belong to me, then I have full authority over them. But if they belong to another who has committed them to me in trust, then I cannot buy what I please with them, and I dare not lose

them. Real Christian life begins with knowing this. How many of us know that, because Christ is risen, we are therefore alive "unto God" *and not unto ourselves*? How many of us dare not use our time or money or talents as we would, because we realize they are the Lord's, not ours? How many of us have such a strong sense that we belong to Another that we dare not squander a shilling of our money, or an hour of our time, or any of our mental or physical powers?

On one occasion a Chinese brother was traveling by train and found himself in a carriage together with three non-Christians who, in order to beguile the time, wished to play cards. Lacking a fourth to complete the game, they invited this brother to join them. "I am sorry to disappoint you," he said, "but I cannot join your game for I have not brought my hands with me." "Whatever do you mean?" they asked in blank astonishment. "This pair of hands does not belong to me," he said, and then there followed the explanation of the transfer of ownership that had taken place in his life. That brother regarded the members of his body as belonging entirely to the Lord. That is true holiness.

Paul says, "Present your members as servants to righteousness unto sanctification [‘holiness as to the Lord’ (Exodus 28:36)]." I gave myself over wholly to Christ: that is holiness.

Questions

1. Explain the sequence of knowing, reckoning, and presenting to God (using the verses in Romans 6).
2. What does it mean to present ourselves and our members to God? Give examples or share personal experiences.