

# THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY

## ROMANS 6:1-7:13

Once upon a battle... an infantry soldier came under heavy fire. Bullets zipping over his head, he dove into a foxhole. Under normal circumstances this G.I. rarely thought about his faith. Yet staring death in the face, he pulled out the cross he wore around his neck, and was desperate for any help or higher power he could get.

Suddenly, another G.I. dove into the same foxhole. When he rolled over, the previous soldier noticed he was an Army chaplain. *What a relief.* He held up his cross, and said to the chaplain, “Wow, am I glad to see you! Can you tell me how to get this thing to work?”

*And that’s a good question for us. **How does the cross work?*** How does the victory Jesus won 2000 years ago translate into victory in our lives today? That’s the question that gets answered in Romans 6.

The Chapter begins, “What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not!” Chapter 5 ended, “Where sin abounded, grace abounded much more,” but such a comment can be misinterpreted... Since the more we sin the more grace God supplies, you could assume it’s our duty to sin! Let’s whip up some sin so God can show off His grace.

In the early 1900s a Russian monk named Gregory Rasputin, actually taught this heresy. He was called, “*The Mad Monk.*” He said, “If you’re simply an ordinary sinner, you

are not giving God an opportunity to show His glory, so you need to be an extraordinary sinner.”

Rasputin was a drunkard, a womanizer - *a disgrace to God's grace*. His flawed logic is like a teenager who says he needs to keep a messy room so his friends will see his mom is a great housekeeper. *No Mom I know would put up with such nonsense*. They'd also say, **“Certainly not!!”** Never use *grace* as an excuse to *sin*.

Paul writes, **“How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?”** Grace doesn't promote sin, it creates freedom from sin. *And it does so in an interesting way.*

Here's a radical thought - in Christ we **“died to sin.”**

A corpse is no longer aware or pulled by outside forces. Sin no longer has an influence on a dead man.

In Romans Paul explains how God works *for us* and *in us!* The cross of Jesus *cleanses our record, and changes our nature*. It works *judicially to gain our pardon, and effectually to transform our character*. The hymn **“Rock of Ages”** expresses this well, **“Be of sin the double cure, save from wrath and make me pure.”**

Jesus delivers us not only from the *penalty of sin*, but also from the *power of sin...* In essence the cross paid for more than a paint job. It installs in us a new engine.

And in Chapter 6 Paul will pop the hood on our salvation to reveal the work God has done inside all those who embrace the cross and believe in Jesus!

Verse 3, “Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be *in the likeness of His resurrection...*”

Paul uses two terms here to describe what happens when we come to Jesus - a theological term, “*baptism*” and a biological phrase, “*united together*” or “*grafted.*”

The word “*baptize*” has multiple meanings in the Bible. We think of water baptism, but here it means “to induct, or install.” When a rookie quarterback goes into his first NFL game, and gets sandwiched between a few 300 pound behemoths we say “**he got his baptism.**” He’s now officially a part of the action!

And this is what happened when you put your faith in Jesus, you were baptized into Him. You became part of all that Jesus **has acquired and has accomplished.**

The biological term Paul uses in verse five is “*united together.*” It means “to grow together, or grafted in.”

Ever see two trees grow together? They touch at a certain point, and began to grow as one. Well, those who are saved are connected to Christ and are growing in Him! *But this is where the plot thickens!...*

**For you and Christ touch at the cross...** when He died, in a spiritual sense you died to sin with Him. When He was

buried your old life was buried with Him. And when Jesus rose, you rose in Him with new life.

This is what we illustrate with water baptism. *You enter the pool a sinner... You're buried under the waters of death... Then you rise again, alive in Christ!*

Spiritually, when you connect to Christ, you share in all Jesus accomplished on the cross. When He died a part of you died, and when He rose a part of you rose.

Blaise Pascal once wrote, “One of the greatest principles of Christianity is that what happened in Jesus happens in the soul of the Christian.” It’s strange to think we share in an event that occurred 2000 years before we were born, and where we’ve never been, *yet it’s true!* As surely as the nails were driven into the hands and feet of Jesus we died with Him. And as surely as He walked out of the tomb we share in His new life. Bible commentator Frank Gaebeline expresses it, “Our spiritual history began at the cross.”

Remember when Elisha raised the woman’s son from the dead, 2 Kings 4 describes the miracle, “And he went up and lay on the child, and put his mouth on his mouth, his eyes on his eyes, and his hands on his hands; and he stretched himself out on the child...”

*How creepy is that...* Elisha interfaces with the child, and virtue is transferred. Life flows through their connection. Likewise, when Jesus was nailed to the cross, in a mystical, spiritual way your old sin nature was nailed there with Him. In your heart of hearts you “died to sin.” **What Jesus did for all, He did in you.**

I know it sounds weird, but here's a way to stretch your thinking... In the making of a movie, scenes are shot first with the actors. There're no special effects, no music, just the actors. Later in the process, the extras get dubbed in on top of the original, actors-only clip...

Well, in God's mind and heart when you came to Jesus, your spirit - the deepest part of who you are - got transposed on top of the crucified Christ.

### **God dubs in your old man over His only Son.**

At that moment, the life you lived at odds with God dies with Jesus. Now when the footage rolls you're there, but *in Christ - crucified with Him - a new person.*

This is what Paul says in verse 6, “**knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him...**” Once a little boy came home from Sunday School, and said he learned that Paul's father was one of the thieves on the cross. His mom wondered where he'd gotten such a wild idea. He quoted Paul in Romans 6:6, “**my old man was crucified with Christ...**” *That's not what Paul means!*

*But it's actually close...* Paul's father had a father, who had a father... all the way back to Adam. Adam sinned - he bombed... *it was the original Adam bomb.* And the fallout of that original sin is felt in every human heart since. Everyone of us is born with a sin nature.

This is what Paul calls “**the old man.**” It's the rebel you. It's the *BC* or *before Christ* version of you. It's you governed by selfishness and pride - the you that ran from God... But when you came to Jesus this natural inclination to reject God and pursue sin was crucified.

*This will help...* In the book of Romans, Paul sees human beings as divided into two partitions. Each of us is made up of **an inward man** and **an outward man**.

The real you is the inner you. It's the spiritual part of you - the part of you that when you leave this body will continue to live for all eternity. Whereas, the outer man is "**the flesh.**" This is the part of you that returns to dust.

The day after you came to Jesus, outwardly you looked the same as the day before. Maybe you had a smile on your face or a bounce to your step, but physically nothing changed. Yet inwardly, in your spirit, you became a new creation. A radical change occurred in the depths of your being - **in Christ you died to sin.**

The old man was crucified. Your sin nature was replaced with a new nature. Your inborn tendency to sin was replaced with *love for God* and *love for others*.

And notice the past tense. Our old man "**was crucified with Him.**" For years I heard Bible teachers tell me I needed to crucify **the old man**. So I tried. I said "**no**" to sin. I disciplined my body. Yet nothing I did physically was able to change what I was on the inside.

**Nobody crucifies themselves.** Crucifixion is never a suicide. Someone else drives in the nails. Dying to sin isn't something that's up to me. It occurs in Christ.

Take a pig off the farm - clean him up - dress him in pants, shirt, and little boy shoes. Take him home and treat him like a

child. *But a pig is still a pig!* You can't alter what a pig truly is, without changing his nature.

And this is our problem. **We can't change what we are** - we're sinners at heart. We can dress up in religious garb, speak religious jargon, develop religious habits. We can clean up the outside, but inside we're sinners waiting on the next opportunity to act sinfully.

Only God can change the me on the inside, and His solution is the cross. God's answer to my sin nature isn't me turning over a new leaf, or hypnosis, or behavior modification, or psychiatric care, etc. The only way to get victory over my *old man* is to crucify him.

It's not a 12 step approach. **It's one step.** We must fully believe *our old man* died with *God's only Son*.

Realize, when you come to Jesus, He doesn't just add to your life - *His nature, His Spirit, His fruits*. The sin nature you were born with also gets subtracted. 2 Corinthians 5:17, "**Old things have passed away...**"

I use to think the old nature was left to slug it out with the new nature. I was erroneously taught that nothing died at salvation. *My sin nature* continued side-by-side with *God's new nature*. The result was a split personality - two natures in conflict with each other. It was up to me to deny the old, and submit to the new.

Ever heard this illustration? *Two dogs live in my heart, a good dog and a bad dog, and the dog I feed the most is the dog that grows the strongest and takes control.* **But that's not biblical.** You're not a doghouse with two dogs. Your old

dog is dead, and buried. You need to know - really believe - a new dog lives in you!

It reminds me of two country boys playing with a turtle that was crossing the road. One fellow pulled out a knife and cut off its head - yet its body kept walking across the blacktop. *And it caused an argument...*

Elmer said, "That turtle is dead, it doesn't have a head." Otis replied, "*No way, how can a turtle be dead when it's still walking?*" Just then up walks Bubba. They asked him, "*Bubba, is that turtle dead or not?*"

And I love Bubba's reply, "Well boys, it seems to me that, *there turtle is dead, he just doesn't know it yet!*"

And if we're still struggling with sin this is our problem! This is why Paul begins verse 6, "*knowing this...*" The key is *to know that you know* that in Christ you're not the same person. You're brand new inside.

There's a cartoon of a Home Bible Study. The topic is Romans 6. A lady confesses, "*I haven't actually died to sin, but I did feel kind of faint once.*" You might be thinking something similar. *I've wrestled with sin, I've struggled with sin, but died to sin? Are you sure? Even now you feel very alive to tempting and sinful desires...*

So here's the big question, "*If I died to sin; then why do I still sin, and why do I continue to feel it's pull?*"

Look closely at verses 6-7, "*Knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. For he*



**who has died has been freed from sin.”** Notice in these verses Paul mentions *two pockets of sin* in our lives. There **was** “*our old man*” and there **is** “*the body of sin.*” The *old man* was dealt with on the cross. *The body of sin* is dealt with as a consequence.

Remember also a Christian is two parts: an **inner man** and **outer man**. Inwardly, in my spirit, I’m a new creation. But in this body - my flesh - I’m the same guy I’ve always been. This means my body still knows how to sin. That’s why Paul calls it “*the body of sin.*”

Before I came to Jesus I spent 20 years programming my mind, hands, tongue, feet, and emotions to do sinful, selfish stuff... To make matters worse, I still live in a world that eggs on “*the body of sin.*” The language, desires, images that surround me 24/7 all point me to sin. The world we live in reminds us of the “*old man,*” or who we were apart from Christ.

And even though I know I’m new in Christ... **old habits die hard!** Have you ever crawled out of bed at 6 AM on a Saturday morning, thinking it’s Friday, and start to get ready for work? Our auto-pilot betrays us...

I use to drive a car with a stick shift. Kathy drove the automatic. But whenever I got in my wife’s car I’d reach for the phantom shifter... **Some actions take time to stop even after the reason for them no longer exists.**

And this is what happens to a born again Christian. Deep inside I’m a new person, but outwardly my feelings, thoughts, emotions have been conditioned to act and react in sinful ways. Under pressure it’s easier for me to revert back to an

old habit, just fall into a rut - than it is to cultivate new habits and new patterns.

The key is **to know that I know!** As Paul said in verse 6, *“knowing this...”* It’s when I really get my mind around the truth of who I am in Christ; then the *“body of sin”* is *“done away with.”* Or it’s effect gets negated.

When I know who I am spiritually in Christ that truth allows me to turn a deaf ear to my fleshly desires.

If I see myself in Christ, I’ll lean on the resources He makes available to me... But if that’s not my identity - If I see myself as the same person I once was - then I’ll listen to *the lies of this world, and lean on my own resources.* Real faith builds a new identity based on the cross, and what God says about me in His Word.

Paul continues, verse 8, *“Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.”* In old West days, at least in the movies, bad guys were wanted *“Dead or Alive.”* But Christians are born again *“Dead and Alive.”* In Christ we’re **dead to sin and alive to God.**

We don’t just share in the crucifixion of Jesus, but we also share in His resurrection power and new life.

So *“Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* Here’s proof

Paul came from the Deep South. He uses a good, down-home Southern term, "*reckon.*"

But he doesn't use it Southern style. If you ask me, "Is it going to rain tomorrow?" and I reply, "I reckon so!" here's what I'm saying... "*It probably will,*" or "*It might,*" or "*I hope so,*" but if I just said, "*Well, I reckon it'll rain...*" I doubt I'd even take an umbrella with me.

But that's not what Paul means when he uses this word. The Greek word translated "*reckon*" means "*to consider it so*" - "*to treat it as if it really is true.*"

When Paul tells us to reckon ourselves to be dead to sin and alive to God, He's saying we should consider it a *done deal*. Learn to see yourself in light of this truth!

God's goal is to get us to change the way we view ourselves - alter our identity. Rather than see yourself as a *struggling sinner*, see yourself as a *victorious saint*. Don't just know this truth, go a step further, and let your identity in Christ shape in you a new mindset!

And this isn't mental gymnastics, or the power of positive thinking. **Considering it so doesn't make it so. We consider it so because it is so!**

Once a sportswriter asked baseball's greatest shortstop, Honus Wagner, if baseball was a tough job. His reply was classic, "*Ain't much to being a ballplayer, if you are a ballplayer.*" And the same is true with being a Christian... The real you *died to sin* and *lives to God*. It's now time for you to live what you truly are! It's not hard to love rather than lust if love dwells in your heart.

I love what John Wayne said, "When I take a role I play John Wayne regardless of the character I happen to be portraying!" Dress him as a cowboy, soldier, firefighter, or detective and *John Wayne always played John Wayne*. He knew who he was and refused to be anyone else. This is how you live as a Christian. Know the truth, then develop a strong identity around it.

Verse 12 adds one more piece to the puzzle, "Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. And do not present your members as instruments (or tools) of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace."

Three key words stand out in Romans 6: **know**, and **reckon**, and **present**... **Know** you're dead to sin and alive to God... Then **reckon** it so, and begin to form a new identity in Christ... And lastly, **present** your members as "*instruments of righteousness*..."

In short, get behind your new identity with your mind, your words, your memory, your eyes, your hands, your feet - that is, "**your members**." Use your members as a **tool** to promote your new life in Christ. Start *speaking*, and *doing*, and *going* in ways that fortify your faith.

Understand how this works... **Identity determines behavior** - how we see ourselves determines how we live our lives. But then **subsequent actions reinforce our identity**. If I see

myself as a baseball player, but never play baseball I won't be a very good ballplayer.

And you can see yourself as a Christian, but if you never read your Bible, or fellowship, or worship, or witness it'll be hard to hang on to that identity when the pressure gets applied. The idea is to get into a new groove. We should **put off the old and put on the new.**

Paul writes, **“What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not!”**

A skeptic might say God has freed you from the Law, for you to live lawlessly. But just the opposite is true...

Under the Law it was **up to us** to obey, but under grace **God does the work.** God ends our obligation to the Law, not because it's okay for us to break it, but because through grace, we're more inclined to keep it.

Verse 16, **“Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin *leading* to death, or of obedience *leading* to righteousness?”**

In other words, **everybody serves somebody! And a Christian gets to choose!** Think evil thoughts, and chase evil things - let your members pursue a sinful lifestyle, and you'll be a slave to sin. It'll eat your lunch.

Whereas, if you direct your members Godward: *read godly, watch godly, do godly, and think godly* - you'll be the happy servant of a generous and gracious King.

Verse 17, “But God be thanked that *though* you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.” We’re all slaves, either to God or sin.

“I speak in human *terms* because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members *as* slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members *as* slaves of righteousness for holiness. For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness.” To the degree you pursued sin in the past, **now pursue God!** *And Paul is the ultimate example.* Before his salvation he murdered Christians, and persecuted the Church. Yet after he was saved, he was as zealous for Jesus as he’d been against Him.

Some of us should take the energy we once spent raising hell, and use it to populate heaven. If you *partied hearty* then, I hope you *worship hearty* now!

Verse 21, “What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things *is* death.” Looking back, it’s sad we put so much energy into a lifestyle that caused shame and hurt. We were driving down a dead end street. But now that we’ve turned in the right direction, don’t brake or slow. Keep the pedal to the metal. Live all out for Jesus.

“But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end,

everlasting life.” Here’s the life worth living - “holiness” now, and “everlasting life” in the end.

Verse 23, “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

**Romans 6** teaches that we’re **free from sin!** But now in **Romans 7** we learn that we are **free from the Law.** When you come to Jesus you *die to sin*, and you *die to the Law.* And both realizations are *vital to victory.*

Jewish children were reared on the Law of Moses. They read it, studied it, memorized it, and when a boy turned 12 he was “bar mitzvah(ed).” He became a “son of the law.” He was no longer accountable to his earthly father, now He was accountable to God’s Law.

Of course the Law didn't just consist of the two tablets, or Ten Commandments. It was made up of 613 commandments - and the Jews measured their status before God by how they stacked up to all those rules.

Yet living by the Law was like riding a rollercoaster. Up one minute, down the next. Legalism creates a vicious cycle - puffed up, shot down, puffed up, shot down. It created a chronic *syndrome* - a “sin-drome.” And in Chapter 7 Paul writes to Romans living under the Law to get them off the rollercoaster. Moses *laid down the law* in a way that bound us to it, but in Christ we can *lay down the law* in a way that frees us from it.

Chapter 7:1, “Or do you not know, brethren (for I speak to those who know the law), that the law has dominion over a man as long as he lives? For the woman who has a husband

is bound by the law to *her* husband as long as he lives...”

Paul compares living under the Law to a marriage. You’d think since the Law didn’t make us righteous, we could just walk away - *but not so easy*. Like a marriage you can’t just bail. We’re bound to the Law until death does us part!

“But if the husband dies, she is released from the law of *her* husband. So then if, while *her* husband lives, she marries another man, she will be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from that law, so that she is no adulteress, though she has married another man.” Before we came to Christ we were hitched to the Law, and it was a perfect mate!

Ladies, imagine being married to the perfect husband... He wakes up in the morning - not a hair out of place. He smiles and prays, before he drops out of bed and does a 100 push-ups and 200 set-ups. That’s before he serves you a hot, delicious breakfast in bed!

Granted, this might be nice for a while... Until Mr. Perfect starts pointing out ways that you’re not... *you could lose a few pounds... why is he running a white glove over the mantle?...* **Mr. Perfect** is now **Mr. Pest!**

In fact, life with Mr. Perfect could get so bad you might go to court to file for divorce. But the Judge asks, “On what grounds? Forget it, your husband is perfect?”

So you try to *kill him*. You spike his juice with a few spoonfuls of arsenic. Yet Mr. Perfect is so healthy all he gets is a stomach ache. Finally, you conclude the only way to really get free from him is *to kill yourself*.



And living under the roof with legalism is the same as being married to Mr. Perfect - it's frustrating and condemning and there's no way out! The Law is perfect and forever! That's why your only way out is to die! And God took care of that, for *"we died with Christ!"*

Verse 4, *"Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another - to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God."*

In Christ, we're not only *dead to sin*, but *"dead to the law."* The Law has no jurisdiction over a dead man. If I robbed a bank, and in the act I had a heart attack and died, *would the cops still cuff me and book me?* Of course not! The Law doesn't care about a corpse. A dead man is free from the Law, **as we are in Christ.**

And when you die to the Law, you can marry another, namely Jesus! You go from *Perfect Mr. Law* to *Gracious Mr. Love* - and what a difference that makes!

Mr. Love doesn't expect perfection. He doesn't check the house with a white glove. He helps you keep clean. He's patient when you put on a few pounds. There's no *pressure to perform* with Mr. Love! With the Law you've **got-to** obey, but with Love you **get-to** obey.

Verse 5, *"For when we were in the flesh, the sinful passions which were aroused by the law were at work in our members to bear fruit to death."* There's an old saying, *"There are two ways to get something done. Do it yourself or tell your kids not to."* Trust me, if we posted a sign in the church lawn, *"Do*

not throw beer cans on the church lawn!” - The next day we'd look like a frat house after a Georgia game. “Rules are made to be broken.” All rules do is provide the sinner a target.

This is why rather than motivate us to godliness, the Law arouses our sinful passions. What if I commanded you... *whatever you do, don't think of a pink elephant with a blue guitar.* Even though that hasn't crossed your mind all day, *suddenly now you're fighting thoughts of a pink elephant with a blue guitar.* The rule arouses the very temptation it commands you to resist.

In verse 5 Paul uses the term “*flesh*” - your flesh is you apart from Christ. It's you and your efforts. And even when the flesh tries to please God it fails. This is why living under the Law is counterproductive to godliness. It relies on the flesh rather than on grace.

We overcome sin through God's Spirit not the flesh. Paul says, “*But now we have been delivered from the law, having died to what we were held by, so that we should serve in the newness of the Spirit and not in the oldness of the letter.*” The Law held up the standard, but it provided us no ability to live at a higher level. Whereas God's Spirit gives us power outside of ourselves. The Spirit enables us to overcome our sin.

“*What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Certainly not!*” There's nothing wrong with Mr. Law - he's perfect.

And he's helped us in a vital way. Verse 7, “*On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had*

said, *“You shall not covet.”* The Law is a mirror that lets me see my own blemishes. I would never know how far I’d fallen had I not had the Law.

Verse 8, *“But sin, taking opportunity by the commandment, produced in me all manner of evil desire. For apart from the law sin was dead.”* The Law revealed sin, but in so doing it aroused sin. *Its condemnation of sin became my suggestion to sin.*

It reminds me of a waterfront hotel in Houston, Texas. Management had problems with people fishing off the top floors. Some of the high-rise fishermen weren't using long enough line. When they cast their metal lures, the bait hit and broke the glass windows of the first floor restaurant. The Hotel hired an engineer to solve the problem. After a quick survey of the situation the engineer came back with the suggestion, *“Remove the “NO FISHING FROM THE BALCONY” signs.”* And as soon as they did, all the fishing stopped. The Law had stirred the very action it was intended to prevent!

Verse 9, *“I was alive once without the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died. And the commandment, which was to bring life, I found to bring death. For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it killed me.”* Paul recalls his early days as a Christian. He enjoyed living for Jesus, until the demands of the Law slipped back in.

If you want to take the fun out of reading your Bible, adopt a rigid reading plan... To lose the joy of giving, just make it mandatory... Want to turn coming to church into a drag, make

it an *obligation*, not an *opportunity*... Paul says in verse 11 *legalism is lethal*. It's a joy killer.

For fun, my kids use to take rakes into the woods to clear paths and build forts. They'd spent hours *raking pine straw*. But ask those same kids to rake the leaves in my yard, and it was drudgery... Likewise, **when the Law demands us to serve, serving loses its joy!**

Verse 12, **"Therefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good."** The Law isn't the problem. We're the problem. To save us God in His wisdom developed a righteousness *apart from the Law*.

Verse 13, **"Has then what is good become death to me? Certainly not! But sin, that it might appear sin, was producing death in me through what is good, so that sin through the commandment might become exceedingly sinful."** Under the Law **my sin** is the issue in my life. The Law exposes my sin. It casts a spotlight on my sin. It heightens my awareness of my sinfulness.

But under God's grace **the Son** is the issue in my life. It's all about Jesus, not me! It's not about my failures, but His victory. I progress as a Christian not *by fighting with my sin*, but *by following the Son of God*.

*Let me close with an interesting story...* In January 1972, two hunters on the island of Guam, found a World War 2 Japanese soldier named, Shoichi Yokoi.

Yokoi was hiding in a jungle cave. Afraid of capture, he would only come out at night. In 1947 Shoichi had read a flyer dropped by a US plane, declaring America the victor, but he

didn't believe the news. And so he'd spent 25 years fighting a war he didn't know was over.

Sadly, this is the plight of many Christians. **The war inside us is over.** Victory was decided by Jesus on the cross. God's grace worked a miracle in us, and we now share in all Jesus has accomplished. The Christian's inner man is dead to sin and alive to God.

Yet like the soldier if we don't believe the news its impact will be minimal. If you live in a cave of *doubt*, you need to trust in Jesus! Its faith that wins the battle.