

# Looking In The Right Direction

Rom.6:17-18

- **Upward** Look of Thanksgiving
- **Backward** Look of Remembrance
- **Inward** Look of Decision
- **Outward** Look of Appreciation
- **Forward** Look of Duty

The lesson this morning, is entitled “**LOOKING** In The **RIGHT** Direction”.

### Our spiritual views should be focused

- “while we **LOOK**, not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are **not seen**: for the things which are **SEEN** are **TEMPORAL**; but the **things which are NOT seen** are **ETERNAL**.” ([2Cor.4:18](#))

### Salvation should keep us **LOOKING**, five ways

- “**God be THANKED** <sup>(#1)</sup>, that **ye WERE** the servants of sin <sup>(#2)</sup>, but **ye have OBEYED FROM the HEART** <sup>(#3)</sup> that **FORM of DOCTRINE** which was delivered you <sup>(#4)</sup>.  
<sup>18</sup> Being then made **FREE from sin, ye became the SERVANTS of RIGHTEOUSNESS** <sup>(#5)</sup>.” ([Rom.6:17-18](#))

Looking in the Right Direction, includes an,

## I. **Upward Look of Thanksgiving**

- <sup>(#1)</sup> “**GOD BE THANKED**” ([Rom.6:17](#))

### A. **Not Thankful that they had been sinners, but **THANKFUL** for Being **RESCUED** and **CHANGED****

### B. **The Song, “*O Thou Fount of Every Blessing*”, Emphasizes this Upward Look of Thanksgiving**

**The second stanza of the first section, reads,  
"Streams of **MERCY**, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest **PRAISE**"**

- “This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.” (Paul said in [1Tim.1:15](#))
- “For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ **DIED** for the ungodly.” ([Rom.5:6](#))
- “But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ **DIED** for us.” ([Rom.5:8](#))
- “Behold, what manner of **LOVE** the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew Him not.” ([1Jn.3:1](#))
- “My sheep **HEAR** My voice, and I **KNOW** them, and they **FOLLOW** Me: <sup>28</sup> and I **GIVE** unto them eternal **LIFE**; and they shall **NEVER** perish, **NEITHER** shall any man pluck them out of My hand.  
<sup>29</sup> My Father, which gave them Me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of My Father’s hand.” ([Jn.10:27-29](#))
- “to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,” (reads [1Pet.1:4](#))

An Upward Look of Thanksgiving, includes,

### C. Having An Attitude of Gratitude

- “I will **BLESS** the Lord at **ALL times**:  
His **PRAISE** shall continually be **IN** my mouth.  
  
2 My soul shall make her boast **IN** the Lord:  
the humble shall **HEAR** thereof, and be **GLAD**.  
  
3 O **MAGNIFY** the Lord with me,  
and let us **EXALT** His Name **TOGETHER.**” ([Psa.34:1-3](#))
- “**PRAISE** ye the Lord.  
Praise, O ye servants of the Lord,  
praise the **NAME** of the Lord.  
  
2 **BLESSED** be the **NAME** of the Lord  
from this Time forth and for evermore.  
  
3 From the rising of the sun, unto the going down of the same  
the Lord’s **NAME** is to be **PRAISED**.  
  
4 The Lord is high **ABOVE** all nations,  
and His glory **ABOVE** the heavens.” ([Psa.113:1-4](#))
- “My voice, shalt thou **HEAR** in the morning, O Lord;  
in the morning, will I **DIRECT** my prayer unto Thee, and will **LOOK UP.**” ([Psa.5:3](#))

Looking in the Right Direction, includes a,

## II. Backward Look of Remembrance

- (#2) “**YE WERE THE SERVANTS OF SIN**” ([Rom.6:17](#))

### A. Which Is The Only Alternative

- “Know ye not, that **TO WHOM** ye **YIELD yourselves SERVANTS to OBEY**,  
his servants **YE ARE**, to whom ye obey;  
whether of **SIN** unto **DEATH**,  
or of **OBEDIENCE** unto **RIGHTEOUSNESS?**” ([Rom.6:16](#))
- “He that is **NOT with** Me is **AGAINST** Me;  
and he that gathereth **NOT with** Me, scattereth abroad.” ([Matt.12:30](#))

A Backward Look of Remembrance, would include,

### B. **WHEN We Walked In Darkness**

- “For ye **WERE** sometimes darkness,  
but **NOW**, are ye light **IN** the Lord:  
**WALK** as children of **LIGHT:**” ([Eph.5:8](#))
- God “**DELIVERED** us **FROM** the power of darkness,  
and hath **TRANSLATED** us **INTO** the kingdom of His dear Son:” ([Col.1:13](#))

A Backward Look of Remembrance,

### C. WHEN We Were the Servants of the devil

- “Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever **COMMITTETH SIN** is the **SERVANT** of **SIN** (literally a SLAVE to sin).” ([Jn.8:34](#))

A Backward Look of Remembrance,

### D. WHEN Members Were Used for UNrighteousness

- “for **AS** ye have yielded your **MEMBERS**, servants to **UNCLEANNESS**, and to iniquity unto **INIQUITY**; even so **NOW** yield your **MEMBERS**, servants to **RIGHTEOUSNESS** unto **HOLINESS**.” ([Rom.6:19b](#))

Looking in the Right Direction, includes an,

## III. Inward Look of Decision

- (#3) “**YE HAVE OBEYED FROM THE HEART**” ([Rom.6:17](#))

### A. Acceptable Obedience, Involves All Functions of the Heart:

**We Obey With Intellect:** We Obey Intelligently with Understanding

- The apostles were told to, “Go ye therefore, and **TEACH** all nations, **BAPTIZING** them in the **NAME** of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit:” ([Matt.28:19](#))

**We Obey With our Will:** We Obey Voluntarily

- “the Spirit and the bride say, **COME**. And let him that **HEARETH** say, Come. And let him that is **ATHIRST** come. And whosoever **WILL**, let him **TAKE** the water of life freely.” ([Rev.22:17](#))

**We Obey With Emotion:** We Obey Affectionately

- Jesus said, “Thou shalt **LOVE** the Lord thy God with **ALL** thy **HEART**, and with **ALL** thy **SOUL**, and with **ALL** thy **MIND**.” ([Matt.22:37](#))

### B. This Obedience, Sets Us Free From Sin

- “Being then **made FREE** from sin, ye **BECAME** the servants of **RIGHTEOUSNESS**.” ([Rom.6:18a](#))
- “And now why tarriest thou? (that is, why wait) Arise, and **Be Baptized**, and **WASH AWAY** thy sins, calling on the Name of the Lord.” ([Acts 22:16](#))

Obedience sets us free from sin,

**Because we are blood-bought**

- “forasmuch as ye know that ye were **NOT** redeemed **WITH** corruptible things, **AS** silver and gold, **FROM** your vain conversation, **RECEIVED** by tradition from your fathers; <sup>19</sup> **BUT** with the **precious BLOOD** of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.” ([1Pet.1:18-19](#))
- Spiritual Elders, Pastors, Bishops or Shepherds, were told, “Take **HEED** therefore unto **YOURSELVES**, and to **ALL** the **FLOCK**, over the which the Holy Spirit hath **MADE** you **OVERSEERS**, to **FEED** the church of God, which he hath **PURCHASED** with His own **BLOOD**.” ([Acts 20:28](#))

Obedience sets us free from sin,

### Sets us apart, for a special purpose

- The Bible says that Jesus did, "...**SANCTIFY** the people with His own blood..." ([Heb.13:12](#))
- "...**YEILD** your **MEMBERS** servants to righteousness unto **HOLINESS**." ([Rom.6:19c](#))

Obedience sets us free from sin,

### Into a Spiritual Army, for Spiritual Battle

- "Thou therefore **endure** **HARDNESS**, as a **good** **SOLDIER** of Jesus Christ.  
<sup>4</sup> No man that **WARRETH**, entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may **PLEASE HIM**, who hath **CHOSEN** him, to be a **SOLDIER**." ([2Tim.2:3-4](#))
- "**PUT ON** the whole **ARMOUR** of God, that ye may be able to **STAND** **against** the wiles of the devil.  
<sup>12</sup> For we **WRESTLE** not **against** flesh and blood, but **AGAINST** **principalities**, **AGAINST** **powers**, **AGAINST** the rulers of the **darkness** of this world, **AGAINST** spiritual **wickedness** in high places." ([Eph.6:11-12](#))

Obedience sets us free from sin,

### And Therefore SLAVES of Christ

- "He **DIED** for all, that they which live, **should NOT** henceforth **LIVE** unto **THEMSELVES**, **BUT** unto **HIM** which **DIED** for them, and **ROSE** again." ([2Cor.5:15](#))
- "What? **KNOW** ye **NOT**, that your **BODY** is the **TEMPLE OF** the Holy Spirit, which is **IN** you, which ye **HAVE OF GOD**, and ye are **NOT YOUR OWN**? <sup>20</sup> For ye are **BOUGHT** with a **PRICE**: therefore **GLORIFY** God, **IN** your **BODY**, and **IN** your **SPIRIT**, which **ARE GOD's**." ([1Cor.6:19-20](#))

Obedience has set us free from sin,

### SERVING God with ALL our Being

- "For God is my witness, whom **I SERVE** with **MY** spirit, **IN** the gospel of His Son..." ([Rom.1:9](#))

Obedience has set us free from sin,

### For God's Interest

- Paul said, "Of the Jews **FIVE** times received I forty **stripes** save one. <sup>25</sup> **THRICE** was I **beaten** with rods, **ONCE** was I **stoned**, **THRICE** I suffered **shipwreck**, **A NIGHT and A DAY** I have been in the deep; <sup>26</sup> in **JOURNEYINGS** often, in **PERILS** of **waters**, in **PERILS** of **robbers**, in **PERILS** by mine own countrymen, in **PERILS** by the **heathen**, in **PERILS** in the **city**, in **PERILS** in the **wilderness**, in **PERILS** in the **sea**, in **PERILS** among **false brethren**; <sup>27</sup> in **WEARINESS** and **PAINFULNESS**, in **WATCHINGS** often, in **HUNGER** and **THIRST**, in **FASTINGS** often, in **COLD** and **NAKEDNESS**.  
<sup>28</sup> Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, **the CARE** of all the churches." ([2Cor.11:24-28](#))
- "And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might **GAIN** the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might **GAIN** them that are under the law; <sup>21</sup> to them that are without law, as without law, (**being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ**,) that I might **GAIN** them that are without law. <sup>22</sup> To the weak became I as weak, that I might **GAIN** the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means **SAVE SOME**." ([1Cor.9:20-22](#))

Looking in the Right Direction, includes an,

## IV. **Outward Look of Appreciation**

- (#4) For "THAT **FORM OF DOCTRINE WHICH WAS DELIVERED YOU**" ([Rom.6:17](#))

### A. **When the Form is removed from concrete sets;**

**The steps and form are the same in Length, Width, Height, and Depth;**

Similarly,

### B. **The Teaching (or DOCTRINE) is the Pattern (or MOLD).**

- Hearers are to be Changed by the Mold, and Conformed TO it.

### C. **So, What FORM of doctrine was he Speaking of?**

A form of the **Death, Burial & Resurrection**:

- Coupled with Repentance, We **DIE** to sin through a watery grave **OF** Baptism, which is a form of Christ's **DEATH**
- We are **BURIED** with Him, **BY** Baptism, Which is a form of Christ's **BURIAL**
- We are **RAISED** in newness of life, **AFTER** baptism Which is a form of Christ's **RESURRECTION** And a form of **SALVATION** or Eternal **LIFE**
- "Moreover, brethren, I **DECLARE** unto you the **GOSPEL**, which I **PREACHED** unto you, which also ye have **RECEIVED**, and wherein ye **STAND**; <sup>2</sup> by which also ye are **SAVED**, **IF** ye **KEEP** in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

<sup>3</sup> For I **DELIVERED** unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ **DIED** for our sins, according to the scriptures;

<sup>4</sup> and that **HE** was **BURIED**, and that **He** **ROSE** again the third day, according to the scriptures: "[\(1Cor.15:1-4\)](#)"

### D. **The Form, Mold, or Pattern, to which we are to Conform:**

#### **Death WITH Christ**

- "knowing this, that **our old man** is **CRUCIFIED** with Him, that the body of sin might be **DESTROYED**, that henceforth we should **NOT** serve sin." ([Rom.6:6](#))
- "And they that are Christ's have **CRUCIFIED** the flesh, with the affections and lusts." ([Gal.5:24](#))

The Form, Mold, or Pattern, to which we are to conform:

#### **Burial with Christ**

- "Therefore we are **buried** **WITH** Him, **BY** **baptism**, **INTO** **death**:" ([Rom.6:4a](#))

The Form, Mold, or Pattern, to which we are to conform:

#### **Resurrection WITH Christ**

- "that like as Christ was **RAISED UP** from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in **NEWNESS of LIFE**." ([Rom.6:4b](#))
- "For if we have been planted together in the likeness of His death, we shall be also in the likeness of His **RESURRECTION**:" ([Rom.6:5](#))

The Form, Mold, or Pattern, to which we are to conform:

## Appearance in Newness of Life

- “Now if we be Dead **WITH** Christ, we believe that we shall also **LIVE With Him**:  
<sup>9</sup> knowing that Christ being Raised from the dead, Dieth **NO more**;  
death hath no more dominion over Him.  
  
<sup>10</sup> For in that He died, He **DIED** unto sin **ONCE**:  
but in that He Liveth, He **LIVETH** unto God.  
  
<sup>11</sup> Likewise reckon ye also yourselves, to be Dead indeed unto sin,  
but **ALIVE** unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.” ([Rom.6:8-11](#))

## E. Baptized into His Death, benefits –

...Because **IN** His family, We are **UNDER** His Will, and **IN** the Right Relationship, Looking **IN** the Right Direction.  
In Contrast, being in the rich man's family of [Lk. Chapter 16](#), has **ZERO** spiritual, DEATH BENEFITS.

Looking in the Right Direction, includes a,

## V. Forward Look of Duty

- (#5) “**FREE FROM SIN / SERVANTS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**” ([Rom.6:18](#))

## A. Now that We KNOW Who We Are (Bondservants/Slaves), What is Required of Us?

What are we to BE and to DO?

We are **NOT** to Love the world

- “**MORTIFY** therefore your **MEMBERS** which are upon the earth;  
Fornication (or immorality), uncleanness (or impurity), inordinate affection (or passion),  
evil con-cu-pi-scence (or evil desire), and covetousness (or greed), which is idolatry:  
<sup>6</sup> for which things' sake, the **WRATH** of God **COMETH** on the children of **DISOBEDIENCE**:  
<sup>7</sup> in the which ye also walked some time, **WHEN** ye lived **IN** them.  
  
<sup>8</sup> But now ye also **PUT OFF** all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy,  
filthy communication out of your mouth. <sup>9</sup> Lie not one to another,  
seeing that ye have **PUT OFF** the **OLD man** with his deeds;  
<sup>10</sup> and have **PUT ON** the **NEW man**, which is **RENEWED** in **KNOWLEDGE**  
after the image of Him that created Him:” ([Col.3:5-10](#))

What are we to BE and to DO?

**NOT** use any member to sin

- Jesus said, “whosoever **LOOKETH** on a woman to lust after her  
hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.” ([Matt.5:28](#))

The pure heart or purified souls ([1Pet.1:22](#)) **THINKS** on Divine things ([Phil.4:8](#)):

NOW we have the SAME aims, motives, views of life here and hereafter, that the Savior has

- “**IF** ye then be **RISEN** with Christ (referencing our Resurrection with Christ through Baptism),  
**SEEK** those things which are **ABOVE**,  
where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.  
<sup>2</sup> **SET** your **AFFECTION** on things **ABOVE**, not on things on the earth.” ([Col.3:1-2](#))

What are we to BE and to DO?

## B. Blessings which come, From Being A Servant of God:

**FREEDOM:** From practice of sin -- its guilt -- its bondage; From horrible results of it

- “For he that is **DEAD** (that is, dead to sin) is **FREED** from sin.” ([Rom.6:7](#))
- “For sin shall **NOT** have dominion **OVER** you:” ([Rom.6:14a](#))

Blessings which come to servants of God:

**A NEW MASTER** – (Rom.6:11; Acts 27:23; 1Cor.7:22);

- Eyes **SEE** good things;                      Ears **HEAR** good things;
- Tongues **SPEAK** good words;      Hands **DO** good deeds;      Feet **WALK** in the path of peace.

Blessings which come to servants of God:

**A FRUITFUL LIFE**

- “But now being made **FREE** from sin, and become **SERVANTS** to God, ye have your **FRUIT** unto holiness, and the **END**, everlasting LIFE.” ([Rom.6:22](#))
- “the **FRUIT** of the **Spirit** is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,<sup>23</sup> meekness, temperance: **AGAINST** such, there is **NO** law.” ([Gal.5:22-23](#))

Blessings which come to servants of God:

**A HAPPY DESTINY**

- “For the Wages of sin is Death; but the **GIFT** of God is eternal LIFE, through Jesus Christ our Lord.” ([Rom.6:23](#))

This Gives Christians a higher view of death – the "END" is a wonderful beginning! God's creatures, in His world, spiritually feasting on His bounty.

## VI. IN-CONCLUSION

Never forget, Upon us, His marvelous **LOVE** has been bestowed, and unto Him, we must some day give an account.

We are **SERVANTS**, with the right to **CHOOSE** our Master.

### Are We LOOKING In The RIGHT DIRECTION?

- Jesus said, “**NOT** every one that **SAITH** unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; **BUT** he that **DOETH** the will of my Father which is in heaven.” ([Matt.7:21](#))
- Peter said, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” ([Acts 2:38](#))  
Not the Holy Spirit Himself, but that which the Holy Spirit GIVES, the free gift of Salvation, Through the Holy Spirit revealed Word of God (Read [Eph.2:8](#); [2Cor.9:15](#); [Rom.6:23](#); [1Cor.2:10-16](#)).
- “But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.  
<sup>18</sup> Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.” ([Rom.6:17-18](#))

If you have a need, Please COME, as together we stand and sing.

Source: Sermon Outline by Derrel Shaw  
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