

---

## Becoming Christlike – New Testament Application of Old Testament Lessons

### NT 5 – Introduction to Reflexives

In the last two sessions we covered John 12 to set a foundation for what I'm going to talk about with respect to reflexives in the Bible. A reflexive is a grammatical construction in which the noun/subject performs the action of the verb upon himself or herself. These occur repeatedly in Scripture. They are extremely significant and important.

The scriptures also talk about self-control. One of the fruit of the spirit of self-control. It requires self control to carry out our ministry in the body of Christ. People in the world who are not born again really can't exercise self-control and obviously don't.

All we have to do is look at the condition of the world today, and the condition of our country, and we know that is true. Not only is it true from Word, but it is observable as we witness the fruit or consequences of behavior in the world today.

What will bring this series of three teachings together is one on the parable of the sower and what we choose to fill ourselves with.

In John chapter 12, we saw the the necessity for Christ to die. It was only through death that he would bear fruit. This is true of us as well. As we die to self and die to the world we will manifest Christlikeness and bear fruit. It is interesting that the Word says that Christ would be glorified in his death. This is totally contrary to everything in the world that we live in.

As we study the Word we see that man's view of things is frequently turned on its head. The world today does everything in its power to avoid physical death. This life is everything. You have got to grab for all the gusto you can. You have a bucket list and have to fit it all in before you die.

On the spiritual side of things, **Christ said he would be glorified in his death by fulfilling what God had called him to do.**

This section is closely aligned with what we looked at last spring: genuine discipleship, transformation, and growth to maturity. We are still seeking growth and change toward Christlikeness.

We need to continually learn it so we can continue to grow. What could be more important?

Since God's design for us and His desire for us is to be Christlike, shouldn't we focus on learning what God has to say about that? Shouldn't we seek to know what that looks like? Shouldn't we ask, "How do I do it?"

We need repetition in order get truths embedded in our hearts. What is within will win. Once it is within we can live it out.

Frequently I am asked, "Why is this so radical? Why are there so few in history that have actually done this? Why are there so few in Christianity today who live this out? Why is it such a sacrifice?"

The more we learn about the fall of man and the consequences of the fall, the more we realize that it takes obedience to the radical commands of the Word in order to overcome that predicament of our fallen nature.

I can share the scriptures, but we really can't fully grasp and understand them unless we embed the Word in our minds and allow the Spirit of God to work within us so that God can teach us.

Doing so will bless us and enable us to fulfill our ministry, our calling, and to live as disciples, as God has called us to. Our tendency as human beings is to resist, to rebel, and to rationalize our lifestyle. We are prone to make excuses in an attempt to justify what we're doing.

Americanized Christianity thinks that God exists for us and to make our life better, whereas actually we exist for him. Again, everything is upside down when we see what the Word really says!

### *John 13:13*

#### **John 13:13-17**

**13** You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. **14** If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. **15** For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. **16** Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant<sup>e</sup> is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. **17** If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

It sounds very simple. How many people do you know who know a lot of the Word but then actually don't do it?

Our intention is, is to become living epistles, to become the Word for it to be so internalized in our hearts and lives that we actually do it and we look like it. We want to look like the living Word.

When they looked at Christ, what were they supposed to say? He's the living Word. He's the light. He's the son. He's the bread of life. He's the resurrection and the life.

He demonstrates all the attributes of God, his father in practice. He is love. He shows compassion. He shows grace. He is gentle. He forgives. He is truth. He is honest.

"So happy are you if you do them. Blessed are you if you do them."

So if we actually do them, we will be blessed as opposed to what people think, "Oh, I'm going to lose so much if I actually do this, I'm going to lose so much in terms of the life and lifestyle I lead." We simply need to trust God on that and see.

You may think, like I sometime do, "I'm old. I have habit patterns. I'm tired. I just want to rest. Lord, come quickly". But we can't do that! We have eternity awaiting, for goodness sakes. We don't want to be like Esau who who sold his birthright, gave up his inheritance and his rewards, what was rightly his, in order to have satisfaction in a hungry moment. He said, "I'm hungry, who cares? I'm not going to exercise any self-control. I want to eat now. Who cares about the future?"

God wants us to be thinking about eternity and the future. As we've seen in the examples of great men and women throughout the scriptures.

Read Hebrews 11, sometimes called the believer's Hall of Fame...they were all looking forward to what's to come.

I know this is a challenge. It is painful to realize that the world is so corrupt. We know we are not to live for the here and now but for eternity.

That is why we stay in the Word to continually remind ourselves. It can be challenging as we get older to think back at the foolish things we may have done in our 20's, 30's, 50's etc.

Thankfully we have the Word which reminds us of what Christ did for us. The cross. We're forgiven. We're righteous now in His sight. That enables us to move on and not to wallow in guilt and condemnation and waste any time groveling, feeling sorry for ourselves.

### *Reflexives*

And I'm going to do my best to make this topic crystal clear. When we put this topic together the enormity of what Christ accomplished with what the epistles say, we can really live it.

The Gospels talk about what Christ did. If it ended there, our understanding would be so limited because the epistles shed light on what Christ actually accomplished for us.

Reflexives are in use throughout the Word. Soon you will see how important they are.

John 3:16 will lead us into our study of reflexives.

#### **John 3:16**

**16**“For God so loved the world,<sup>i</sup> that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

God so loved **the world**. The fallen, decrepit, decayed, polluted, sinful, deceptive, corrupt world. God could have walked away after Adam and Eve sinned and left them on their own.

But he so loved the world and the people in it, that he gave his only son **his only son**, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

How come it didn't end there? Christ was born, OK mankind is saved! No, God gave his only son. But then what had to happen? His Son had to do what? **He had to give himself.**

There is our first reflexive.

Christ, by his free will, had to carry out the sacrifice of himself. God couldn't force him to do it. Christ had to take it upon himself to know the Old Testament scriptures. He had to know what was said about him. His assignment was to know what he needed to do. He had to have read Isaiah 53 to see what he was going to go through.

He had to have read Psalm 22 to see the incredible suffering that he was going to have to endure.

God did His part of giving His Son. **Then the Son had to give himself.**

And there's another group here involved. After God gave his son and Christ gave himself, **then the recipients are those who believe in him should not perish but have eternal life.**

It is true for each one of us as well! God has given us so many things!

- God-given righteousness because of what Christ accomplished.
- He's given us the Word,
- He's given us the gift of Holy Spirit within us.
- He's given gift ministries in the body of Christ, et cetera.

But it doesn't end there. Then man must respond by his free will to believe and obey. He must take it upon himself to do what God has required and asked him to do in order to get the fruit in his own life. Next the benefit plays out into the body of Christ and into the world.

**16** “For God so loved the world,<sup>1</sup> that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

**17** For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world **might be saved** (free will choice) through him. **18** Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. **19** And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. So God so loved the world.

We know that is the truth. People would rather reject the Word than have the light of the Word shine on their lives.

**20** For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. **21** But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”

So we see that God gave Christ and Christ had to give himself.

### *The Epistles Shed Light on the Gospels*

Now I said that the epistles shed light on what actually happened in the gospels. Let us see some of that right now.

#### **Galatians 1:1**

**1** Paul, an apostle—not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead— **2** and all the brothers<sup>a</sup> who are with me,

God called Paul and others in the 1st century church. It says his in an apostle “a sent one”. God needed some work to be done. He needed a man to do it. God called Paul. What could Paul have done?

Paul might have said, “Yeah, looks a little too challenging for me. I'm educated, I've got a good background. I'm a Roman citizen. Life in the world would be much more comfortable. So thank you very much but find somebody else.”

God needed work to be done. He called Paul. He equipped Paul. However, Paul had to respond by his own free will to carry out what God gave him to do so that the body of Christ would be edified.

**My point is that there are lots of people who are not doing what God has called them to do because they like the world more.**

As we read in Timothy, Dimas had left Paul because having loved this present world, this present age. I know it's challenging, but this is the deal.

**Galatians 1:2-5**

**2** and all the brothers<sup>a</sup> who are with me, To the churches of Galatia: **3** Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, **4 who gave himself (reflexive) for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, 5 to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

Doesn't this just sound like John 3:16?

**God gave his son**, then Christ had **to give himself**, we are told this in the EPISTLES verses 3 and 4 of Galatians, **from God our Father and Lord Jesus Christ.**

Then Christ, who gave himself for our sins, he had to carry it out. Why? To deliver us from this present evil age? We need deliverance from the present evil age. That is how we could have eternal life so we wouldn't perish, as it says in John 3:16.

Do you see how the Epistles shed light on the Gospels and what Christ did? We wouldn't know this fully unless we read the Epistles!

Many people just read the Gospels and say, "OK, look at Christ's example. We have eternal life. We have salvation. Great, let's go play golf, pickle ball, let's go to the movies, let's go see a concert, let's have something to eat, drink, etcetera, and enjoy life."

**But He's delivered us from this present evil age and all that goes with it, so that we too can respond, fulfill our ministry and help others according to the will of God our Father, to whom be glory forever and ever.**

God gave the gift of his Son, His Christ. Then Christ then had to give himself... as tough as it would be... in order to redeem mankind. God's will was accomplished. People are blessed and everybody has the opportunity by free will to accept Christ as Lord.

This also shows up in I Timothy 2.

**I Timothy 2:3,4**

**3** This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, **4** who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

That is God's will. That is God's desire. Is it going to happen? Is it going to play out? How could it possibly play out? First, he desires all people to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth. **Not just saved but come to a knowledge of the truth.**

We've talked about Colossians 1 and God wanting us to grow to maturity. That is what Paul worked for. God desires all people to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth!

## **I Timothy 2:5,6**

**5** For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man<sup>a</sup> Christ Jesus, **6** who **gave himself (reflexive)** as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.

God wanted this to take place. He wants all people to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth. But there had to be a mediator and we can see God's role and then Christ's role. He had to do this himself. **He gave himself as a ransom for all**, which is the testimony given at the proper time.

And we can see this pattern throughout. God has His role. Human beings have their role. It's not going to happen unless we do what God has instructed us to do. He knows it is for our good, for the benefit of mankind, for His purposes, and it's all good.

God's will is is good.

However, the tendency of human beings is to resist, to reject because we want to hold on to what we can see, what we can feel, what we can taste, what we can touch, what we can experience right NOW.

So this is true.

Look at Ephesians chapter 4.

I mentioned all the gifts that God has given. What do we do with them? We don't want, we don't want to forfeit our opportunity to carry out what God's called us to do.

## **Ephesians 4:11-13**

**11** And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds<sup>c</sup> and teachers,<sup>d</sup>

God gave these ministries to people in the church. Could each of them say, "You know what? I don't really feel like doing this. There are other better things to do." Sure they could!

This underscores again God's role and man's role. Each one has to believe and carry out what they're equipped to do, and then others will be blessed.

**12** to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, **13** until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood,<sup>e</sup> to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,

The purpose of these apostles, prophets, evangelists, shepherds and teachers is to equip the saints for the work of ministry for the building up the body of Christ until we all attain to the unity of faith and knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood.

I am trying to emphasize free will and what we do with the knowledge of the Word that we have. Do we actually DO it? If we do we will see the fruit.

Now since you're in Ephesians, let's go to Ephesians chapter 5. I'm covering Christ 1st and His reflexives and then as a pattern, as an example, then what we need to do.

And we're going to look at many of the reflective constructions in the New Testament to show what we need to do in order to carry out what God's called us to do.

### **Ephesians 5:1**

**1** Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. **2** And walk in love, as Christ loved us and **gave himself up for us**, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Think now... all the way back to Genesis 1. We were created to reflect God's nature, his attributes, his characteristics as children of the Father. Because of the fall that was short-circuited, **God has made it possible for us to do it again because of Christ in us.**

So be imitators of God as beloved children. Here He gave the example and walk in love. What does that look like? **As Christ loved us and gave himself up for us.**

So there is a third time! He gave himself up for us.

He performed the self-sacrificial action as a result of love and because of what it would do in terms of being obedient and blessing God. It would also bless the billions who would have the opportunity to believe. For us and for them, he gave himself up as a fragrant offering and a sacrifice to God.

Now what did Christ have to do with himself, with his mind, with his heart, in order to give himself and carry this out?

Look at this! This is so fantastic! Another example of an Epistle shedding additional light on what Christ did in terms of "giving himself". This too is setting a pattern for us to do the same. We are able to do this because we have Christ in us. You talk about gifts!

### **Philippians 2:2-3**

**2** complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.

Where have you ever seen that in any church that you know of? Same mind, same love, full accord. One mind. It's possible. How does it happen?

Each individual then needs to do what follows and what a joy personally, as a body of believers and rejoicing to God and example to the world of the Word of actually living it out.

Recall that Christ said in John 13:14 "they'll know you're my disciples by the love you have for one another."

**3 Do nothing** from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves

You mean I'm not supposed to be living for myself because it says do nothing? I'm just reading to you what's in the scripture? Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit.

That would take a miracle! Yes, it would take a miracle, that miracle of the new birth with Christ in us, the hope of glory and the enablement to walk by the new nature.

OK, do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.

I mean, in reality, the people that you interact with on a daily basis. Do you see anybody counting others more significant than themselves? It is possible.

By the way, the Word is not written for the unbelievers, and the epistles cannot be understood by unbelievers. They can't understand it. We know that from Corinthians. The Epistles are written primarily for the believers as a body on how to live in relationship with one another.

#### **Philippians 2:4-7**

**4** Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others

We know we have to get the car taken care of. We got to get the house taken care of. We got to get groceries. **Don't look only on your own interests, but also to the interests of others.**

**5** Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,<sup>a</sup> Have this mind among yourselves, Not just you individually, but in the body of Christ and this thinking and this practice and this heart in relationship with one another.

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus. How exciting is that?

We have the mind of Christ that says in Corinthians, because we have the Spirit of God in us. We have Christ in us. Now we simply has have to learn how to access that, how to utilize that which is what we're going to be doing in the sessions to come.

What a privilege and opportunity to have the the chance to live this way.

**6** who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,<sup>b</sup> **7 but emptied himself (reflexive)**, by taking the form of a servant,<sup>c</sup> being born in the likeness of men.

Here is another reflexive **but emptied himself** by taking the form of a servant being born in the likeness of men.

So equality with God was not a thing to be grasped in his position as the Son of God, with the rights and privileges that come along with that. He didn't view it as a thing to be grasped or to use to his own advantage. He didn't take advantage of the fact that he was the Son of God.

Instead he **emptied himself, which is something he had to do with his own mind**. He knew well what was available to him when he said, "Don't you think I could call upon my father and get 10 legions of angels right now to save me, protect me, and not have to go through this?"

He could have, but out of love for his Father and love for others he did not. We see the First Commandment here in practice: Love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength and love your neighbor as yourself.

Christ did this for the sake of God, in obedience and for the many who would follow. He did not use his position to his own advantage, **but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant**.

Just as we saw in John chapter 13, when he washed the feet of the others. He was a servant, being born in the likeness of men, and being found in human form, **he humbled himself**, reflexive. God didn't make him do it. People didn't make him do it. It had to come from within, from his knowledge of the Word, of his identity, of his purpose, of his calling.

He gave himself. We read three places.

How did he give himself? How did he carry this out?



### **Philippians 2:8-11**

**8** And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

**He emptied himself and he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.**

This is why we laid the foundation with two sessions on John, chapter 12. He said he had to die, then there would be fruit thereafter. He said, if you want to follow me, you have to be where I am. It says in the Gospels we have to pick up our own cross and follow him.

We have to **deny ourselves**, reflexive, and follow him. We are to follow him all the way to the cross. We are to crucify the flesh with its affections and lusts as it says in Galatians so that we can be like him.

We just read in Galatians 5 that we are to be imitators of God and of Christ.

We too can **give ourselves, we can empty ourselves, we can humble ourselves** and become obedient to the point of death, not our physical death, but death to self.

We can actually live this out. This is this is so magnificent in the Word!

Then what happens?

**9** Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,

Because he did that, God has highly exalted him. The exaltation came following what? He had emptied himself. He had humbled himself. He was looking forward to the future and what it would accomplish. He was not thinking about comfort in his then current life!

**10** so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, **11** and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah for what Christ accomplished!

The pattern is set for us so that with Christ in us we can do the same. **He gave himself. He emptied himself, he humbled himself, he made himself. (It says somewhere else.) We can actually do the same.**

### ***Old Testament Example of this Same Pattern***

This pattern shows up in the Old Testament as well. It has always been the case that anyone who is going to walk for God and be obedient is going to have to subject themselves and submit themselves to God's will over their own will.

We know that God loves us. He has our best interests at heart. He wants us to carry out His will not only for ourselves, but for the sake of Him and for others. So we trust Him. We take Him at His Word and then do it.

In the Old Testament, you don't see a lot of success with this. They did not have the advantage that we have of Christ in us, who did these things that we just read about in Philippians: gave himself, emptied himself, humbled himself, made himself.

## 2 Chronicles 30

This is the record about Hezekiah. We will see a group of people actually did this with fruit.

The context from 2 Chronicles 29 is that Hezekiah was reigning in Judah. His reign began when when he was 25 years old, and he reigned 29 years. He cleansed the temple. He was one of the good kings in Judah. He restored temple worship, the feasts, etcetera.

### **2 Chronicle 30:6**

**6** So couriers went throughout all Israel and Judah with letters from the king and his princes, as the king had commanded, saying, "O people of Israel, return to the Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, that he may turn again to the remnant of you who have escaped from the hand of the kings of Assyria.

In terms of the timetable here we know that Assyria had already defeated the northern 10 tribes of Israel, and they wanted to also defeat and take captive Judah.

But Hezekiah stood for the Lord and stood strong and miraculous things happened. They were saved from Assyria.

**7** Do not be like your fathers and your brothers, who were faithless to the Lord God of their fathers, so that he made them a desolation, as you see.

There are many instances in the scriptures where it says, "now you will know" if you read Ezekiel. I think it's 65 times... you'll see the consequences, then you will know that it's the Lord your God and it's His Word.

Wouldn't it be better to actually be obedient and see fruit than have to learn by hitting bottom? I've learned this by experience. Perhaps you have as well.

Most of us have countless times in our lives when we haven't adhered to what we know the Word says, and then we suffer the consequences. Then we cry out to God and say, "God forgive me!" He does, of course, and He has forgiven us in Christ. We remember that we are righteous, and we move forward.

Here in the Old Testament Hezekiah's plea was, "Don't be like your fathers and brothers who were faithless to the Lord God of their fathers."

**8** Do not now be stiff-necked as your fathers were **but yield yourselves** to the Lord and come to his sanctuary,

**But yield yourselves**, there we have that reflexive construction. You, by your free will, you decide based on what you know and what you believe.

**"you yield yourself"** to the Lord and come to His sanctuary. Because you yield yourself, you're actually going to take action.

which he has consecrated forever, and serve the Lord your God, that his fierce anger may turn away from you.

If people today could only read the Bible and know that we see in the Old Testament there were the blessings and cursings of the law. They experienced the cursings and because of their disobedience. They suffered for it.

When they would turn to God and obey, they would receive a blessing. We have the the coming of Christ and what he accomplished and forgiveness of sins.

But we also know that if people reject you can read forward then in the Book of Revelation and we see the wrath of God played out on arrogance, stiff necked, hard hearted, disobedience, unyielding.

If people would just wake up and read the scriptures and see this is going to take place so they would cry out to that God. We started today with John 3:16 so people don't perish but can have eternal life.

Pride and arrogance will always keep people from believing the Word.

We saw that Christ modeled (the opposite of pride and arrogance), humility. He humbled Himself, which was his decision. Each of us makes decisions on a daily basis when confronted with what we feel like doing, or what we want to do, versus what we know what the Word says.

When we deal with that, confront it, we humble ourselves and become obedient to the Word rather than my flesh or my inclinations or what my neighbors are doing or what the world says is fine.

“yield yourselves to the Lord and come to his sanctuary”

The Word “yield” simply means to “to give, to surrender.”

So you give yourself to the Lord. Doesn't that sound familiar? Like Christ gave himself, we are to give ourselves. They gave themselves, yielded themselves to the Lord, and came to a sanctuary which is consecrated forever and serve the Lord your God.

**8** Do not now be stiff-necked as your fathers were, but yield yourselves to the Lord and come to his sanctuary, which he has consecrated forever, and serve the Lord your God, that his fierce anger may turn away from you. **9 For if you return to the Lord**, your brothers and your children will find compassion with their captors and return to this land. For the Lord your God is gracious and merciful and will not turn away his face from you, if you return to him.”

If you return to the Lord, there's that “if” again. You see throughout the New Testament the construction of “if anyone”, and it's up to us again. I'm emphasizing free will.

**9 For if you return to the Lord**, your brothers and your children will find compassion with their captors and return to this land. For the Lord your God is gracious and merciful and will not turn away his face from you, if you return to him.”

Old Testament Wonderful Record.

**10** So the couriers went from city to city through the country of Ephraim and Manasseh, and as far as Zebulun, but they laughed them to scorn and mocked them. **11** However, some men of Asher, of Manasseh, and of Zebulun humbled themselves and came to Jerusalem. **12**

The hand of God was also on Judah to give them one heart to do what the king and the princes commanded by the word of the Lord.verse 10.

Oh you think, Oh my gosh, it's so horrible. How could anyone do that? Well, it happens every day here, doesn't it? People who speak the Word tell the truth. The culture laughs and mocks and holds up for ridicule, and that's part of what we have to deal with as believers in a fallen world.

Paul told Timothy. Look, those who live godly in Christ are going to suffer persecution. It just goes with the territory. Why? It's a fallen world. The devil is the God of this age.

I John 5:19 says that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

This is what we've been delivered out of, rescued out from. We are living in a new Kingdom, the Kingdom of God.

**10** So the couriers went from city to city through the country of Ephraim and Manasseh, and as far as Zebulun, but they laughed them to scorn and mocked them. **11** However, some men of Asher, of Manasseh, and of Zebulun **humbled themselves** and came to Jerusalem..

There is that reflexive again. Sounds like what we read in Philippians 2. The same principles are on display throughout history, from the Old Testament to the New.

In the Old Testament it was so difficult for them. We have the advantage of having Christ within us. The pivot point is our mind and what we decide by our free will to do.

Do we want to yield ourselves?

Do we want to give ourselves?

Do we want our humble ourselves?

**12** The hand of God was also on Judah to give them one heart to do what the king and the princes commanded by the word of the Lord.

Hallelujah, what a great thing and a great time. Hezekiah simply stood out in the Old Testament. Skip down to verse 18..

For Hezekiah had prayed for them, saying, "May the good Lord pardon everyone **19** who sets his heart to seek God, the Lord, the God of his fathers, even though not according to the sanctuary's rules of cleanness." **20** And the Lord heard Hezekiah and healed the people.

What a what a glorious day. What encouragement for all of us as well to see that they were able to do this in the Old Testament and we have the decided advantage of Christ in us, and the Word written in our heart! We can live it out.

### **Romans 6:12,13**

**12** Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. **13** Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but **present yourselves** to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.

Don't present yourself! This is a freewill choice. Do not present your members. Why do we have members? Arms, legs, fingers, feet, toes, eyes, ears, nose. We don't present our members to sin

as instruments for unrighteousness, but *reflexive*: **pesent yourselves** to God or **yield yourselves**. Other translations say yield yourselves.

Present yourself. Give yourself to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments of righteousness.

What an opportunity for each of us to realize and make this a reality in our life. We've been brought from death to life. Now utilize your human body, which now has Christ in it, the spirit of God in it, holy spirit and enablements. Your body equipped. Now yield your members to God as instruments for righteousness.