

## **Soul Ownership!**

### **Part 2: "It holds us together!"**

**"We know we were made for *so much more* than ordinary lives... It's time for us to *more than just survive...We were made to thrive!*"**

**There is no greater experience in living with God than coming to the place where we know and willingly give ourselves to be wholly owned by Him!**

**Toward the point... *No matter how we are affected by our times we will NOT BE REDIRECTED!*** Going to move forward because Jesus overcame the world for us! **J16.33** "We are no longer overcome of evil but overcome evil with good!" **R12.21** "And this is the victory that overcomes the world, even our faith in Him!" **1J5.4,5** "Nothing is able to separate us from Him because in all things we have been made more than conquerors thru Him!" **R8.37** "I go to My Father... but I will not leave you comfortless... I will pray the Father and He will send you another Comforter to abide in you forever..." **J14.1-18** "It is best for you if I go to My Father! If I don't go, the Comforter will not come, but if I go I will send Him to you!" **J16.7** "And you were sealed by Him who is the upfront deposit until the time of redeeming the purchased possession!" **Eph 1.13,14** Don't you know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? **1Cor3.16** "What? You didn't know that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost who is in you, whom you have received from God, and you are not your own? You have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which belong to God." **1Cor6.19,20**

**These are ownership verses...** He is the Land-Lord! Purchased the real estate! Possessor! We who were slaves to sin, have now been purchased by our acceptance of the Cross! On one level, the "huios", adopted sons/daughters... **Rom 8.14** On another, the "doulos", slaves of God. To become the "kleronomos," the heirs of God! **Eph 4.6,7** The early disciples understood, loved and touted the concept!

**We are sons/daughters by new birth... but without ever becoming His "slaves" we will never have our full inheritance here!**

**What earthly inheritance...** If we live the balance of our (saved) lives in the flesh (christianizing) the lusts of men, to fulfill them, and not to do the will of God?" If we do not live to proclaim the gospel to the people of our world and no one gets saved? If we continue to say, "I'm going to do this and that, I will it, Lord bless it...?"

**Until we are His very own, and living for His will, we will never know the richness of life He planned for us!**

**So we took our study to the greatest ownership text in the Bible... *The Lord is my Shepherd!***

**The Lord is my shepherd...** The Good Shepherd, who laid down His life for the sheep, to take it back up again, to go before us... And I am His wholly owned sheep... Casting all my care on Him because He cares perfectly well for me... Following Him wherever He leads... including the valley of the shadow of death... Knowing that if I am there with Him, I am absolutely ok!

**If I face the valley of the shadow of death with Him... *as wholly owned...*** (because we can be facing shadows of death for other reasons) Then I am there for instruction, observation, humility, and helpfulness... And He is working all things together for my good, for others, and His good pleasure! No matter where I find myself, being wholly owned is the guarantee of a good outcome!

**Slavery Asides... As Americans we hate "slavery!" *Country founded on fighting the slavery of England...*** American Revolution... "War of independence!" **Experienced the Civil War because of it...** As America developed it's push west... The slavery issue pushed to the front... Hundreds of thousands died/freedom! **Civil rights in America has always been central to our lives...** We distrust the nature, agendas, existence of "Dictators/Sovereign's!" **(Even God)**

**As Christians, we “fear” slavery!** “By one man’s offense we were made sinners and sin reigned to death!” **R5.19-21** “As slaves of sin we were free from righteousness, but free from sin we became slaves of righteousness!” **R6.18,20** “We have been taught that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, while waiting for the glorious appearing of Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity!” **Titus 2.12-14** We’re not going back into *bondage*... But remember that the same guy who penned: “You did not receive the *spirit of slavery to fall back into fear* but Have received the Spirit of adoption which is why we now cry, Abba Father!” **R8.17** Wrote: “And you have turned to God from idols to give yourself up to serve the living and true God!” **1Th 1.9**

***We are adopted sons and daughters who have willingly made ourselves subject in all things to God!***

**So when we talk about being counted as slaves to God... It is a good thing...** Based on a good God... who would have to give up His throne if He did any harm to any who have entrusted themselves! He never takes away things from us to dominate and diminish us... But to clear the way for “life abundant!” A prosperity that only comes by “Soul Ownership!”

**The Lord is my shepherd...** It’s how the early disciples identified themselves! “My name is Paul, a “wholly owned slave of God!” **R1.1 Gal 1.10 Titus 1.1 James Jam1.1, Peter 2Pet1.1, John Rev 1.1, Epaphrus Col 4.12, all slaves!** Is how they lived, survived and thrived!

**LET’S TRY TO FIND OUT IF THAT’S RHETORIC OR REALITY!**

**Paul... How is it that he gave up “everything” to become the sent one to the gentiles?** “I am ready to be bound and to die for the name of the Lord Jesus!” **Acts 21.13** “I count all things loss for the excellency of knowing Him, I have allowed the loss of all things and count them as waste to be found in Him in His righteousness, in the fellowship of His sufferings, leaving everything behind to press forward in Him and I pray that as many of you as are maturing to think the same things! **Ph 3.1-15**

**How did he endure “everything” to be obedient to His “Sender?”** “The love of Christ holds us together because if He died for us then we shouldn’t live for ourselves but for Him... as new creatures given a ministry of reconciliation... as ambassadors for Him... as working together with Him... commending ourselves as His servants, with much endurance, in afflictions, needs, distress, beatings, imprisoned, instability, hard labor, sleeplessness, hunger, remaining pure, obtaining knowledge, enduring with mankind, operating in kindness. With the Holy Spirit, with genuine love, by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness, in honor and dishonor, called evil and good, called liars and true, as unknowns and well-knowns, as dying and still living, chastened and not killed, as sad yet always rejoicing, poor and rich, having nothing but possessing everything... separated by God, Father to us as sons and daughters...” **2Cor 5.14-6.18**

**Just one “working” list... of real life hardships he was able to endure because he was wholly owned! Not one rhetorical experience... each one a real life “shadow of death...” and it made no difference to him! He got up every morning because he was wholly owned and went and did whatever it was the Lord asked!**

**2 Corinthians 4.1-18** Seeing we have this ministry we don’t faint... we have left it all behind to walk in honesty as slaves to Jesus Christ whom we present... He put His treasure in us to show His excellency; look... troubled on every side we are not distressed, perplexed but not in despair, persecuted but not forsaken, thrown down but not broken! We display His dying so that His life is evident in us too. We are delivered to death so that His life might shine. Our afflictions are light and momentary because we can see the unseen things!

**Life explodes around Paul but there’s a huge difference between being in the blast and driving thru the blast zone!**

**“Though I walk thru the valley (still alive!) of the shadow of death I will fear no evil because You are with me... My Shepherd!” And it’s the difference between “OMG how much more can you ask of me?” And, “My Lord and my God!!!”**