

3-5 – Salvation is by grace through faith in the merits of Christ (life, death, burial and resurrection of the God-man).

6-8 – God has made provisions for us to live as Christ by way of our new standing in Him (6), new nature (7) and indwelling Holy Spirit (8).

If we do not take advantage of what is cited in 6, 7 & 8, the flesh nature will win out! By the way, it is in most Christian's lives.

**Illustration!** Let's say before you were saved you only had AM reception. But when you got saved you also got FM station. The AM band would speak of your fallen nature, while the FM speaks of your new nature. You decide every morning which frequency you are going to tune into according to whether or not you have morning devotions.

How are you going to remember all this information? First of all, just remember this: become a student of the word of God afresh – especially of the gospel and the Christ of the gospel; secondarily, review these handouts and the sermons and by way of their recording.

As you get into the word of God and above all else, look for Christ, you will be infused with more grace. As you get more grace, you will have more faith (Acts 20:32; Romans 10:17). The more reliance the more you will be able to reckon on being dead, buried and risen with Christ.

**READ:** Colossians 3:1-17ff

### **Summarization**

Living in the flow (title of this message) means you are daily carried along by the current of the river of the Spirit from on high because you take up your cross **daily** – that is, you identify with what Christ did for you on the cross (Luke 9:23).

## **BREAKTHROUGH CHRISTIANITY**

### **“Living in the Flow”**

“He brought us out from thence, that he might bring us in” Deut. 6:23

### **Review**

*We have talked about why Christians plateau – level out in their Christian experience – indifference, ignorance and interference.*

*We have shown all three of these reasons for “plateauing” result in an identity crisis – are we going to identify with Adam or Christ?*

*Then we talked about the need to “seek those things which are above” if we are going to breakthrough to new levels.*

*From there we looked at the Apostle Paul as an example of someone who never “plateaued” – who always pressed on to greater spiritual heights.*

*We laid the final ground work for tonight's message by showing it is an ever deepening grasp of the gospel that will keep our past from holding us back.*

*Tonight, the pulling together of all we talked about and the acting upon it.*

### **Introduction**

**READ:** Deuteronomy 6:18-23.

The Jordan River represented death to self. To cross it, meant the Jewish soldiers were putting their lives, and their wives and children wholly in the hands of God.

Because the river was overflowing its banks, there was no retreat once they crossed.

The enemy perceived they were invaders.

God said they were appropriators!

**Enter into the drama of that day!**

From the city of Adam all the way to the Dead Sea, the river bed suddenly dried up. (This was a similar miracle as what God had done for their fathers with the Red Sea.)

The Old Testament record **greatly enlivens New Testament concepts** that we might more fully appreciate them (Rom. 15:4, II Cor. 10:1-4)!

The parallel analogy to the Jordan River of the Old Testament is water baptism of the New Testament. The Jews having been delivered from Egypt were not to have spent 40 years in the wilderness **wondering, wandering and whining.**

It is interesting that John baptized in the Jordan. In doing so, he was obviously separating himself from the ceremonial washings of various sects of the Jews, as well as the Temple polluted by the practices of a largely corrupt priesthood.

John was also echoing the a basic principle in progressing in the Christian life – growing in grace.

Yes, the Jordan River was one of few sources of wilderness water, but the Sea of Galilee would have been a real alternative, or he could have prepared a pool of his own by diverting water from any of several sources.

Because baptism pictures the believer **identifying** with the death, burial and resurrection of Christ, the New Testament believer is in much the same position, practically speaking, as the Jews were when they reckoned on God in going down into and coming out across the Jordan.

In other words, **God did not bring Israel out of Egypt just to bring them out!** He also wanted more for them than wilderness life! He wanted them in the land! The promise land!

The fruits, springs and minerals of the promise land picture God's gracious New Testament provisions in the power of the Spirit – the fruit (results of the inner workings) of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23).

**SEE:** Deuteronomy 6:11, 8:7-9.

### **I. REASONING.**

**READ:** Romans 12:1-2. That is, based upon what Romans 1-11 teaches, it makes no sense to not do what Romans 12:1-2 says. If we do not, it is because of what Romans 12:3 says.

### **II. REALIZING.**

Realizing intellectually and then experientially what it means to be in Christ – in His life, death, burial, resurrection and ascension to the right hands of God on high.

### **III. RECKONING.**

**READ:** Romans 6:1-11.

What does it mean to reckon? It means to calculate, rely upon, count on, or to regard as true or a fact. It means to act on in thinking and acting.

We reckon on any number of things each and every day. Light switches, car keys, road maps, labels, bridges, restaurants, etc.

Here, in Romans 6, it especially means to believe that when Christ died and rose from the dead He did for you in such a way, that in the eyes of God, so did you!

**Flow of Romans that leads into chapter 6:**

1-2 – All men are guilty of violating God's holiness – have broken His law – and need to repent and be saved – the Barbarian, Cultured and Jew.