

**"The Doctrine of Sanctification"**

**Romans 5:12-8:13**

**Part 7**

**Introduction:** Last week in our study of Romans we were in Romans 6 and it is in this chapter that we are looking at the Doctrine of Sanctification and to be more specific we are looking at The Illustration of Sanctification. Here in chapter 6 Paul is illustrating to his readers that as believers they can no longer live in sin as they did before they were saved. He has explained here that we who are saved have been saved FROM sin and saved TO a life of righteousness. When God saved us He not only saved us from the penalty of sin, but He also saved us from the POWER of sin. It is in this chapter that we discover how God did this.

**Notice Romans 6:1-2**

Here in verses 1 and 2 we see that while we are under the grace of God and all our sin is covered by grace that we are not to continue in a life of sin because now we are dead to sin. We have looked at this thought the past two weeks, but I will remind you again that as believers it is impossible to live like we did before we were saved. We CANNOT have the same relationship with the sin nature that we did before we were saved because now that we are saved we are dead to sin/dead to the sin nature. Paul then goes on to explain how this death happened.

**Notice Romans 6:3**

When we were saved we were immediately baptized into the body of Jesus Christ. This does not refer to water baptism, but this refers to the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

**1 Corinthians 12:12-14**

<sup>12</sup> *For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.*

<sup>13</sup> *For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.*

<sup>14</sup> *For the body is not one member, but many.*

**Galatians 3:26-28**

<sup>26</sup> *For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.*

<sup>27</sup> For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

<sup>28</sup> There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

The moment we were saved the Holy Spirit baptized/placed us into the body of Jesus Christ. When that happened on the day of salvation the cross of Jesus Christ was applied to our lives because we became ONE with Him and on that day we all died. When we became ONE with Jesus Christ it was on that day we died to the old sin nature.

### Romans 6:6

<sup>6</sup> 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.

### Notice Romans 6:4

In Romans 6:4 Paul calls upon his readers to live in newness of life because IN CHRIST we are dead to sin. In the Bible DEATH means separation and therefore when we were saved we were SEPERATED from the power of sin. IN CHRIST we died to sin. We are no longer IN ADAM, but we are IN CHRIST.

This now brings us to where we are tonight in our study.

## I. The Illustration of Sanctification

Romans 6:1-8:1

Part 3

### Notice Romans 6:5

Here in this verse Paul now explains why we are expected to live in newness of life. He reasons that if we were baptized into the death of Jesus Christ then we can be sure that we have been resurrected with Him also.

Now it is important in this verse for us to look closely at the words "**PLANTED TOGETHER**". Let me show you how Vines defines this phrase:

*"united with Him," indicating the union of the believer with Christ in experiencing spiritually "the likeness of His death."*

The idea here is that when we placed our faith in Jesus Christ and we were saved we became ONE with Him. So, this means that the very power which raised Jesus Christ from the grave lives within each one of us and so we have the power to say, "NO" to sin. The life

of Jesus Christ now lives in each one of us who know Him as Savior. Let me give you an illustration that will help you to see this.

Let us imagine that Adam was a crab apple tree and we were branches on the tree of Adam before salvation. As we made our way through life all we could do was to bear bitter crab apples. It was the life of Adam that flowed through us and it was impossible for us to bear any fruit that was righteous. Then one day we accepted Jesus Christ as Savior and when we did God cut us away from the tree of Adam and He grafted us into Christ. Now we are dead to Adam because we have been CUT OFF and now instead of the life of Adam flowing through us we have the life of Christ flowing through us.

**John 15:4-5**

<sup>4</sup> *Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.*

<sup>5</sup> **I am the vine, ye are the branches:** *He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.*

Before we were saved we were controlled by the sin nature and our sinful acts were proof of that. But now that we are in Christ we no longer need to be controlled by sin. Now we have a choice. We have been born again and now if we sin it is because we choose to do so because we now have the power within us to say, "NO" to sin. If a believer says, "I cannot stop sinning" they are really saying, "I DO NOT WANT TO STOP SINNING". Sin for the believer is now a choice.

This new life that flows through is known as, "WALKING IN THE POWER OF THE THIRD DAY". That means walking in the resurrection power of Jesus Christ. There are several places in God's Word where we can see a picture of this new life. One of those pictures is seen in the book of Esther. Let us step into a conversation between Mordecai and Esther through a messenger.

**Esther 4:7-16**

<sup>7</sup> *And Mordecai told him of all that had happened unto him, and of the sum of the money that Haman had promised to pay to the king's treasuries for the Jews, to destroy them.*

<sup>8</sup> *Also he gave him the copy of the writing of the decree that was given at Shushan to destroy them, to shew it unto Esther, and to declare it unto her, and to charge her that she should go in unto the king, to make supplication unto him, and to make request before him for her people.*

<sup>9</sup> And Hatach came and told Esther the words of Mordecai.

<sup>10</sup> Again Esther spake unto Hatach, and gave him commandment unto Mordecai;

<sup>11</sup> All the king's servants, and the people of the king's provinces, do know, that whosoever, whether man or women, shall come unto the king into the inner court, who is not called, there is one law of his to put him to death, except such to whom the king shall hold out the golden sceptre, that he may live: but I have not been called to come in unto the king these thirty days.

<sup>12</sup> And they told to Mordecai Esther's words.

<sup>13</sup> Then Mordecai commanded to answer Esther, Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the king's house, more than all the Jews.

<sup>14</sup> For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?

<sup>15</sup> Then Esther bade them return Mordecai this answer,

<sup>16</sup> Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink **three days**, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and **if I perish, I perish.**

The Jews were under a death sentence and Mordecai sent word to Esther. Esther stood in a position as the Queen to cause the king to write a new decree to save the Jews. So, Mordecai encouraged Esther to go in to the king and request that something be done. But Esther was fearful because without being summoned into the king's presence she faces the risk of death. Mordecai reminder Esther that she may have been in the position of queen for such a time as this. Esther was hesitant, but she finally surrendered. She told Mordecai to gather the Jews and fast for THREE days and on the THIRD DAY she would enter the king's presence. Now it was the sin nature in Esther that desired to live for herself, but she finally reached the point where she denied the desires of the sin nature and on the THIRD DAY she would enter the king's presence and we can be sure she was denying the flesh for she said, "IF I PERISH I PERISH".

This is a picture of what it is to walk in the THIRD DAY power or the resurrection power. When Esther denied the flesh, she becomes a picture of what we must do to have victory over the sin nature. We must refuse to allow the flesh to have its way and we must die to

the flesh. It is only then that we are able to walk in the resurrection power. Let us remember that we have a choice, either we will be controlled by the flesh or by the Holy Spirit within us. In order to have victory over sin we MUST deny the flesh and we can do so because we have been crucified with Christ.

The flesh will only be defeated by the cross. If a believer thinks they can defeat the flesh by living under stricter rules or by relocating to escape a temptation or by being determined to live better by their own power, they will soon find out that none of these are the answer. We must realize that our flesh has been crucified on the cross with Jesus Christ and it is only the cross that will defeat the flesh. There is a picture of this in the book of Exodus.

When Israel came out of Egypt the very first battle they encountered was with Amalek. Israel is a picture of the believer and coming out of Egypt is a picture of the believer's salvation for they were set free from bondage. Amalek is a picture of the sin nature which is what we battle with immediately after we are saved. Now let us notice the battle.

**Exodus 17:8-9**

*<sup>8</sup> Then came Amalek, and fought with Israel in Rephidim.*

*<sup>9</sup> And Moses said unto Joshua, Choose us out men, and go out, fight with Amalek: to morrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in mine hand.*

*<sup>10</sup> So Joshua did as Moses had said to him, and fought with Amalek: and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill.*

*<sup>11</sup> And it came to pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed: and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed.*

*<sup>12</sup> But Moses hands were heavy; and they took a stone, and put it under him, and he sat thereon; and Aaron and Hur stayed up his hands, the one on the one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun.*

*<sup>13</sup> And Joshua discomfited Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword.*

Israel gained victory over Amalek when Moses held up his hands. His arms grew tired, so he was assisted by Aaron and Hur. One on the left and one on the right. They held up the hands of Moses and Israel gained the victory. When Aaron and Hur aided Moses it created a picture of the Calvary when Jesus died with the two thieves on either side. The point here in Exodus is that we see a picture of how the flesh is conquered only by the cross.

Notice Romans 6:6

The word "**DESTROYED**" here in verse 6 does not mean the sin nature no longer exists. Notice the definition of the word;

*"to render idle, unemployed, inactivate, inoperative" ...*

The idea is that the cross has made the flesh powerless. The cross has taken the power of from the flesh. Before we were saved we were servants of the flesh. The flesh dictated how we lived, and it dictated what we lived for and we were under the power and the control of the flesh. But when we were crucified with Christ then the cross took the power away from the flesh. The flesh no longer has the power to control us if we chose to live in the power of the resurrection.

Notice the words of one writer;

*"Someone has written that the word **"destroyed"** is pictured by our well-known English phrases like "to pull the teeth out of, or to declaw." That's a good picture of what the Word of the Cross does to the power of sin in our lives - it "declaws" it! The American Heritage Dictionary says declaw is "To strip of power, potency, or strength; make harmless or less threatening." Thank You, Jesus for the Cross!*

*The **body of sin's** power has been once and for all made ineffective, rendered powerless (do you believe that beloved?) and deprived of its force. Note that the KJV ("destroyed") reading can at first glance suggest that our **body of sin** is completely eradicated, which is not what this verse is teaching. Paul is not saying that that the power of sin is destroyed or annihilated. Sin is still resident in every believer's physical body and this truth explains the ongoing struggle every believer experiences with sin."*

**Charles Stanley** has some great thoughts on these verses;

*"Many believers are ignorant of this doctrine. Once they trust Christ as their Savior, they immediately try to Christianize **"self."** Consequently, many well-meaning Christians spend years trying to make **"self"** look and act like Christ. Layers and layers of good works are piled on. Hours and hours of prayer are added. All of this is fortified by sermons and seminars and tapes and books, and on and on it goes.*

*In many respects they are actually hindering the will of God in their lives. Sooner or later, because of His unwavering commitment to finish what He has begun, God begins to peel away the layers of **"self."** This is usually a painful process because it involves exposing the inadequacy of **"self."** That means failure at those things that were once considered one's forte.*

*Oftentimes this process involves a stripping away of self-confidence. Sometimes God moves in on "self" through a person's finances. Other times it is through health. Everybody is different. And everybody's "self" life has its own makeup. But God knows just how to peel away the layers so as to force His children to deal with their Christian life on a completely different level."*

God has started a work within us and He desires that we manifest Jesus Christ in our lives. It is not for us to copy or duplicate the life of Jesus for we cannot do that. But instead God desires for us to see that in the flesh there is nothing good and then come to the place where we allow the Holy Spirit to live the life of Jesus in and through us.

**Romans 7:18**

*<sup>18</sup> For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.*

**Conclusion:**

**Notice Romans 6:7**

We have died in Christ and therefore we are free from sin. I will end tonight with a story as told by Moody.

*Dwight L. Moody told of the young man who did not want to serve in Napoleon Bonaparte's army. When he was drafted, a friend volunteered to go in his place. The substitution was made, and some time later the surrogate was killed in battle. The same young man was, through a clerical error, drafted again. "You can't take me" he told the startled officers. "I'm dead. I died on the battlefield." They argued that they could see him standing right in front of them, but he insisted they look on the roll to find the record of his death. Sure enough, there on the roll was the man's name, with another name written beside it. The case finally went to the emperor himself. After examining the evidence, Napoleon said, "Through a surrogate, this man has not only fought, but has died in his country's service. No man can die more than once, therefore the law has no claim on him."*

We have died in Christ and therefore sin has no claim on our lives.