

"The Doctrine of Sanctification"

Romans 5:12-8:13

Part 9

Introduction: Tonight, as we return to our study in Romans we are again looking at the Doctrine of Sanctification. Now since we missed a week and since we have been in this section for a while I believe it would be good for us to do a short review of this section.

It was in the Doctrine of Justification where Paul told us that we are justified by the finished work of Jesus Christ and not by keeping the Law. So, the question would have been raised within many circles, "How can what One Man did on the cross effect so many people?" That then is where the Doctrine of Sanctification comes in and Paul started in Romans 5:12. In the remaining part of Romans 5 Paul pointed back to Adam to remind us all that when Adam sinned in the Garden the entire race was affected, and we were all plunged into sin. Because we were IN ADAM death has reigned over the entire population because the wages of sin is death. So, the one act of Adam affected everyone. In the same way Paul then pointed to Jesus Christ to help us to see that just as all were made sinners in Adam so all who accepted Jesus Christ as Savior have been made righteous in Christ. But Paul made it clear that in Christ we did not just experience the restoration of what we lost in Adam, but we gained so much more.

Romans 5:20-21

²⁰ *Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:*

²¹ *That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.*

In these two verses Paul pulls together the previous thoughts and these verses contain an abundance of Truth. God gave the Law so that we could see the sin within our lives and so with the Law sin abounded. But let us keep in mind that IN CHRIST we have so much more than we lost in Adam. So, when sin abounds GRACE does much more abound. In other words, GRACE is greater than all our sin. Then in verse 21 Paul expounds on this thought. He points back to the reign of death which came upon the human race through Adam and we know that death has reigned because it is impossible to escape. In the same way GRACE reigns now in the believer's life even to the point of eternal life. In other words, we are guaranteed eternal life because of the reign of grace within our lives as believers. Just as

sin guaranteed death so grace guarantees eternal life. This then is how the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross can affect so many people.

Now when Paul stated that when sin abounds then grace does much more abound there would have been those known as Antinomians who would have taken this teaching of Paul's and they would have twisted it to fit their own personal lusts. Their response would have been, "Well, since sin causes grace to abound, then wouldn't be better if we continued in sin?"

Paul then went on in chapter 6 to address this false teaching. He then explained that it is impossible for the True believer to live in sin like he or she did in the past for we are now dead to sin. When we were saved we were baptized into Jesus Christ and it was on that very day at that very moment that we died to sin. The cross of Jesus Christ was applied to our lives and God then put the heart of Jesus Christ in us.

Notice Romans 6:1-4

We were crucified with Jesus Christ, buried with Him and resurrected with Him because we are in Him. Therefore, the power that raised Jesus Christ from the grave now lives within us and therefore we have power over sin because the sin nature that once controlled us has been rendered powerless by the cross of Jesus Christ.

Notice Romans 6:6-7

Because we "died to sin" the day we were saved it was from that day forward that the sin nature has been stripped of his power within our lives. Now as believers we have a choice when it comes to sin.

I. The Illustration of Sanctification

Romans 6:1-8:1

Part 5

Notice Romans 6:8

Here in these verses Paul is pointing to the eternal life and power that we have IN CHRIST. In verse 8 Paul makes the statement that since we are dead "to sin" with Christ then we believe that we should also live in newness of life with Him.

Now someone may ask, "Well, I was saved a long time ago and here I am 40 years later does this still apply to my life today?" The answer is, "YES".

Notice Romans 6:9-10

Let us keep in mind that we are IN CHRIST. He therefore died to sin ONCE and now death has no more dominion over Him for He is alive forever more. So, because I am IN CHRIST I too have eternal life and so the power to say no to sin never changes. My position in Christ is forever secure and just as Jesus can never die again so it is also true of us who are believers that we will never be separated from the Lord (that is the meaning of death, separation) so we will never be separated from the life of Jesus Christ that lives within us.

Just as Jesus is now alive unto God so we too are to live the very same way.

Notice Romans 6:11

This verse now takes us into living out what Paul has just taught us in verses 1-10. Let me show you the words of one writer concerning what is before us:

"If the believer is to fully live out his new life in Christ, he must begin by knowing he is not what he used to be. Once the believer knows the foundational truths about his death, burial, and resurrection with Christ, and his victory over the penalty and power of sin, he is well on his way to victory in the Christian life. Doubts and fears become less and less because he knows he is dealing with a vanquished foe, a monarch who has been dethroned. The believer has been resurrected to new life and therefore has the confidence to strip away his grave clothes and live victoriously!"

The word "reckon" in this verse means "to count or to consider". We must understand that in Christ we have died to the sin nature because we were crucified with Jesus Christ. We must believe that our sin nature has been stripped of his power and now the power of Christ lives in us. This thought must stay with us each and every day. This must be learned so that when we are confronted with temptation that we immediately set between us and the temptation the cross of Jesus Christ. This is not something we touch on now and then never go back to it but it is something that **MUST** become a part of our every day lives.

Illustration: Think of a wrestler who constantly learns multiple moves and holds. As he learns this he also comes to know many counter moves. So immediately when his opponent makes a move on him it is out of instinct his body hits a counter move. This is exactly how we must live as believers in this world. As we go through life the enemy throws many forms of temptation at us and we must learn to recognize what is happening and then we must immediately place between us and the temptation the cross of Jesus Christ. That is the only way to conquer the flesh.

2 Peter 1:3-4

³ According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

⁴ Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

There MUST be a knowledge and then there MUST be practice.

In 1977 I went from High School right into the construction field and was handed everything I needed to be a skilled bricklayer. Now in those first years while I had all the tolls I needed I was far from a skilled tradesman. I made many mistakes and had to learn many things. Each construction site we went to was different and many times each site required a different skill. Then as the years went by I began to take what I learned in the previous years and was able to apply that to whatever I faced and was then able to look at a situation and know exactly what was needed. I eventually came to the place where I was able to look at the steel structure of a building and a stockpile of brick and blocks and I could picture in my mind the completed project.

This is exactly the way the believer's life works. We are given everything we need to be victorious over sin the day we are saved. We certainly do not know how to use everything we have and so we fail many times. But as time moves on we learn from each experience because there is a desire to live righteous lives. They all at once we begin to apply the spiritual Truths to our lives and it becomes second nature as we face temptation. Then we come to the place where we are able to see a temptation coming, step back and look at what the Bible says, and, in our minds, we see temptation headed off with the cross and victory attained.

Notice the words of another writer:

"Reckoning means to continually count on the fact that God has actually done what he said he would do. Keep on counting yourselves to be what God says you are! Continually count on the fact that if God said it, he meant it, and therefore he did it. It means to live on the basis of the fact that God wasn't kidding when he said he would do this, therefore he did it, and therefore you can continually count on it. Reckoning is not claiming a promise but acting upon a fact. It's not make-believe. It's not getting yourself into an emotional tizzy or pretending something is true that you know is not true. It's believing that what God has said he would do, he really did do, therefore it really is true, therefore you can depend

upon it, therefore you can stake your life upon it, therefore it's an actual fact. What is in view is not a fictitious or "pretend" or "merely symbolical" event, but a settled determination to live in the light of Christ's death and in the strength of a power which has already defeated sin's reign in His death and your death with Him."

I came across an illustration that will help us to see what Paul is saying in all of this:

37 Years in the Jungle

"In 1982 an unusual thing happened on the island of Guam. A Japanese soldier came out of the jungle. He had been living in the jungle for 37 years, since the end of world war II. Why? Because when the news came at the end of the war, he couldn't believe that Japan had surrendered, and the war was over. So, for 37 years he lived in the jungle. During those 37 years was he free? Sure. At any time from 1945 until 1982, he was completely free to come out of the jungle. It's not like General MacArthur was coming in to get him. He was free. He could come out in 1950 or 1955 or 1969. He was completely free on a theoretical basis. But because he didn't believe it--because he didn't reckon the fact of his freedom to be true--he lived in self-imposed bondage in the jungle for 37 years. Was he free? Yes. Was he free? No, because he chose to stay in bondage, in hiding, in fear in the jungle.

Many Christians are still living in the jungle of sin. The war is over, Christ has won, but they refuse to believe it. They live in self-imposed bondage to sin. They are still in the jungle spiritually because they refuse to believe that Christ has set them free."

Andrus agrees adding...

"Are you aware that there are countless Christians still doing hand-to-hand combat with their sin nature, unable to enjoy the peace that is available in Jesus Christ, because somehow they are appallingly ignorant of the fact that their Commander-in-chief has won a great victory and has called them out of the jungle of sin to a life of holiness. Oh, to be sure there are inevitable struggles and some failures ahead so long as we are in this world, but there is no need for us to live as though the final outcome of the war is still hanging in the balance."

Notice Romans 6:11 again.

It is so important in this verse to not miss the Truth that God does not tell us to die to sin, but He tells us that we ARE DEAD to sin. Now because we are dead to sin we live unto God through Jesus Christ.

One man wrote the following words:

"The Christian's biography has been written in two volumes. Volume one is our old nature before salvation. Volume two is our new nature. Volume one ends with our death in Christ, and volume two begins with our resurrection in Christ. It is both impossible and inconceivable to relive volume one because we are dead to it."

Notice Romans 6:12

Now Paul gives a command based upon all the previous Truth. Sin is not to be permitted to reign in our lives any longer.

Let me show you the words of Stedman:

"When you feel temptation in your body or your mind, then there are two things you are to do: First, remember that you don't have to obey sin. You just don't have to. You are free to refuse it. You are free to say, "No, you don't have the right to use that part of my body for a sinful purpose." And, second, remember his power is in you to enable you to offer that same part of your body to God, to be used for his purposes. Now, that may mean a struggle, because the strength of sin is very strong. When we start to turn away from evil in our bodies, the habits of our lives are so deeply engrained that oftentimes it is very difficult, and we struggle. But we have the power not to sin because we have God himself within us -- the living God... There will be a struggle; it is not always easy, but we have the strength to do it and we have the right to do it. We have the freedom not to sin and the desire not to sin. That is what God has brought to us in Christ... Paul is describing the two steps that we are to repeat over and over again, in dealing with evil in our lives."

Notice Romans 6:12 again.

The word "reign" has the idea that sin will reign over us as a monarch if we do not put into practice the Truths which Paul is presenting.

There is something else that we must keep in mind as we live our lives here in the world of sin. Anything that is a stumbling block in our lives we must be sure to put it out of our lives.

Romans 13:14

¹⁴ But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.

Let me show you what God told the people of Israel in preparation of entrance into the land of Canaan.

Numbers 33:51-

⁵¹ *Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye are passed over Jordan into the land of Canaan;*

⁵² **Then ye shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you, and destroy all their pictures, and destroy all their molten images, and quite pluck down all their high places:**

⁵³ *And ye shall dispossess the inhabitants of the land, and dwell therein: for I have given you the land to possess it.*

⁵⁴ *And ye shall divide the land by lot for an inheritance among your families: and to the more ye shall give the more inheritance, and to the fewer ye shall give the less inheritance: every man's inheritance shall be in the place where his lot falleth; according to the tribes of your fathers ye shall inherit.*

⁵⁵ **But if ye will not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you; then it shall come to pass, that those which ye let remain of them shall be pricks in your eyes, and thorns in your sides, and shall vex you in the land wherein ye dwell.**

If Israel did not drive out the inhabitants, then God told them that whatever they permitted to remain would be pricks and thorns which would vex them while they lived in the land.

Let me show you how Vines defines the word "VEX" in verse 55:

"to bind, be narrow, be in distress, make narrow, cause distress, besiege, be straitened, be bound..."

This is exactly what happened to Israel. They allowed the inhabitants to stay and if we were to read through the book of Judges we would see that time after time Israel became oppressed under the inhabitants that were supposed to be expelled.

That is what often happens to believers today. There is something which they permit to remain in their lives that they know should not be there and they are deceived into believing they can control whatever it is. But instead they fall under the reign of what should never have been within their lives.

Conclusion: Here are two good rules to combine with what Paul is presenting here:

1. **Make no provisions for the flesh.**
2. **Make no excuses for the flesh.**