

**"The Doctrine of Sanctification"**

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

**Part 29**

**Introduction:** Tonight, in our study of Romans we are coming to the end of the Doctrine of Sanctification. We are in chapter 8 and we have been looking at the power of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer and how the indwelling Spirit changes a person's life after they are saved. When we stopped last week, we were considering two sweeping statements which Paul had made.

**Notice Romans 8:8**

The person who is "in the flesh" here is the unbeliever. Paul is contrasting the believer with the unbeliever as he shows to us the power of the Spirit in the life of the believer. Here in this verse Paul makes it very clear that it is NOT possible for the unbeliever to please God with anything he or she does.

**Isaiah 64:6-7**

<sup>6</sup> *But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.*

<sup>7</sup> *And there is none that calleth upon thy name, that stirreth up himself to take hold of thee: for thou hast hid thy face from us, and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities.*

No matter how good someone thinks they are, no matter how upright and moral they may be in their lives, if they are not saved then it is impossible for them to please God in any way.

There is another sweeping statement which Paul made in the next verse.

**Notice Romans 8:9**

If a person does not have the Holy Spirit dwelling within them, they are not saved. In this age in which we live, the Church Age, the Holy Spirit is given to the person who trusts in Jesus Christ the very moment he or she exercises their faith in Him. The Holy Spirit is the down payment and the mark of authenticity in the believer's life.

**Ephesians 1:13-14**

<sup>13</sup> *In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,*

<sup>14</sup> *Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.*

The word "SEALED" refers to a "MARK" showing they we are authentic, meaning that we are truly saved, and we belong to God. The word "EARNEST" means "DOWN PAYMENT". When we were saved God placed a "down payment" on us declaring that he will one day come to gather us and take us home.

### I. The Conclusion of the Doctrine of Sanctification

#### Notice Romans 8:10a

"The body is dead because of sin" - This is both a reference to our present condition and what will happen to us in the future. Our bodies are nothing, but frail clay vessels appointed to die. The older we get the more we see death at work in our bodies. We may be saved but we still live in these sinful bodies and year after we see the decay setting in. We can spend a great deal of time exercising the body, but no matter how strong we are, no matter how healthy we are and no matter how good we may look it will all go away, and if God allows us to live long enough, we will grow old and then we will die. This is all from the sin which we were born into. From the day we were born we were dying and even our salvation in Christ does not change our frail dying state.

But there is a contrast here.

#### Notice Romans 8:10b

If we notice closely here, we see the word "SPIRIT" has a capital "S" which refers to the Holy Spirit but there are many who believe this should be a lower case "s". Let me show you the words of Wuest:

*"The spirit in this context "refers, not to the Holy Spirit which is not a logical contrast to the human body, but to the human spirit, that part of man which gives him God-consciousness and enables him when that spirit is made alive by the Holy Spirit, to worship God. The believer's human body is dead in the sense that it has death in it because of sin, Adam's sin which brought both spiritual and physical death to each member of the race. The believer's spirit is alive in that the Holy Spirit energizes it with divine life which is*

*righteous in its quality. Eternal life is not only unending in its nature, but also ethical and spiritual in its content."*

We were once spiritually dead.

**Ephesians 2:1**

*And you hath he quickened, **who were dead in trespasses and sins;***

But when we trusted in the finished work of Jesus Christ we were BORN AGAIN.

**John 3:3-7**

<sup>3</sup> *Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*

<sup>4</sup> *Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?*

<sup>5</sup> *Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and **of the Spirit**, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.*

<sup>6</sup> *That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and **that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.***

<sup>7</sup> *Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.*

When we were BORN AGAIN this was a literal birth and so our spirit was given life in this New Birth. We are dying in the body, but our spirit will live forever in the presence of the Lord. We are now spiritually alive.

**2 Corinthians 4:16**

<sup>16</sup> *For which cause we faint not; but though **our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.***

The body is dying but the inner man or the spirit is being renewed every day.

**Notice Romans 8:10 again.**

The spirit of the believe is alive because of RIGHTEOUSNESS. What does Paul mean by this? This is what happened when we were saved for it was at that time that we were also justified.

**Romans 3:22**

<sup>22</sup> *Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:*

Before we were saved, we were dead in our sins. But when we trusted in Jesus Christ our sins were removed from our account and we were given the righteousness of God. Now we are no longer in our sins but now we are covered in His righteousness and so now our spirit is alive because of this. When we were born again, we were born into the righteousness of God meaning that in the New Birth we were born **RIGHTEOUS**.

Now someone might ask, "Well, we have a spirit that is alive, but our body is dying, so will we just float around for all eternity in our spirits?" The answer to that is, "NO"!

### **Notice Romans 8:11**

This is a promise of resurrection for you and me. Because Jesus is alive, we too shall live in our bodies which will be glorified. Just as God raised up His Son from the dead so He will resurrect us by His Spirit.

This verse is the ultimate answer to Paul's question at the end of chapter 7.

### **Romans 7:24**

<sup>24</sup> *O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?*

When sin entered the world so did death and because we are all born into sin we are appointed to die. Even though we are forgiven of our sin, our bodies are still under a death sentence because to live forever in these bodies would be terrible. Let me show you what happened after the sin of Adam and Eve.

### **Genesis 3:21-24**

<sup>21</sup> *Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.*

<sup>22</sup> *And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:*

<sup>23</sup> *Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken.*

<sup>24</sup> *So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.*

As God pronounced the curse upon Adam and Eve, He then took two innocent animals and He killed them before the eyes of Adam and Eve. They had never seen death before. They

knew that God appointed them both to die because of sin but this was their first view of death. I can imagine that in Adam's mind he is thinking of getting to the Tree of Life so that he will not need to experience death, but God blocked the tree. You see if Adam had eaten of the Tree of Life after he sinned, he would have lived forever in a decaying sinful body. That is literally what the people of hell will endure. But for the believer God has something far better and that is we will die, and our bodies will be resurrected, and they will be glorified.

Notice the words of Wayne Barber:

*"Do you think God is through with your body? No - in fact to show you how much victory you have over the flesh, this old body that now the Spirit has power over, one day is going to die and will be raised up so that you can live in it forever, free then from even the PRESENCE of SIN, much less the power of SIN. So, you see that we are free from any control of the FLESH. You say Wayne, "That's not true. I've been controlled recently by it." Maybe so but what Paul is explaining is that now when the flesh controls you, it is because you choose to be, not because of the work of grace that God has done in your heart. We choose it now. The whole emphasis of this section is that the "factory has been taken over by new management". We have not changed outwardly. Our bodies are still the same. What has changed outwardly is my behavior because some ONE has come in and has changed me inwardly. The spirit is alive even though this body continues to reek of the stench of death and will someday die."*

### **Notice Romans 8:12**

Here is Paul's conclusion. The word "Therefore" looks back over the entire Doctrine of Sanctification. Because we have been crucified with Christ, because our old man has been stripped of his power, because God did what the law could never do by sending Jesus Christ to the cross to condemn sin in the flesh, because we are now given the Holy Spirit and because we are now set free from the law of sin and death, because ultimately we are given the power to deny the lusts and the desires of the flesh, we now are not obligated to allow the flesh to have his way. We are not debtors to the flesh which means we no longer must bow to the flesh.

Notice the words of Morris:

*"Paul is laying it down firmly that for Christians the flesh has no rights; as Earle puts it, "we owe the flesh nothing". The way Paul puts it, "we are debtors, not to the flesh—", leads us to look for "but to the Spirit" or for some other expression to indicate where our debt lies, "but this is elegantly left to be understood". The characteristic life of the Christian owes nothing to the flesh, though we should not ignore the force of this warning about "the flesh" in a letter to Christians. "The flesh" is not eradicated but is an ever-present*

reality. Paul goes on to explain that to be indebted to the flesh means "to live according to the flesh". This is not an option for the believer."

Our obligation is to the Holy Spirit. He is the One who has convicted us and come to set up His residence within us and gave us power over sin. The Holy Spirit loves us so much and every day He must endure our carnality. He is grieved by our sin, but He will never leave us. He longs for spiritual Truth and many times we deny Him His desires, yet He continues to patiently work within our lives making us more and more like Jesus Christ.

J. Vernon McGee puts it in a way that only he can:

*"My friend, the flesh—and we all have it—is a low-down, dirty rascal. And we don't owe it anything."*

### **Notice Romans 8:13**

The word "live" is in the present tense and speaks of living a life controlled by the flesh as a habitual practice. This lifestyle leads to death. Paul here is referring to the unsaved person who is "in the flesh" and "who minds the things of the flesh".

Notice the words of Matthew Henry:

*"Consider the consequences, what will be at the end of the way. Here are life and death, blessing and cursing, set before us. If you live after the flesh, you shall die; that is, die eternally. It is the pleasing, and serving, and gratifying, of the flesh, that are the ruin of souls; that is, the second death. Dying indeed is the soul's dying: the death of the saints is but a sleep. But, on the other hand, You shall live, live and be happy to eternity; that is the true life: If you through the Spirit mortify the deeds of the body, subdue and keep under all fleshly lusts and affections, deny yourselves in the pleasing and humoring of the body, and this through the Spirit; we cannot do it without the Spirit working it in us, and the Spirit will not do it without our doing our endeavor."*

God does His part by giving to us the Holy Spirit then there is our responsibility. We are to mortify the deeds of the body. The question is, "What does it mean to mortify the deeds of the body?"

Jim Berg uses the illustration of riding a motorcycle to communicate this Truth.

If we are riding down the road on a motorcycle and we see danger ahead there are several things which need to take place.

1. We must recognize the danger that is ahead.
2. We must disengage the throttle so as to take the power away from the rear tire.
3. We must apply the brakes to stop the forward momentum of the motorcycle.

Let me explain how this applies to our lives.

1. **We must learn to recognize situations in which the flesh can take control. It is these situations we must avoid.**

**Romans 13:14**

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

2. **We must learn to reckon upon the cross. This is what disengages the throttle. The flesh will only bow to the cross.**

**Romans 6:6-8, 11**

<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.*

<sup>7</sup> *For he that is dead is freed from sin.*

<sup>8</sup> *Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:*

<sup>11</sup> *Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

3. **We must deny the flesh. We do this by dying to the lusts and desires of the flesh. This is engaging the brake.**

**Romans 6:12-13**

<sup>12</sup> *Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.*

<sup>13</sup> *Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.*

**Conclusion:**

We often speak of being defeated when we fall to sin. But the TRUTH is when we sin, we are being disobedient. We do not need to give into the desires of the flesh. God has provided everything we need to gain victory over the flesh. When we fall to sin, it is because we chose to do so.

Jim Berg says there are only two choices on the shelf. Either pleasing God or pleasing self. Let us mortify/put to death the deeds of the flesh.