

"The Doctrine of Sanctification"

Romans 5:12-8:13

Part 24

Introduction: Tonight, in our study of Romans we are going to take a different approach to what we have been looking at. We are currently in Romans 8 where we are looking at the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer. Paul is explaining to us the Truth of Romans 8:1.

I. Free from Condemnation

Notice Romans 8:1

This statement is so profound that Paul will take the remaining part of the chapter to explain how we who are believers are free from condemnation.

II. Free from the Law of Sin and Death

Notice Romans 8:2

We have been set free from the law of sin and death and now there is another law that is at work within our lives. This NEW law is the power of the Holy Spirit and He has broken the chains of sin and for this reason we are free from sin's power to live a life of righteousness. This was not possible before we were saved for then we were slaves to sin. But now that principle of sin within us is broken because we were crucified with Christ and we are indwelt by the Holy Spirit.

III. The Means of Freedom

Notice Romans 8:3

In this verse we looked at the Jesus did what the law could not do. The law cannot save, and it cannot sanctify us. But when Jesus died on the cross, He died to put away our sin and He died to give us victory over the sin principle in our lives.

IV. The Purpose of Jesus' Sacrifice

Notice Romans 8:4

This is the verse which we ended with the last time we were together. This verse introduces the purpose for which Jesus set us free from the power of sin. It is so the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled IN us. He does not say it will be fulfilled BY us but IN us. This happens when we walk in the power of the Holy Spirit.

I want to use this verse this evening to step into some much-needed practical application with all that we have been looking at starting in Romans 6 and through where we are tonight.

A. God's Will

God sent His Son to die for our sin to set us free from the penalty and the power of sin and He has chosen to let us here on this earth to reach those who are not free. While we are here it is the desire and the plan of our Heavenly Father that we would live in a way that others would see Jesus Christ through our lives. Let me show you a command given to us.

Philippians 2:5-8

⁵ Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

⁶ *Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:*

⁷ *But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:*

⁸ *And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.*

We are to have the mind of Jesus Christ as we walk through this sin filled world. In other words, whatever situation we face in life, no matter how painful, we are to face it just as our Lord would face it if He were here.

But there is a problem! The problem is our flesh! Our flesh gets in the way of others seeing Jesus Christ in us. This is where the CROSS comes in. This is where Romans 6 comes into play. We have been crucified with Christ and so as we learned in Romans 8 the power of the flesh has been broken. It is therefore our responsibility to keep the flesh upon the CROSS every time he tries to climb down and get back on the throne in our hearts. Notice the words of Maxwell:

"The purpose of the Cross of Christ, as all the Savior's teaching, was to set self aside and to bring our hearts and wills into harmony with God. The whole of redemption is to save man from himself and from his wicked pride and self-exaltation. It is the power of the CROSS to work in us the blessed will of God."

This means that the CROSS must be a part of our daily lives for it is the desire of the flesh to rule in our hearts every time we face something that cuts against human pride. Now let me show you something which Jesus said about being a disciple.

Luke 9:23

²³ And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross **daily**, and follow me.

The CROSS is needed on a daily basis in our lives. Without the application of the CROSS there will be no victory over sin and self in our lives. You cannot stir up enough strength to overcome self. **Self cannot cast out self it is only the CROSS that will defeat self.**

So, Jesus said we are to take up our CROSS DAILY and follow Him. That means that every single day of our Christian lives we are going to experience the death of self and this will happen multiple times each day. Notice what Paul said to the Corinthians:

1 Corinthians 15:31

³¹ I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, **I die daily.**

We are going to talk about what this looks like in our everyday lives in a moment but before we do let me explain why it is so important to be sure self is crucified every single day. If we allow the flesh to get back upon the throne in our hearts and we refuse to keep him upon the CROSS where he is powerless then we are powerless for God. That means if I am controlled by the flesh then my prayer life is powerless. It means that whatever part I have in the ministry, in that I am powerless. We need to power of the Holy Spirit we will not have it if He is not the One sitting on the throne in our hearts.

2 Corinthians 4:10-11

¹⁰ Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, **that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.**

¹¹ For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, **that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.**

It is only when we die to self/keep the flesh upon the CROSS that the life and the power of Jesus Christ is manifest in and through us.

John 12:24

²⁴ Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: **but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.**

This verse speaks of the death of Jesus Christ, but it is also applicable to our lives. It is only when we die to self that we will see the resurrection power of Jesus Christ within our lives and the fruit of the Spirit comes forth.

Now we can be sure the flesh is going to fight against the CROSS, but we must remember he is powerless up against the CROSS.

So how does all of this apply to our lives? What does it look like to live this?

A. The Sovereignty of God

I believe that in order to keep the flesh upon the CROSS we must know that God is sovereign over every situation in our lives. This means that He is in control and He has permitted me to experience what it is that I am living at this time. Satan cannot get into our lives without God's permission and when he does get the permission he can only go as far as God permits.

Job 1:8-12

⁸ *And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?*

⁹ *Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought?*

¹⁰ *Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land.*

¹¹ *But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face.*

¹² *And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; **only upon himself put not forth thine hand**. So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD.*

God gave [permission for Satan to touch all Job had but here in this passage he was not permitted to touch Job himself. In Job 2 God gave Satan permission to inflict Job but he could not take his life.

Job 2:6-7

⁶ *And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, he is in thine hand; **but save his life**.*

⁷ *So went Satan forth from the presence of the LORD, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown.*

I point to all of this to help us to know that whatever we face it must be permitted by God and that means it is all under His control. It is amazing that Job himself understood this Truth. Notice what he said:

Job 1:20-22

²⁰ Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped,

*²¹ And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and **the LORD hath taken away**; blessed be the name of the LORD.*

²² In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.

Job did not say, "Satan hath taken away", he said, "The LORD hath taken away".

Let me give you another example. The Apostle Paul was under the persecution of Nero and he was thrown in prison under Nero's leadership, but do you remember what he said concerning his imprisonment?

Ephesians 3:1

*For this cause I Paul, the **prisoner of Jesus Christ** for you Gentiles,*

Paul saw himself as a prisoner of Jesus Christ not a prisoner of Nero. He knew that God had permitted him to be in prison and knowing this he was able to surrender to the path which God ordained for him to walk.

Application:

What I am about to say is completely contrary to everything we have been taught by the world's philosophies. When we are mistreated by others, when we are hurt by others, and when we are taken advantage of by others it has all been permitted by God and it is our responsibility to surrender to what ever it might be. But the flesh will fight against surrender. The flesh wants to complain, to seek vengeance, to inflict the same pain (if not more) upon those who have caused our pain and heartache and it wants to cry out, "THIS IS NOT FAIR!". This is where the CROSS comes in. We must live by the CROSS if we are going to have victory over sin and live unto God. The flesh must be kept upon the cross in these times. Someone may respond by saying, "But the pain I fell is so intense!" That dear friend is the bite of the nails that you are feeling. Let me share a story with you about a young girl named Mimosa from India as told by Maxwell:

"Mimosa heard one brief message concerning the love of the great Creator-how that love had been manifested in redemption. Prior to then, "she knew just nothing; there had not been time to tell her." She was hasted away by a cruel father, lest she become like her sister, Star, who was in the mission school. She was unseen by the missionary who had shared the message for twenty-two years. How could the little thing be expected to remember that one brief message about the loving Father above?"

But miracle of miracles, her soul was captured. Then she went home, to face only suffering, betrayal, and deception. At length she was deceived into an unfortunate and miserable marriage. But she slaved in the fields to pay her lazy husband's debts. At last, in agony, she cried aloud to the One of whom she had heard so very, very little.

"Oh God, my husband has deceived me; my brother has deceived me; even my mother has deceived me; but You will not deceive me." Then waiting a little, and looking up and stretching out her arms, she continued, "Yes, they have all deceived me, but I am not offended with You. Whatever You do is good."

By the Divine Presence Mimosa took heart; she forgave; she slept. She accepted it all from her Father in heaven; "Whatever You do is good."

When Mimosa, who had never learned to read, finally met her sister, Star, at the mission school, she reverently gazed upon her Bible and books and said, "You know Him by learning; but I know Him by suffering."

Next week we will continue with the application of the CROSS but in closing I want to borrow from the words of Maxwell again.

Conclusion:

"Regardless, therefore, of the conditions or difficulties you face in life, in each one see "a chance to die". For die to yourself you must if you would live unto God. Your wishes have been crossed? Your likes and dislikes disregarded, your wisdom discredited, your sensibilities provoked, your opinions ridiculed? You have been falsely accused and your name has been cast as evil? Take any or all of these up, as your cross, and see, in each of them, a chance to die to your vainglory and pride. You will learn little by little to be led as a lamb to the slaughter.

Self-will and self-justification and self-defense are indeed your greatest foes. Someone says, "Welcome anything that calls you to your only true position, "Crucified with Christ." You will then experience the glorious Truth, "Christ lives in me."

Madame Guyon said, "He who does not welcome the CROSS does not welcome God."

As sinners we are called to salvation but as saints we are called to suffering. Our Lord felt the pain of the cross what makes us think our lives should be lives of ease?