

"The Doctrine of Sanctification"

Romans 5:12-8:13

Part 26

Introduction: Tonight, in our study we are going to look one more time at the subject of "Living by the CROSS". The Cross life is so very important if we desire to hear the Words of our Lord at the Judgment Seat of Christ, "Well done thou good and faithful servant". We are called to die to the flesh so that we can live unto God. Therefore, we are looking at what it means to live by the CROSS. We are looking at how to apply what we have been studying in Romans 6-8. God has commanded us and provided a means for us to live in a way that others see Jesus Christ in us. Jesus Christ has saved and sanctified 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.*

So, to help us in this study we have looked at several points.

I. The Sovereignty of God

We looked at how everything which enters into our lives is permitted by God. He determines what we shall experience and there are times when He ordains a path for our lives that is painful. There is nothing that happens by chance within our lives.

Proverbs 16:9

⁹ *A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps.*

Proverbs 19:21

²¹ *There are many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the LORD, that shall stand.*

We see many examples of this in the Bible. One such is the book of Ruth.

Ruth 2:1-3

And Naomi had a kinsman of her husband's, a mighty man of wealth, of the family of Elimelech; and his name was Boaz.

² And Ruth the Moabitess said unto Naomi, Let me now go to the field, and glean ears of corn after him in whose sight I shall find grace. And she said unto her, Go, my daughter.

³ And she went, and came, and gleaned in the field after the reapers: and her hap was to light on a part of the field belonging unto Boaz, who was of the kindred of Elimelech.

It was not "luck" or "coincidence" that Ruth choose the field of Boaz. It was God who guided here steps to the field. God too directs our steps to places of blessing, but He also directs our steps into times of great pressure and testing.

Matthew 14:22-24

²² And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away.

²³ And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone.

²⁴ But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary.

Jesus forced His disciples into the ship, and He sent them into the midst of the storm. This was His will for them. In the storm they would learn that they needed to trust in God and not the flesh. The flesh was powerless over what they faced. For all that was ahead of these men they needed to learn the flesh was powerless and what they needed was the power of God in their lives.

II. Surrender

We also looked at how important surrender is in our lives. I am reminded here again of the words of Maxwell:

"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."

It is in the midst of the painful times as we surrender that Christ is seen in us. It is the flesh that desires to retaliate or compromise to escape the pain. It is then that we must be sure to keep the flesh on the CROSS where he belongs. It is then that Jesus Christ is lifted up in our lives so that others may see Him.

John 12:32

³² *And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.*

This is exactly what Paul recorded the words in 2 Corinthians 4.

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.*

¹² *So then death worketh in us, but life in you.*

As I have been looking at the subject of the cross, I was reminded that as we work our way through the New Testament we only see surrender in the lives of the Apostles. They were controlled by the Spirit and not by the flesh and therefore Christ was lifted up in their lives and the result was that many came to Jesus Christ. I remind you again of the words by Mrs. Penn-Lewis:

"The secret of a fruitful life is - in brief - to pour out to others and want nothing for yourself: to leave yourself utterly in the hands of God and not care what happens to you."

This is exactly what is seen in the lives of the Apostles.

As we look at this subject one more time tonight, I want to consider another point that will help us to live the CROSS life.

I. The World

If we are willing to surrender to the CROSS and live with the mind of Jesus Christ in us, then we will be living in a way that the world will view as STRANGE. The world has so much influence upon our lives and we often have no idea how the world's philosophies control the way we live. We are to live separated from this world. We are in the world, but we are not of the world. This is not our home and so we are not to live as this is our home. Heaven is our home and we are to live in a way that others know this is not my home.

1 John 2:15

¹⁵ Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

In His High Priestly prayer in John 17 Jesus spoke of the believer's relationship to the world.

1. We were taken out of the world.

⁶ I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word.

2. We are left in the world.

¹¹ And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.

3. We are not of the world.

¹⁶ They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

4. We are to be kept from the evil of this world.

¹⁵ I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.

5. We are sent into the world to be a testimony for Jesus Christ.

¹⁸ As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.

¹⁹ And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.

²⁰ Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;

6. We are hated by the world.

¹⁴ I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

Now to help us to see how much the world has influenced the church I invite you to consider the early church again. They were hated for their faith. Let me show you what Peter said concerning baptism.

Acts 2:38

³⁸ Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Peter called on those who heard the Gospel to repent and to be baptized for the remission of sins. Why did he call for baptism because we know that baptism is not a requirement for salvation? Baptism is to publicly identify with Jesus Christ. Peter was calling people to step up and prove their faith was real. You see in those days when someone identified with Jesus Christ it placed their lives in danger. So, the call to be baptized was a call to show their faith was a true saving faith. It basically was a strike against "easy believism". The bottom line was that true saving faith was costly. Notice the words of Professor H. B. Workman:

"For two hundred years to become a Christian meant the great renunciation, the joining a despised and persecuted sect, the swimming against the tide of popular prejudice, the coming under the ban of the Empire, the possibility at any moment of imprisonment and death under its most fearful forms. For two hundred years he that would follow Christ must count the cost, and be prepared to pay the same with his liberty and life. For two hundred years the mere profession of Christianity was itself a crime..."

Notice how the Apostles were treated for preaching Jesus Christ.

Acts 5:40

⁴⁰ And to him they agreed: and when they had called the apostles, and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.

Acts 12:1-3

Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church.

² And he killed James the brother of John with the sword.

³ And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. (Then were the days of unleavened bread.)

These are just a few of the verses that enable us to see how the early church collided with the world. But here in our nation today we do not see much of this. Why? What has changed? We can be sure the world has not changed. But it is the church. Let me show you the words of Maxwell:

"... the only reason the scandal of the CROSS has ceased for some professed disciples is that they have become so compromising that the world is no longer rebuked by their lives

or testimony. The church and the world, like Samson and Delilah, are found in an unhallowed and foul fellowship."

*And they of the Church, and they of the World,
Journeyed closely, hand and heart,
And none but the Master, who knoweth all,
Could discern the two apart.*

Notice the words of A. I. Gordon:

The men who conquered the Roman Empire for Christ bore the aspect of invaders from another world, who absolutely refused to be naturalized to this world. Their conduct filled their heathen neighbors with the strangest perplexity, they were so careless of life, so careful of conscience, so prodigal of their own blood, so confident of the overcoming power of the blood of the Lamb, so unsubdued to the custom of the country in which they sojourned, so mindful of the manners of that country from whence they came not. The help of world, the patronage of its rulers, the loan of its resources, the use of its methods they utterly refused, lest by employing these they might compromise their King... But there can be no reasonable doubt that the age in which the church was so completely separated from the world was an age in which Christianity was most victorious in the world."

Let us remember the Words of our Lord:

Luke 6:26

²⁶ Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets.

Conclusion:

The flesh loves the world. It loves the praise of the world. It loves the ways of the world. It loves the ease of the world. It loves the sin of the world. We must be very careful in our lives to be sure we are not living for the world. Let me show you what Paul said about himself and the world.

Galatians 6:14

¹⁴ But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.

Paul knew the struggle with the world and so he saw himself crucified to the world and the world crucified to him. What did he mean by that? He saw himself dead to the world for

he had been crucified with Christ and so Paul knew the world had no power over a dead man. He also saw the world as dead to him and if the world was dead it could have no influence in his life.

Paul's victory over the world came by way of the CROSS. This too is the only way in which we can gain victory over the world. The flesh loves the world but if we keep the flesh and the world on the cross both are powerless to control our lives.

I will end with the words of Maxwell concerning the church and the world:

"Never had the Church so much influence over the world as when she had nothing to do with the world. Completely separated from the Roman world, those early Christians plunged back into that sunken Empire to lift it off its hinges and change the entire course of the world's history. But in speaking of those early days, Tertullian wrote: "We engage in these conflicts as men whose very lives are not our own."