

Truths of Assurance and Freedom

Lesson # 8 -- Truths of God's Provision for Our Spiritual Freedom

Introduction

- A. God has designed the Christian life so His people will be successful.
- B. Success and freedom, as in any other endeavor, only comes by knowing and practicing the truth. John 8:32
- C. One of our most serious problems has to do with the Fall of Man and our inner personal sinfulness (often called the "flesh" or "old nature").

I. The Biblical Description of Our Sinful Nature.

- A. Our sinful nature is a contradictory element within us.

For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. Gal 5:17

Comment: All believers are aware of this "contrary" element within. We find the presence of thoughts, feelings, and desires that are out of harmony with the Bible and our own spiritual goals. The result is that we are often confused, frustrated, and almost paralyzed.

- B. Our sinful nature hinders, weakens, and enslaves us.

I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. Rom 7:15-18

Comment: Paul seems to state our life history! We all know the power of our fallen nature to hinder and enslave us.

- C. Our sinful nature is a source of sinful actions.

The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. Gal 5:19-21

Comment: If we do not make use of God's provision regarding our inner sinful potential, we will be constantly pressured, tempted, and led into sinful attitudes, thoughts and actions. We cannot overcome sin by simply desiring to or by our own will power.

II. The Divine Provision Regarding Our Sinful Nature.

A. The Lord Jesus took us and our sinful nature to His cross.

For we know that our old self (all we were before salvation) was crucified with him, so that the body of sin (our sinful patterns) might be rendered powerless (paralyzed), that we should no longer be slaves to sin. Rom 6:6

Comment: Every believer, along with our sinful nature, was nailed to the cross. The power of that act was given to us when we were born again. However, that power cannot be a part of our experience until we are willing to surrender ourselves to God to live in harmony with the cross. This means a complete repudiation of our sin and total dependence upon God for cleansing and enablement to live free from our sin.

B. In His Resurrection our Savior made a new life possible.

We were therefore buried with him through baptism (new birth), into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. Rom 6:4

Comment: The Christian was given the new life and power in the new birth. The experience of these great benefits will be highly limited, however, if the believer does not honestly choose to walk with God.

III. The Instruction Regarding Our Sinful Nature.

A. We must choose by faith to live in harmony with God's provision.

... Count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Rom 6:11

Comment: Every believer died to sin when the Lord Jesus died (Rom 6:1-10). In spite of our thoughts, emotions, desires, and circumstances -- we must assume that perspective and treat ourselves and sin accordingly. And, this hold true for the perspective of the Resurrection as well.

B. We must choose by faith to say "No" to sin.

Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Rom 6:12

Comment: Sin will always "reign" if we let it in. Our choices must be honest, realistic, complete, and for the glory of God. We may not permit ourselves to be a "double minded" person. James 1:8; 4:8

C. We must choose to surrender ourselves and our functions to God.

Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. Rom 6:13

Comment: A total surrender of ourselves and life to God will transform us.

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