

Living Waters Ministries Minister R. Thomas Lambur

The Life Of Victory!

In The Unregenerate State

In Romans 7:14-25 the Apostle Paul is describing the state of an unregenerate man (who I believe is himself being described) who was presently ruled by his sinful nature. We are given this vivid picture to show as an example our human weakness and dependence on the Cross and Holy Spirit to deliver us. Here we are shown that in the former state *before* being a Christian one is dominated by this sin nature. The man Paul describes:

1. Is sold into the bondage of sin (Rom.7:14)
2. Does the very thing that he hates to do (Rom.7:15)
3. In unable to do the good that he wants to do (the bondage of the will) (Rom.7:18)
4. Is a prisoner of the law of sin in his body (he sees another law at work in him) (Rom.7:23)
5. Serves the law of sin in his flesh, even though it is contrary to the law of God which his mind acknowledges (Rom.7:25)
6. Is a WRETCHED MAN! (This man is out of control and is not a born again man) (Rom.7:24)
7. The sin nature (the organ or seat of sin in the man) the body of sin which drove us to sin was rendered powerless – motionless – destroyed.

This description with careful reading doesn't describe a person who is already saved, but Paul does use this example to warn Christians that self-efforts or mere will power can not give victory over sin.

“Dead To Sin”

Rom. 6:7 For he that is dead is freed from sin.

Rom. 6:2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, (((live any longer therein?)))

Rom. 6:18 Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.

“WERE!”

Rom. 6:17 But God be thanked, that ye (((were))) the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.

Rom. 7:5 For when we (((were))) in the flesh (actions or manifestations of sin), the motions of sins (influence by the organ or seat of sin), which were by the law (observer), did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death.

“Perspective - THEN”

Rom. 6:21 What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death.

“Liberty To Choose”

Rom. 6:12 (((Let not))) sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.

Rom. 6:19 I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh (weakness): for as ye have yielded (under the influence) your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so (((now))) yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.

“Crucified”

Gal. 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Gal. 6:14 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.

Now Union With Christ

Romans chapter 6 tells us that we are now married to another.

Ro 7:2-4 For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. So then if, while her

husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man. Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.

Marriage means fruitfulness.

Paul compares our old struggles with our new position which in both cases are problematic when we have our *reliance in self-efforts*.

Rom. 7:14-17 For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin. For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin (the sin nature) that dwelleth in me.

Our Reliance In Christ!

Paul uses his experience before he was saved to show the problem is the sin nature in man, however with that he also shows us that as a Christian I must not rely upon my own efforts, nor mere will power when it comes to overcoming sin (the actions or manifestations of sin). Paul's example of his weakness in his person before salvation is being used to show us our weakness as Christian's to overcome sin and have victory APART FROM THE DIVINE ELEMENT (the power of the Holy Spirit). But now we have been wed (in spiritual union) to the Lord and His Holy Spirit – and the good news is that *this dependence* upon the finished work of the Cross brings about the Holy Spirit's power in our lives as we place of faith in Him. Our introduction to this *new divine element* (the indwelling Holy Spirit – God's nature) AS OUR SOURCE is needful and upon *our reliance* HE comes *to assist us* -THE DIVINE AGENT that brings about our victory over sin!

Rom. 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. The Divine Agent is now at work in those who yield to Him.

Rom. 8:4 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. First Christ fulfilled this righteousness and is the alien righteousness that gives us a new position of being "In Christ." Secondly this righteousness which is contained in the law now is carried out in our lives through yielding – it is the fruit of our new relationship with Christ – it comes through the new nature indwelling us.

1Thess. 4:7 For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness (sanctification).

1Thess. 4:3 For this is the will of God, even your sanctification...

1Corn. 6:19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

Romans Ch. 8 - A New Spirit Given

Ezek. 36:26-27 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and ((cause you)) to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

We have been given a new nature.

2Pet. 1:4 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.

"A life submitted to the control of the Holy Spirit means a life of victory over sin."

Many people make vows – promises to God – "I'm going to do better!" Living a victorious life is *a battle already won*. "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death."

In Christ we have been given and have had formed in us "New Desires."

That which was sinful in "Thoughts" "Words" and "Deeds" have been affected to "Godly Thoughts" Godly Words" and "Godly Deeds," because these (In Christ who are yielding) are controlled and kept by His Spirit. We have to process each thought and agree to it before temptations become sins (consent means my volition or will is involved). Thoughts come before both words and deeds. "In Christ" we are given a place of safety or neutrality against temptations. This means we no longer have to agree - or respond and can resist through the power of God.

Jas 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Now the Mosaic Law was weak in that it could not make the violator's righteous. The law has no life in itself to do so. We understand that due to the Cross the right standing perfection of the sinless Christ was laid to our account. Jesus paid in full for *our debt of sin* and doing so He fulfilled *the payment for sin* through His sacrifice.

Rom. 6:6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed (might be done away with), that henceforth we should not serve sin (again, shows a choice).

Gal. 2:18 For if I build again the things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor.

This word "destroyed" means....

"Destroyed" - to *disintegrate*, to *demolish*: - destroy, dissolve.

The only way for one could lose his salvation would be to go back and rebuild the life of sin and practice of sin in their life – of which there is no security given. This would be for a Christian entering the practice of sin without a sin nature...so it would be by the constant consent of a yielded will.

Heb. 10:26 For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins...

To do this however means they build what was formerly destroyed in their lives and to deign the work by what the Cross has done. This person no longer has their faith properly in the Cross! Remember it doesn't take a sin nature to sin *just a yielded will*.

Gal. 5:19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest....

Vs. 21and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

The Organ Or Seat Of Sin Dealt With!

In Romans Chapter 7 we see that when one is unregenerate, the human will is in bondage to the sin nature. The course of sin naturally flows from it source – *the organ or seat called sin nature*. The human person is *mastered* by the sin nature *before Christ*, yet *afterward*, now "In Christ" *sin is no longer master over him*.

Lk. 3:9 And now also the axe is laid (poised) unto the root of the trees: every tree therefore which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire (speaking of hell fire) (John is speaking here about those who are to bring forth the fruit of repentance required for salvation which is related to faith in the Messiah and His atonement at the Cross).

Some believe today that as Christian's this sin nature "ROOT" *has not been cut down* completely destroying the tree. They believe that; "Yes, the tree has been cut down but *there are still sprouts to the sin naturally springing up*," *after* what the work of the Cross has done. They go on to tell that; "*The sin nature is still alive and growing in us*." These concepts must however be laid aside because trees no longer revive *when their roots have been severed!* Jesus Christ *has severed sin nature destroying it* by taking the old man to the Cross with Himself. Now *we have been separated from sin nature*. Sin nature *as a monarch* has been *dethroned* and *killed at the Cross*. We have a change of position... married to another - we are the subjects of another Kingdom which is now governed by - through power of grace – the Holy Spirit nature (indwelling).

God's Grace - Willing And At Work In Us!

Eph 3:20according to (((the power that worketh in us)))....

Phil. 2:13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

Grace is defined as: "*The power to will and to do His good pleasure.*" When we are under the influence of His grace (under grace) His (Spirit) power is at work in us *both to will* and *to do* His good pleasure!

Paul starts in Romans chapter 6 in explaining the fact that the regenerate are in a different position. Jesus took our old man-self with Him to the Cross. It died with Him there. The Apostles statement: "Knowing this that our old self was crucified WITH HIM . . ." (Romans 6:6). We were formerly in a state of bankruptcy – in debt to sin – away from God – with no way to pay the sin debt – no way to deliver ourselves. We formerly were under the law and also under the power of the sin nature (since birth inherited from Adam) and were enslaved... the will being captive... we practiced sin by nature. However the old "I" of Romans chapter 7 that we see has been transformed into the new "I" of Romans chapter 8. What Paul

starts to say in chapter 6 he ends with in chapter 8 – that of being dead to sin – “For you have died and your life is HIDDEN with Christ in God” (Col.3:2-3). The old-self is dead. Now as Christians we have a new self that is the result of THE LIFE OF CHRIST who lives in us (Rom. 6:5-8; 8:9; 2 Cor. 4:7-11; Gal. 2:20; Col. 1:27; 3:1-4). The Apostle John also backs this view with his emphatic statement that true Christians are no longer slaves to sin. We, as Christians, no longer practice sin because we are born of God (I Jn. 3:4-19).

John says to be “Born of God” is to have a new nature which comes from God in us. God’s nature is now in us. “His seed abides in [us]; and [we] cannot sin [practice sin due to the sin nature any longer vv. 7-8], because [we are] born of God (I Jn. 3:9).

Some view the life of a Christian as the Ecstasy and the Agony due to having problems with the flesh, and living a life controlled by the Spirit. The flesh is not the sin nature. The flesh is *sin’s manifestation; the action of sin*; that which is the result of following by the submission of the human will over to those base vile desires which were *formerly* “In Adam.” The term “flesh” is characterized not merely the lower forms of sensual gratifications but are in fact THE HIGHEST DEVELOPMENTS OF THE LIFE ESTRANGED FROM GOD!

1Jn. 5:18 We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.

Notice here that as Christians we are *in a place of safety and neutrality* when it comes to temptation for we are no longer “In Adam.” As Christians the human will is made free and no longer a slave to the power of the organ or seat called “sin nature!” In contrast, the flesh is that place of choosing apart from yielding to the Spirit and Christ. It is that place were the “will is given by choice back to those baser areas to commit sin. Yes, as Christian with a free will we can chose to move back toward sin and commit sin again, however the state in which we are doing so has now everything to do with the direction which the person yields their will, not because the native seat of sin nature hasn’t changed.

Jas. 1:15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

Returning to these base desires and yielding our will to these causes one to be animalistic in nature. Man as a conscience being responds accordingly to appetites, desires, impulses, which he is driven about receiving. “In Adam” this drive for baser sinfulness is the result of its organ or seat. “In Christ” there is no longer this drive which are called the “motions of sin” of Romans chapter 7. “In Christ” this drive is rendered “Motionless - Destroyed!”

Yet chapter 8 of Romans says it is a matter of mind set – that of the person yielding themselves to God. *The flesh as clarified is the human nature acting out without the Holy Spirit – the state of the creature without the yielding of the divine element (apart from the divine Spirit’s influence). This means man can REANIMATE by the human will the MANIFESTATION of sin (the flesh) in his life because his choice is against and apart from the Spirit’s influence.* By mere human will yielded back toward sin a Christian can rebuild what was destroyed.

Gal. 2:18 For if I build again the things which I destroyed (as a result of trust the Cross), I make myself a transgressor.

Now I ask the question: Do we have any need of preaching against sin as Christians?

Adam did not have a sin nature yet he sinned. Christ did not have a sin nature but it doesn’t take a sin nature to sin. As Christians we sin again due to first mind set then a yielding heart toward sin. We can build again what was destroyed by Christ....that being sin itself.

Therefore if a Christian is in sin he would need someone to again preach the law (the mirror of God) and show that he has transgressed, and has the need again to repent. Christian’s who have yielded their lives to the flesh always need reproof for their sins because they are contrary to God.

Flesh – SARX however has a will (Gal.5:24) has a mind (Eph.2:3; Rom.8:6-7) and is against God.

This will and mind set is against the Lord’s will and purposes for us. So those who chose so are separating themselves apart from the Lord in performing these actions of sin.

Gal. 5:17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

Rom. 8:7 Because the carnal (fleshly) mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be (it is rebelling).

Gal. 5:16-21 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

Which direction should I yield my members? (Again a new liberty to choose now in Christ)

Rom. 6:13 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.

Again we see it is still possible for a Christian to yield to unrighteousness to sin!

I am told I must yield my life (as a Christian) to the Lord and His Holy Spirit to MANIFEST righteousness and holiness in my life. Man is a three part being, spirit, mind, will, emotions, and body.

The man who sets his mind after the new nature (the Spirit of God within and to the renewal of the mind) becomes controlled by the Spirit of God. This is that attendance to those spiritual things – those things which are pleasing to God. You see as a Christian yields themselves –submitting them self to Christ to be controlled by the Holy Spirit victory is the result. So as a result of having been made alive to God now given a new indwelling nature and yielding ourselves to Him, we take on ourselves the character of Christ. What was lost “In Adam” which was the true image and likeness of Christ is now regained – man now “In Christ” re-elevated to that created image and likeness. The ministry of the Holy Spirit is always taking our “STATE” and bringing it up to “OUR STANDING” “IN CHRIST.” Here is a list of the provisions which the Lord has made for us.... *and in our new position it means that the Holy Spirit will minister to us in this powerful new way.*

- DON'T LET SATAN TALK YOU OUT OF YOUR GARDEN!-

Introduction To The New You!

These are the *new provisions* made under grace for our sanctification, 8:1-39
(Powerful Sanctification)

A New Law: The Spirit of Life “In Christ Jesus” vv. 1-4

A New Victory: Through the working of the Holy Spirit – Victory vv.5-13

A New Man: Adopted sons of God vv.14-17

A New Purpose vv.28-34

New Security: In Christ by continuing to place our faith in the Cross vv.35-39

MY POSITION -THE NEW “I” IN CHRIST

Now “In Christ” the old self (old man) was permanently crucified with Christ.

Jesus took the old man with Him to the Cross. At the Cross the old man died – was crucified.

Now “ In Christ” my life is hidden with Christ in God. God’s nature abides in the new man. Now I am freed from sin – the power of sin which formerly had a grip upon me – being enslaved to serve sin.

Sin’s power is broken over my life! Now I am no longer dominated to PRACTICE SIN. I have been given a choice of yielding my life to the Spirit of God by the renewal of my mind. Now I am benefiting from the finished work of the Cross, and as I have my faith properly in His Cross I am seeing victory over sin.

Now I am DEAD TO SIN and I am ALIVE to God...as one who has been risen from the dead I am no longer the same person as I was. Now my new nature “NATURALLY” responds to God. Now Jesus Christ is living within me in the person of the Holy Spirit. Jesus lives His life through me, a “CHRIST-IAN.”

Now because of what the Cross has done for me I am yielding my members “BY CHOICE” to be members of “RIGHTEOUSNESS” to God. Now I have the pleasing fruit of righteousness and holiness to honor God!

