

57. The Book of Romans 6:2

Paul's Epistle to the Romans
A message by Pastor Phil Ballmaier

(7-18-24)

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We have recently entered into a new section in our study in Romans—Chapters 6 through 8.

In the last section the theme was *justification*—in this new section the theme is *sanctification*. *Justification* is all about God releasing us from the *penalty* of sin—*sanctification* deals with God releasing us from the *power* of sin.

Here in Romans 6 the theme is *victory over sin*—as in our '*fallen sin nature*' that we inherited from Adam. In this chapter, Paul builds his teaching on overcoming sin in our lives as Christians around 4 foundational principles—*know, reckon, present, and obey*.

1. Know

Romans 6:1–3a (NKJV)

¹ What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? ² Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? ³ Or do you not know...

In verse 1 what he actually said was—“**Shall we continue in the sin that grace may abound?**”

Paul isn't talking about *sins* (plural) but about the *sin nature* we inherited from Adam—the root cause of all the individual sins we commit.

Again, Paul uses the word **know** 3 times (verses 3, 6, and 9) using 3 different Greek words to drive home to our hearts that victory is built on how much we *know* and *understand* what God has said to us in His Word about the riches and resources He has given to us in Christ.

Without **knowing** what God has said on this subject—even though we are *rich* through God's grace, and more than conquerors when it comes to victory over sin—we will go on living in defeat and despair.

One of the first things that Christians need to know is—justification and sanctification are inseparable (like spiritual 'Siamese twins') joined together in the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross and appropriated by faith.

Or in other words, we get saved and sanctified in the same way—by faith in what God has promised in His Word. That is the most important truth you will ever **know** if you are ever going to have continual victory in your life over sin!

Most denominational churches in America today do not believe that Christian *living* is based on Christian *learning* (not feelings or entertainment)—and that Christian learning has to come from the Word of God which alone is '*living and powerful*' to change a life. (Hebrews 4:12)

However, a congregation will usually not rise above the level of its pastor or pastors, and how *they* view the Word.

In a survey taken among 7441 mainline denominational clergy in America, the question was asked, “*Do you believe the Scriptures are the inerrant word of God?*”

95% of Episcopalian priests answered **no**.

87% of Methodist ministers answered **no**.

82% of Presbyterians answered **no**.

77% of American Lutherans answered **no**.

67% of American Baptists answered **no**.

If they would have surveyed Paul and asked him if he thought the Bible was the inerrant Word of God—he also would have answered ‘**know**’—but he would have spelled it—KNOW!

Or in other words—yes, the Bible is inspired and inerrant—don’t *doubt* the Word—know the Word!

2 Timothy 3:12–17 (NKJV)

¹² Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. ¹³ But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. ¹⁴ But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*, ¹⁵ and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

We must ‘*know the Word*’—it has the power to save and set us free from the power of sin, Satan and death itself!

God honors His Word above His name—and like God the Word is eternal (it never needs to be revised, updated or expanded)—as Peter told us, “*The grass withers and the flower fades but the Word of God endures forever.*”

As I said—most *denominational* churches in America today do not believe the Bible is the inerrant Word of God and as such they don’t believe it has the power to change, sanctify, and transform a person’s life.

Unfortunately, it seems that many *evangelical* leaders don’t believe it either because they write books on how we, through our own efforts and performance, can be sanctified in God’s eyes. Let me say it again, justification and sanctification are inseparable—both are rooted in the completed work of Jesus Christ on the cross and given to us at the moment of salvation—

Hebrews 10:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ ...we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once *for all*.

To put it another way, the moment we received Jesus as our Savior—we were immediately separated (sanctified) from the penalty and the power of sin.

Now most Christians will tell you that when you get saved you are separated from the *penalty* of sin (you will never be condemned to hell)—but they don't often tell you (because I'm convinced, they don't know it themselves) that you are also separated from the *power* (the control) of sin as well.

Instead, they try to force a works system on you that is often rooted in the '*more syndrome*'—

'If you just pray more, if you just read your Bible more, if you just witness more, if you just go to church more...that is the key to being sanctified in the Christian life.'

Or in other words, the secret of living the Christian life is found in adding more and more spiritual activities to your life which will bring you victory over the flesh and make you more sanctified in your walk with God. So having begun in the Spirit—Christians are now trying to be made perfect in the flesh—or in other words, they feel that *"after God saved me now the work of transforming me rests on my shoulders."*

This is contrary to everything the Scriptures teach on the subject of sanctification! It's important that we *know* what happened to us when we became Christians—because until we do, most of us will continue to live defeated lives.

It's vitally important that we know that *sanctification* also occurred when we received Jesus into our hearts and were saved. Or in other words, the moment we accepted Jesus as our Savior—God *separated* us from the world (the definition of sanctification) and placed us into the Body of Christ *positionally* sanctifying us to Himself.

Practical sanctification is allowing God to work out into our daily lives (by faith) what He has made us in Christ positionally—*"work out your own salvation..." (Philippians 2:12)*

This is not to say we have no part in the sanctification process or to diminish or dismiss altogether the value of a strong devotional life. It's just that we tend to think that our devotional life (going to church, reading the Bible, praying etc.) makes us victorious over the flesh.

When the truth is that our devotional life is designed by God to draw us closer to Him so that He (Jesus, through the power of the Holy Spirit) can live His life through us applying the victory He won over principalities and the powers (Satan and his demons) through His death and resurrection:

Colossians 2:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

Romans 8:37 (NKJV)

³⁷ Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

Sanctification (victory over sin and becoming more and more like Jesus) has always been a work of God—it has never been the result of man's hard work and raw determination.

Unfortunately, we try to make it one by placing it in the realm of Christian performance and making it contingent on keeping a set of rules or conforming to a standard of behavior that we think will make us more holy in the eyes of God.

1 Corinthians 6:9–10 (NKJV)

⁹ Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.

These are all *nouns* not *verbs*, he isn't talking about *actions*—he's talking about a person's *nature*—the focus isn't on what you *do*, it's on what you *are* (what you are in Adam inheriting a fallen sin nature).

1 Corinthians 6:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ And such were some of you [*not 'and such did some of you'*]. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God. [all passive voice verbs.

Now that's the '*positional*' truth of our salvation/sanctification—there is also a '*practical*' side to this—

Hebrews 10:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.

Practical sanctification (day to day victory over sin) is the fruit of knowing and applying by faith what God has said about *positional* sanctification—in other words, God is saying, "*I've sanctified you—not go live like it!*"

Romans 6:22 (NKJV)

²² But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.

Literal fruit is not produced by hard work on the part of the tree—it happens naturally as the branch is attached to the tree trunk—and the same is true with the believer in Jesus—

John 15:1–2, 4-5, 8 (NKJV)

¹ "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit...

⁴ Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. ⁵ "I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing...

⁸ By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

The core principle of this entire passage in John 15 is on bearing fruit in the Christian life (which includes victory over our fallen sin nature)—which will only be possible when the believer in Jesus abides in Him every day.

The word '**abide**' is the Greek word is 'meno' and it means to '*remain*', or to '*continue*.' When it comes to '*abiding in Christ*' there are two sides to it—union and communion.

Union with Jesus is the connection that comes when we put our faith in Him, accepting Him into our heart as our Lord and Savior. This is a *positional* connection to Christ which we commonly refer to as salvation—or justification (Romans 3:21-5:21).

When I say that this is a '*positional*' connection I'm saying that it isn't subject to what we *do* or *don't do* in our Christian lives—it is a gift of grace (salvation) which we receive by faith (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Since salvation is a *gift* (you don't earn a gift, you just receive or accept it)—therefore our salvation is something we cannot lose or forfeit—it's ours positionally and that never changes once we are in Christ.

So, first you have *union* and then **communion**.

The whole point of communion is to know God and to glorify Him by bearing fruit—

John 15:8 (NKJV)

⁸ By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be [i.e., 'prove to be'] My disciples.

But that won't happen unless we as Christians stay in a perpetual state of *connectedness* to Jesus—we call this *communion, fellowship, or abiding in Christ!* This is a *practical* connection to Jesus that *is* dependent on what we do or don't do in our Christian lives in the way of obedience to His word on a daily basis.

If we don't stay in *communion* with Jesus everyday (a deep personal relationship as opposed to a superficial one)—we will never experience all that God desires for our lives.

When Christians don't abide (don't maintain practical fellowship with Jesus)—they lose a number of blessings and spiritual privileges—i.e., they lose:

- *The assurance of their salvation.*
- *Victory over the flesh.*
- *The spiritual dynamic and power of the Holy Spirit.*
- *The abundant life which includes great joy and fruit bearing.*
- *And finally, they lose their witness, their opportunities to serve God and ultimately their rewards in heaven.*

The one thing they don't lose is their salvation—that is secure because it is a free gift of God's grace—“*not the result of works...*” (*Ephesians 2:9*) So, victory in the Christian life over the flesh (sin nature) is dependent on *abiding*—and abiding is dependent on *knowing*.

Knowing what is ours in Christ so we can appropriate these resources by faith—including knowing that our salvation is secure forever.

If you would like to know more about what it means to be a Jesus-follower—please reach out to us. It would be our greatest privilege to lead you into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

Want to know more? Click [here](#).

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