

**The Azusa Street Papers Overview, X-Sinner, Message 27**  
**October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

In **2 Corinthians 5:17-21** we read the following; *“17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. 18 Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, 19 that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not [a]imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. 20 Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God. 21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”*

The early church saints and the saints at Azusa Street, knew that they were no longer seen by God as sinners, but rather were the seen by God as the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. This ought to be the mind-set of how every born-again believer sees themselves, and **so long as they don’t walk after the flesh and continue in sin**, they will not live under condemnation.

The Apostle Paul says in **Romans 8:1-8**; *“8 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who[a] do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. 3 For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, 4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. 5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. 6 For to be [b]carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7 Because the [c]carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. 8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.”*

ASUSA PAPERS says;

*“Praise God for the Blood of Jesus Christ that cleanses and sanctifies from all sin. Sin is but sin. There are no white sins, no little sins, but all are black before God, and it takes the blood of Jesus Christ to wash us and make us clean. God never saves anyone in sin, but He saves from sin. Bless His holy name! We can live a life free from sin, if we will only believe God and obey His precious Word. All provision is made for us to live a life free from sin.”*

Many would say that it sounds unrealistic to live free from sin, but is it? We already know that if we confess our sins, He’s faithful and just to forgive us of our sins, that’s liberating and that’s freedom. Your freedom is when you obey God’s word, submit yourself to it, resist the devil and watch him flee. When a Christian is tempted to sin, they have the grace of God that enables them to not sin, and this is the power of the Holy Spirit that is at work in them. Grace is not that which covers your sins so that you may continue in them. Grace is given to not sin, to make righteous decisions when you’re tempted.

**1 Corinthians 10:13** says; *“13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to [a]bear it.”*

ILLUSTRATED MESSAGE SERIES BY PASTOR RICHARD BASED ON  
THE AZUSA STREET PAPERS

When Christians continue to sin willfully and rely on the grace-card to make it into heaven, they are walking in great deception, since in the end it will cost them their salvation, regardless of how sincerely they believed in Christ, for it's one thing to talk-the-talk with all the Christianese, but it's another thing to walk-the-walk and take the way of escape when tempted to sin.

When a Christian sees themselves as an X-sinner, a righteous saint in Christ Jesus, and not as a sinner in Christ Jesus saved by grace, they submit themselves to God's grace, resist the devil's temptations and watch him flee in terror of the word of God that is spoken out of their mouths as a sword of the Lord. X-sinners are not sanctimonious, self-righteous Christians, but rather are saints that know how to submit themselves unto God's word when tempted, and rely upon God's grace to take the way of escape that is found in the Bible scriptures that would apply to the temptation. **So long as a Christian sees themselves as a sinner, save by the grace-card, they will continue to sin willfully and not submit themselves unto God's word in times of temptation.**

As a man thinks in his heart, so is he. Where are you seated today? Are you seated in heavenly places where there is no sin? If you abide in Christ, you do not continue in sin as it has to do with the intent of the heart. If you see yourself as a sinner and pull the grace-card when you do sin, you will be able to continue in sin, but if you see yourself as the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus, there is a pretty good chance you'll choose not to sin. If you see yourself as God sees you, which is righteous, you'll want to please Him and not sin. Should you sin when your tempted, you confess your sin and He's faith and just to cleanse you of your sin. Sin is of the devil, it's not of God, call it like it is and when you're purposefully sinning, you're behaving like the devil. Sin is not a weakness, it's of the devil and you're submitting to his temptation. That's why you have to be in God's word, study it, and when tempted the word will be quickened to you to be able to resist the temptation when it comes.

When you're born of God, your heart desire is not to sin. See yourself as God sees you – the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus.

**1 John 1:5-10** says; *"5 This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us."*

Sin will try to enter in, but when it does, take the sword of the Spirit – the word of God, and say, 'it is written satan,' and watch him flee as you've submitted yourself to Jesus. But don't view yourself as a sinner and that you've always sinned in this area you're tempted in and are just going to continue in it and think that God's grace is sufficient for you, you know He's going to see you through. You're deceived if you think like that. If you continue to see yourself as a sinner and live under the grace-card, you'll sin more instead of seeing yourself as God sees you as righteous in Christ Jesus.

**1 John 2:1-5** says; *"2 My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. 2 And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world. 3 Now by this we know that we know Him, if we*

ILLUSTRATED MESSAGE SERIES BY PASTOR RICHARD BASED ON  
THE AZUSA STREET PAPERS

*keep His commandments. 4 He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 5 But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God [a] is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him."*

When a Christian x-sinner sins in heart or deed, they repent, receive forgiveness, and strengthen themselves in God's word to overcome when tempted again and do not continue in that sin. This is what separates true Christians from false Christians; true Christians by grace strive to obey God's word and keep His commandments, false Christians disobey His commandments and pull the grace-card to continue to sin willfully without repentance.

AZUSA PAPERS says;

*"First we come to the Lord Jesus as a sinner. We fall at His feet and confess our sins and accept His precious blood that washes away all guilt and pollution, and brings life to our souls which were dead in trespasses and sins. Then God turns light upon His precious Word and shows us it is the will of God even our sanctification. We see how David prayed for cleansing, "Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean; wash me and I shall be whiter than snow." The Lord prayed for our sanctification, and how sweet the words come to every Blood washed heart, "I pray not that thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that thou shouldst keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth; thy word is truth," John 17:15, 17. Then in John 15:3, we read, "Now ye are clean, through the Word which I have spoken unto you." So through the Gospel we are cleansed by obedience to Him. May the Lord bless us and help us to stand in His precious Word."*

A lot of Christians believe that this is legalism, and instead of living by grace, a sanctified life, by obeying God's commandments, they lay claim to say that Jesus' death on the cross paid for their past, present and future sins whether they are confessed or not, that they have eternal life by having prayed the sinner's prayer and been born-again of His Spirit. This is probably why so many Christians see themselves as sinners saved by the grace-card, instead of X-sinners who are being saved by grace that enable them to obey His word and are working out their salvation with fear and trembling, knowing that their salvation is not secure until they finish the race and receive the prize by having obeyed the rules to obtain it. This is why the early church saints at Pentecost as well as the saints at Azusa, had a period of sanctification before receiving the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, and they knew that God saw them as X-sinners, the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus, no longer seen as sinners but saints who walk-the-Christian-walk and not just talk-the-Christian-talk.

AZUSA PAPERS says;

*"Before you can receive the baptism with the Holy Ghost, you must have a thorough, definite experience of justification and sanctification, which are through the Blood of Jesus, and they are two distinct acts of grace. First, what God has done for you, second, what God has wrought within you. Then and only then are you prepared to receive your baptism from the Father, by Jesus Christ His Son. And when you have received your baptism, He, the Holy Ghost, will speak through you in tongues, and not before."*

What separates the Christian X-sinner who is being saved by grace from the Christian sinner that believes they are already saved by grace, is the sanctified life that has been baptized with Holy Spirit, speaking in tongues and operating in the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The Christian sinner who is full of worldly wisdom, is religiously riding on a high horse persecuting the X-sinners who knows that they are righteous in Christ Jesus and obey His commandments by grace to finish the race strong and obtain salvation. The religious Christian that sees himself

ILLUSTRATED MESSAGE SERIES BY PASTOR RICHARD BASED ON  
THE AZUSA STREET PAPERS

as a sinner saved by grace, needs to be knocked off their religious high horse by God, just like he did to Saul on the road to Damascus.

That's why many come into meetings being critical of what they see and hear and are slain by the power of the Spirit, and as God meets them, they repent, they get prayed for, they ask for forgiveness and then receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit and start speaking in tongues.

AZUSA PAPERS says;

*"The Lord knocked Paul down and he got up trembling and saying, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" The Lord knocked all the worldly wisdom out of Paul. That is the reason He knocks so many people down here, to take the worldly wisdom out of them. Paul was a man full of the wisdom and knowledge of this world, but when he got the baptism with the Holy Ghost, he was able to tell us about the true wisdom and true knowledge."*

The X-sinner knows who they are in Christ, they are in righteous standing with God, and don't operate in wisdom of this world, but rather, operate in supernatural wisdom found in the Holy Bible and obey God's commandments. It's one thing to say that you are a Christian, and it's another to live your life as a Christian. You can talk-the-talk with the latest and greatest Christianese, but if the basic fundamental requirements of being a Christian, such as attending church, taking communion, being baptised in water are not obeyed, how can a person call themselves a Christian? And if these fundamentals are not obeyed, guaranteed they believe in eternal security, once saved always saved, and see themselves as sinners saved by grace, and not X-sinners that are the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus, being saved by grace that enables them to obey God's commandments.

If you'd ask anyone who does not practice even these three fundamental Bible trues that if they died today, where would they go and why would they go...they would say they're eternally secure based on the prayer that they prayed at one time in their life. Because if it wasn't and they knew that their salvation was at risk, they'd be in church, they'd be water baptized, they'd be taking communion, they'd be tithing, they'd be obeying all Jesus commanded, they'd stop sinning. So, how can you call yourself a Christian when you can't even obey these basic fundamentals?

That would be like me saying that I work for a company, but I don't show up to the company to work...but I work for them. I don't attend union meetings...but I work for them. I'm a dedicated member of that company...but I don't pay my dues. Pretty soon, you'd have to be brought into accountability by the head of the company! How can you say you're a member of the body of Christ, a member of the kingdom of heaven, but don't go to church, don't want to be baptized in Jesus' name nor take communion...but yet say you're a Christian? How's that going to go over on judgment day when you give an account to Jesus how you lived?

**1 John 3:4-9** talks about sin and being the child of God; *"4 Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness. 5 And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin. 6 Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him. 7 Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. 8 He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. 9 Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God."*

ILLUSTRATED MESSAGE SERIES BY PASTOR RICHARD BASED ON  
THE AZUSA STREET PAPERS

This scripture is very clear about those who say they're Christians yet choose to disobey what Jesus commanded them to do; they're practicing lawlessness because they're sinning and continuing to sin thinking there are no consequences. Water baptism, regular church fellowship and communion are just a few of the basic commandments of Jesus and if someone who says they're a Christian yet doesn't obey Him in these, then really, who's your daddy? You have to ask yourself if you're really a Christian. Are you behaving like a Christian by not going to church, by not getting water baptized, by not taking communion...I think not. This is extremely serious and your eternal destination depends on your obedience. Those who disobey Jesus' commands are acting like the devil and being deceived.

Are you an X-sinner being saved by grace or do you see yourself as a sinner that pulls the grace-card to cover your disobedience? It's a very relevant question. Do you see yourself as the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus, an X-sinner, or as a sinner covered by the grace-card? Don't believe everyone who says they're a Christian, see the fruit of their life and whether or not they're obedient to the words of Jesus, see if they want to identify themselves with the Book of Acts church and love the body of Jesus.

This message is very offensive to thousands of Christians around the world who are living like this, but just as the Apostle John said in **1 John 2:1-5** says; "... 3 Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. 4 He who says, "I know Him," and **does not keep His commandments**, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 5 But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God [a]is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him."

**James 5:20** also says; "let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins."

Like I said earlier, those who believe this way believe in eternal security which is false teaching. Is it going to be, 'well done thou good and faithful servant, enter into your rest', when you see Jesus? How can it be that when you haven't been obedient to what Jesus commanded you to do? Today is the day of repentance.

This is the statement that we have on our website in What We Believe.

We believe that the doctrine of 'eternal security' or 'once saved always saved' is not true. Every Christian still has a free will to keep walking with Christ or to turn away. It's what one does and how they live between being born again and dying that counts. It's not how you start the race by becoming born again, but how you finish the race. We're to run the race (the Christian life), with perseverance and not look back so that we cross the finish line victorious and win the prize (2 Timothy 4:7). Works of righteousness need to accompany our faith in Jesus Christ because faith without works is dead (James 2:20). God's grace is made available to every Christian to resist temptations when they come as we know the devil is relentless in coming to rob, steal and destroy, ultimately to get them to back-slide (John 10:10).

**Here are a number of Bible scriptures to back that up;**

- **Hebrews 6:4-6**; "4 For *it is* impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, 5 and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, 6 [a]if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put *Him* to an open shame."

ILLUSTRATED MESSAGE SERIES BY PASTOR RICHARD BASED ON  
THE AZUSA STREET PAPERS

- **2 Peter 2:20**; “For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning.”
- **2 Corinthians 13:5**; “ Examine yourselves *as to* whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you [a]are disqualified.”
- **Luke 9:62**; “But Jesus said to him, “No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”
- **Matthew 7:21-23**; “**21** “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. **22** Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ **23** And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’”

To read No.1, Vol. 7 of The Apostolic Faith (Azusa Street Papers), [please click this link](#).