

Lesson 9 – The Book of Romans

A few comments before we begin the lesson today. On our way to one of the most significant chapters in all of Holy Writ – Romans 7, I need to remind us of something we have already covered.

A reminder for all of us, any attempt on our part to earn what we have been given freely by God is in fact a rejection of what has been given.

By grace and His gift alone we have access into His presence. And it is a continual condition. It is on a continual basis that we have this access. We enter this access strictly by faith. By believing it is so, irrespective of what we think, feel or experience. The only way we can enjoy what we have been given is by believing it to be the case.

‘To remind us again, maturity in the life of the believer is demonstrated in the issue of **Hope**. Everything starting with tribulation, worketh toward the end result in our lives of the fact that we have **hope**. Look again at the progression in **Romans 5: 4** – move toward hope.

Character in the life of the believer produces **hope**. Patience directs us toward tribulation which in turn develops in us character that produces **hope**.’

To keep on keeping on – **hope** Knowing the end of what we are now experiencing is to produce in us hope.

Again, hope is how we measure *maturity in the believer*. He keeps on keeping on with the hope in front of him.

Ok, now before we tackle Romans 7, I want to re-introduce each of us in a certainty of biblical terminology. We need to understand what these words mean, and how they apply to our lives.

Romans 6 teaches us these words.

We have been *reconciled* to God the Father through the death of His Son Jesus. To be reconciled means to “restore to a relationship by the removal of barriers”

It is that man has been reconciled to God by God. *Religion is man’s attempt to reconcile himself to God.*

Jesus died on the cross to “save” us, and His life in us is continually saving us today.

Romans 6:4 – we are buried with Him by baptism – Not water, but the immersion as we are clothed with Christ. **Ephesians 4:4-6** tells – 7 facts here but only one baptism. Water baptism never unifies – **Col 2:11-14** – circumcision without hands ie; your identification with His burial and resurrection – **1 Peter 3:20&21** – no one got wet here, rather this is the baptism of the Holy Spirit – total immersion in Him. We were all baptized into Him.

Reckon it so beloved because it is. **Romans 6 5-11** Old self done away with, He died once and for all to sin and we did too, therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal bodies.

The Christian life is not trying to become something that you no longer are. Rather the Christian life is experiencing what you presently are – In Christ. You are now a new Creature in Him and sin shall not have dominion over you because you and I are under grace. As we yield ourselves to this principle it becomes real in our lives and being freed from sin, we now become (slaves) or servants to Him.

Now there are several words that I want to consider. They are:

Redemption- Romans 3:24, 1st Corinthians 1:30 and Galatians 3:13

Propitiation - Romans 5:25, 1st John 2:2 and 6:10 and

Reconciliation – Romans 5:10-11, 2nd Corinthians 5: 18-20 and Colossians 1:22

We have studied these words before, but just to remind all of us; all three of these things were accomplished by His Son Jesus on the cross. Redemption pertains to us, propitiation (or satisfaction) **pertains to God** and reconciliation is **for His people**.

All are the total work of God through the death of His Son Jesus.

Our deliverance is daily through Jesus and we are saved for as long as He lives.

Out of this logic comes our only reason for living a Godly life. It is not through intimidation or threats of punishment, but through His finished work, loving us in our unlovely state.

Look for a moment at **Romans 5:12**- We know that sin entered this world through one man – Adam. Not Eve, she was duped by the Devil. Adam knew what He was doing (lesson for another time here).

Just a note on **5:13&14**. Question – Why did folks die from Adam to Moses? Answer because of the original sin of Adam being imputed into them. This issue for another time also.

I am skipping over a bit, because I want to comment on Romans 6. We will call this area “sanctification”: We will look at the issue of just how a Holy Just and Righteous God can even deal with sinful man

For your information here I want to remind us of the word salvation.

There are 3 tenses of this word; Have been, am being and will be saved.

Past tense – Separated from the *penalty* of sin – Known as Justification

Present Tense – Separation from the *power* of sin – which we know as sanctification

And Future Tense – Separation from the *presence* of sin – which we know as **glorification**.

Justification is **for us** – Sanctification is **in us**

Justification declares the sinner righteous; **Sanctification** makes the sinner righteous. **Justification** removes the guilt and penalty of sin, **Sanctification** removes the growth and power of sin

Did you get all of that?

Paul then asks the question in Romans 6:1&2- Shall we continue in sin now that grace us abounding in our lives?

The answer may surprise us - NO – you are dead to that thing. But you say, no Tom it seems to be alive in me at this very moment.

This is important beloved – remember that death is not **extinction**. When death comes to the believer, he does not cease to exist. He merely changes location. Death means **separation**. That is why it is said of the believer, he will never be separated from the lord Jesus. To die, Paul said is to my gain. I will no longer be separated from the Lord, I will be with Him.

That is what Romans 6: 7-14 is telling us. You and I have been separated from sin.- period.

Know this beloved, the believer may still sin, but by the presence of Gpd within him, he cannot stay there.

Remember beloved, to be justified is not to make you good. Jesus Christ did not die to make men good. **He died to make dead men alive.**

Romans 6:3 “do you not know that as many of us were baptized into Christ Jesus, were baptized into His death.

IF FOR SOME REASON YOU ARE LOOKING FOR WATER HERE, YOU ARE MISSING THE POINT.

1ST Corinthians 15:1-4 again the definition of the word Gospel.

He died for our sins – according to scripture

He was buried

He rose again – according to the scriptures.

The key verbs here are: knowing, believing, and reckoning

These words are the basis on which chapter 6 hinges.

Vs 3 – “do you not know (present tense) are you continuing not to know

Vs 6 – “knowing” (present tense) keep on knowing something

Vs 8 - “we believe” keep on believing

Vs 9 – “knowing that Christ” (perfect tense) having come to know

Vs 11 – “reckon” or consider- keep on considering

Vs 12 – “do not let sin” imperative sense – present tense – keep on not letting sin reign in your body

Vs 13 “do not go on presenting- present tense, but present yourselves: ie. Do it immediately

Now concerning the word – Baptism- mentioned above.

How many different baptisms are mentioned in scripture? At least 7 different kinds.

1st Corinthians 10 1&2 Here the Israelites went though the Red Sea on dry land. – no water here – the word is they actually entered into the water on dry land according to the faith of Moses. The word baptism is transliterated.

1st Peter 3;20- Noah and the ark – no one got wet

Point is – we were baptized into Jesus Christ at the new birth. We were emersed into Him. I believe this differs from the baptism in the Holy Spirit, which is another lesson.

Point also is that you and I now enjoy His resurrection life, and likewise reckon ourselves dead indeed unto sin, and alive unto God.

Paul then states in **Romans 6:12** “therefore do not let sin REIGN in your mortal body that you should obey in the lusts thereof.” Point being, do not let sin reign (present tense) - do not let sin continue to reign. Stop letting it reign- RIGHT NOW is the point.

Romans 6:13 – the word instruments is a military context meaning weapons or armor. I.e. There is a warfare between unrighteousness and righteousness – rather offer your bodies as a living sacrifice to God.

Our daily choices determine which one we choose. This again is our salvation walk

Verse 14 – is very good news because the law required death, but grace is the new principle under which I live.

Three times in this chapter Paul wrote that sin results in death. And the continual acts of sin deserve the wages received.

One final comment here before we quit for the night.

Isaiah 40 verse 32 says “they that wait upon the Lord – Shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and no0t faint.”

This word “wait” has a unique meaning. It is not the same as someone who is waiting at the bus stop for the bus, or someone who is waiting at the restaurant for a loved one to arrive.

Picture if you will a strong rope with many smaller pieces woven together to make up a larger rope. As these smaller pieces of twine wrap themselves around one another they become a strong rope.

That is the picture here. The more we wrap ourselves around Him, the more we are intertwined in Him and His presence, the stronger we become. His life upholding mine, His peace overtaking my anxiety, His love captivating my thoughts.

That is what it means to “wait” upon Him. Twisting and turning and embracing Him in every part of your life.

More next time

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