

What To Do About Sin?

December 11, 2016

Romans 10:2-4 NASB

2 For I testify about them that **THEY HAVE A ZEAL FOR GOD**, but not in accordance with knowledge.

3 **FOR NOT KNOWING ABOUT GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS** and **SEEKING TO ESTABLISH THEIR OWN, THEY DID NOT SUBJECT THEMSELVES TO THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD.**

4 **FOR CHRIST IS THE END OF THE LAW FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS TO EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES.**

Every government, culture and religion recognizes the evil in man and grabbles with what to do about it. Christians can be acutely sensitive to the guilt of their own sin and can struggle the most with their failures.

As humans, we fall back on some of our most primal instincts; *"I have to fix this, I have to control this, I have to try harder and do better."* We resort to self-discipline, willpower, man-made regimens and self-imposed formulas for self-improvement.

"Self-righteousness...is the largest idol of the human heart - the idol which man loves most and God hates most. Dearly beloved, you will always be going back to this idol. You are always trying to be something in yourself..." — Robert Murray M'Cheyne, 1813-1843, Minister in the Church of Scotland

"Now we cannot...discover our failure to keep God's law except by trying our very hardest (and then failing). Unless we really try, whatever we say there will always be at the back of our minds the idea that if we try harder next time we shall succeed in being completely good...All this trying leads up to the vital moment at which you turn to God and say, "You must do this. I can't." — C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity

Fighting flesh with flesh is like fighting fire with fire, all you do is make a bigger fire.

Romans 7:8-11 NASB

8 But sin, taking opportunity through the commandment, produced in me coveting of every kind; for apart from the Law sin is dead.

9 I was once alive apart from the Law; but when the commandment came, sin became alive and I died;

10 and this commandment, which was to result in life, proved to result in death for me;

11 for sin, taking an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me.

"No man knows how bad he is till he has tried very hard to be good."

— C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity

Galatians 3:3-4 NASB

3 Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?

4 Did you suffer so many things in vain--if indeed it was in vain?

Self-righteousness can only have one of two outcomes, both of which are equally deadly:

1. **religious pride** (*the Pharisee*)

"The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: 'God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector.'" Luke 18:11 NASB

2. **hopeless condemnation** (*Judas Iscariot*)

"And he threw the pieces of silver into the temple sanctuary and departed; and he went away and hanged himself." Matthew 27:5 NASB

"Beware of self-righteousness. The black devil of licentiousness destroys his hundreds, but the white devil of self-righteousness destroys his thousands." — Charles Spurgeon

"Beware of self-righteousness in every possible shape and form. Some people get as much harm from their "virtues" as others do from their sins." — J. C. Ryle (1816-1900)

"the devil loves 'curing' a small fault by giving you a great one." — C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity

The Jews

Mark 7:1-8 NASB

1 The Pharisees and some of the scribes gathered around Him when they had come from Jerusalem,

2 and had seen that some of His disciples were eating their bread with impure hands, that is, unwashed.

3 (For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they carefully wash their hands, **THUS OBSERVING THE TRADITIONS OF THE ELDERS;**

4 and when they come from the market place, they do not eat unless they cleanse themselves; and **THERE ARE MANY OTHER THINGS WHICH THEY HAVE RECEIVED IN ORDER TO OBSERVE, SUCH AS THE WASHING OF CUPS AND PITCHERS AND COPPER POTS.**)

5 The Pharisees and the scribes asked Him, "**WHY DO YOUR DISCIPLES NOT WALK ACCORDING TO THE TRADITION OF THE ELDERS, BUT EAT THEIR BREAD WITH IMPURE HANDS?**"

6 And He said to them, "Rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: 'THIS PEOPLE HONORS ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR AWAY FROM ME.

7 **'BUT IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE PRECEPTS OF MEN.'**

8 **"NEGLECTING THE COMMANDMENT OF GOD, YOU HOLD TO THE TRADITION OF MEN."**

The Torah, or Pentateuch (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy), according to Jewish tradition, contains 613 laws covering all topics including worship, diet, business practices, the poor, the Gentiles, marriage, sexual relations, times and seasons, farming and clothing.

The Talmud (Oral Law) is a collection of oral tradition and a commentary on the Torah, expounding on the meaning and application of the laws in the Torah.

ISIS

"No Islamic community is without its mosques and community centers. But where ISIS is running things - as in its headquarters city, Raqqa, Syria - those institutions become hotbeds of indoctrination, radicalization, and recruitment. ISIS teaches its brand of radical Sunnite theology to adults and children alike. Outside these centers,

ISIS "enforcers" walk the streets brandishing automatic weapons to impose strict adherence to sharia law. Everything from diet to dress to business dealings to music is subject to inspection and correction. Life under ISIS is a closed, controlled system where every aspect is part of the training." -- Dr. David Jeremiah, Is This The End?, p.192

"Parents live in fear of their own sons, whose loyalty to ISIS supersedes family ties." -- Dr. David Jeremiah, Is This The End?, p.193

"There are schools and Islamic centers where Islamic doctrine is drilled into children and adults. Welfare and health systems are subject to strict social regulation enforced by the Islamic judges and courts. Robed "religious police" roam the streets, automatic weapons slung over their shoulders, pointing out citizens whose dress, religious life, commercial practices, recreational activities, or social conduct falls short of sharia standards." -- Dr. David Jeremiah, Is This The End?, p.199

GOD'S SANCTIFICATION - OUR ONLY HOPE

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 NASB

23 NOW MAY THE GOD OF PEACE HIMSELF SANCTIFY YOU ENTIRELY; AND MAY YOUR SPIRIT AND SOUL AND BODY BE PRESERVED COMPLETE, WITHOUT BLAME AT THE COMING OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.

24 FAITHFUL IS HE WHO CALLS YOU, AND HE ALSO WILL BRING IT TO PASS.

"Mortification from a self-strength, carried on by ways of self-invention, unto the end of a self-righteousness is the soul and substance of all false religion... The Spirit alone is sufficient for this work. All ways and means without Him are useless. He is the great efficient. He is the One who gives life and strength to our efforts."

-- John Owen (1616-1683), Theologian of the English Puritans

YOUR SANCTIFICATION ACCOMPLISHED AND COMPLETED ON THE CROSS

Romans 6:3-7 NASB

3 Or **DO YOU NOT KNOW** that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?

4 THEREFORE WE HAVE BEEN BURIED WITH HIM THROUGH BAPTISM INTO DEATH, SO THAT AS CHRIST WAS RAISED FROM THE DEAD THROUGH THE GLORY OF THE FATHER, SO WE TOO MIGHT WALK IN NEWNESS OF LIFE.

5 For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection,

6 KNOWING THIS, THAT OUR OLD SELF WAS CRUCIFIED WITH HIM, IN ORDER THAT OUR BODY OF SIN MIGHT BE DONE AWAY WITH, SO THAT WE WOULD NO LONGER BE SLAVES TO SIN;

7 for he who has died is freed from sin.

ACTIVATING SANCTIFICATION

Romans 6:11-22 NASB

11 **EVEN SO CONSIDER** (*logizomai - take into account, count, think, reason, reckon, compute, calculate, judge, deem*) **YOURSELVES TO BE DEAD TO SIN, BUT ALIVE TO GOD IN CHRIST JESUS.**

Romans 12:2 NASB

2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

Isaiah 55:11 NASB

11 So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, Without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.

Romans 6:11-22 NASB

12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts,

13 and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; **BUT PRESENT YOURSELVES TO GOD AS THOSE ALIVE FROM THE DEAD, AND YOUR MEMBERS AS INSTRUMENTS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS TO GOD.**

14 **FOR SIN SHALL NOT BE MASTER OVER YOU, FOR YOU ARE NOT UNDER LAW BUT UNDER GRACE.**

15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? May it never be!

16 **DO YOU NOT KNOW THAT WHEN YOU PRESENT YOURSELVES TO SOMEONE AS SLAVES FOR OBEDIENCE, YOU ARE SLAVES OF THE ONE WHOM YOU OBEY, EITHER OF SIN RESULTING IN DEATH, OR OF OBEDIENCE RESULTING IN RIGHTEOUSNESS?**

17 But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed,

18 and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

19 I am speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness, resulting in further lawlessness, **SO NOW PRESENT YOUR MEMBERS AS SLAVES TO RIGHTEOUSNESS, RESULTING IN SANCTIFICATION.**

20 **FOR WHEN YOU WERE SLAVES OF SIN, YOU WERE FREE IN REGARD TO RIGHTEOUSNESS.**

21 Therefore what benefit were you then deriving from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the outcome of those things is death.

22 **BUT NOW HAVING BEEN FREED FROM SIN AND ENSLAVED TO GOD, YOU DERIVE YOUR BENEFIT, RESULTING IN SANCTIFICATION, AND THE OUTCOME, ETERNAL LIFE.**

Little by little, hour by hour, day by day, as we present ourselves and surrender to the Holy Spirit, parts of the old sinful nature are removed and replaced by the character of Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 3:18 NASB

18 But we all, **WITH UNVEILED FACE, BEHOLDING AS IN A MIRROR THE GLORY OF THE LORD, ARE BEING TRANSFORMED INTO THE SAME IMAGE FROM GLORY TO GLORY, JUST AS FROM THE LORD, THE SPIRIT.**

*Your sanctification is **PREDESTINED** - meaning as you present and surrender there is NOTHING that can stop it from happening.*

Romans 8:29 NASB

29 For those whom He foreknew, **HE ALSO PREDESTINED TO BECOME CONFORMED TO THE IMAGE OF HIS SON**, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren.

In sanctification, the flesh and its passions never change, but the transformed heart and renewed mind now dominate and rule over the flesh by the Holy Spirit.