

VICTORY OVER THE FLESH

Review: Rom 6

1. **Our position in Christ creates 2 great possibilities for the believer in time.**
 - a. Walk in New Life – eternal resurrected life – God the Holy Spirit creates a spiritual sphere – New Man
 - b. Take apart effects of Adam’s sin – remove condemnation, counteract the Old Sin Nature, break sinful patterns
2. **From our human birth to our spiritual birth, we are controlled by our selfish nature, interpreting every event of our life through the lens of self-interest.**
3. **The Old Man belief system that we develop out of our experiences puts our self as more important than God**
 - a. We develop our beliefs, expectations & love strategies with self as the focus rather than God.
 - b. Beliefs are stored in neural networks in the brain
4. **After salvation, God the Holy Spirit enables us to yield our volition to either God/truth or the Old Sin Nature /lies**
 - a. Yield – *paristemi* – place besides, make available for use, place at one’s disposal
5. **To whom we yield our volition (God the Holy Spirit – the Old Sin Nature) to apply the principles of each respective belief system, we are servants, becoming enslaved through habituation.**
 - a. Any repeated thought or behavior becomes a habit & creates automatic responses.
 - b. All habits, cycles & patterns are stored in the neural networks of the brain (the flesh) where they continue to be used in response to external stimuli.
6. **The thoughts & behaviors that we consistently choose, become habitual responses to our circumstances and increase in intensity & consistency – vs 19 lawlessness leading to greater lawlessness.**
 - a. When we attach our hunger/thirst to sinful strategies for gratification, we are left emptier and more frustrated than when we started – law of diminishing returns

Rom.7:1-13 – The Purpose of the Law

- a. The purpose of the Mosaic Law was to expose sin for the deadly, destructive force it is.
Romans 7:13 Therefore did that which is good become *a cause of death* for me? May it never be! Rather it was sin, in order that it might be shown to be sin by effecting my death through that which is good, that through the commandment sin might become utterly sinful.

Rom.7:14- 23 - Believer’s Inner Conflict

Romans 7:15 For that which I keep on doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I want to *do*, but I am doing the very thing I hate.

- a. Paul describes the status of the believer caught between the Old Sin Nature, its logic & rationales and God the Holy Spirit who directs the hunger of our desires to the promises and rationales of the word.
- b. Present tenses in the verse indicate ongoing, consistent behaviors – picture of average daily life
- c. 3 verbs for doing
 - **Katergazomai** – a reaction produced by pressure – habituated, subconscious patterns; don’t understand why I keep using these reactions & patterns (vs 17 – no long I, but indwelling sin)
 - **Prasso** = consistently practice + **thelo** = desire, intend – what I want & intend to consistently practice
 - **Poieo** = perform + **miseo** = despise - a single action in the moment
- d. God the Holy Spirit gives us a desire/wish/intention to do will of God – still enslaved to the Old Sin Nature thought patterns

Vs 18 – 23: nothing of divine good (*agathos*) dwells in my flesh – total depravity; I have a desire/intent to do *agathos* but my instinctive reactions don’t produce divine good, no longer me causing these reactive habits to be sinful but sin indwelling me (my flesh); I find the principle that in the inner man connected to God the Holy Spirit desires/intends to do the will of God but in my flesh evil is present, making war against my mind and taking me captive to the sin in my body.

- a. **Paul describes his own inner conflict between his Old Sin Nature and Old Man concepts cp God the Holy Spirit and divine concepts and so describes the inner conflict of every Church Age believer.**
- b. **Prior to salvation Paul possessed no divine good (agathos) within him – total depravity**
 - Total Depravity: fall caused our human nature to be totally corrupted, devoid of +R - Rom 3:10
- c. **God the Holy Spirit motivates the believer to wish/intend to meet his needs by obeying God’s will - agathos**
 - **Phil 2:13 for it is God who is at work in you, both to desire/intend and to work for His good pleasure.**
 - God the Holy Spirit produces thelo (intention) & the capacity to perform His will for God’s good pleasure
- d. **Despite his intention to yield to God the Holy Spirit, he often found himself yielding to his Old Sin Nature & Old Man beliefs**
 - Vs 20 – no longer me that is doing it but the sin dwelling in my body
 - **Katergazomai** – produce under pressure – habituated patterns of thought, feeling & acting
- e. **Law (nomos – Mosaic Law); different law (concept, principle) that the flesh is contaminated with the Old Sin Nature & Old Man beliefs & patterns.**
- f. **Making war against – *antistrateuo* – fight against your mind (Filling of the Holy Spirit) taking my thoughts captive by the concept of the Old Sin Nature in my flesh**
 - The Old Sin Nature + Old Man beliefs are the deeply habituated patterns, our default under pressure that seeks to regain control of the soul – fight against God the Holy Spirit to take our thoughts captive to be controlled by sin

Vs 24-25 – “wretched man that I am, who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ” – serve the principles of God cp serving the law of sin in the flesh – solution phase

Rom.8:1-8 solutions – all condemnation has been resolved and removed; concepts revealed by God the Holy Spirit have set us free from the concepts of sin and death; Mosaic Law couldn’t save so God the Father sent His Son to condemn sin in the flesh so that while we are Walking in the power of the Holy Spirit we fulfill the Law; the mind focused on the either the flesh or God the Holy Spirit will be focused on the things of the flesh or Spirit; the mind focused on the flesh is temporal death but the mind focused on God the Holy Spirit is life and peace; the mind set on the flesh is in a state of war with God; flesh is unable to submit to God; those focused on the flesh cannot please God.

Summary:

1. The Mosaic Law was a grace provision to reveal man’s status in Adam & our need for Christ, but the Jews turned it into a works system by which they believed that by keeping they could be saved.
 - Rather than hinder sinful behavior, law and rules make sinning more desirable - reaction against control
2. After salvation, the believer is hard caught in the war between the influence of the flesh (the Old Sin Nature + acquired beliefs/patterns) & influence of God the Holy Spirit /divine nature + acquired beliefs/strategies & must decide to whom he/she will yield & be enslaved.
3. The inner conflict carries no condemnation & our choice to focus on God the Holy Spirit & Categorical Bible Doctrine enables us to recognize our false behaviors so that we can remove our self-centered beliefs, exchanging them for the thinking of Christ
 - Rom.8:5-6 (*phroneo*) – to focus the mind upon either the flesh or God the Holy Spirit causing habituated patterns of control
 - Consistent rejection of old patterns breaks the enslavement (habituation) enabling us to enslave self to God the Holy Spirit
4. **Christ has already won the victory over all the effects of Adam’s Original Sin, both positional and practical victories**
 - **Positional** – exchange 13 judicial charges for 50 grace gifts given at salvation – instantly when we believe
 - **Practical** – The Indwelling of God the Holy Spirit → Filling of the Holy Spirit – Walking in the power of the Holy Spirit → enlightenment → empowerment → victory over the flesh!