

I. The Baptism of Jesus' Death and the Holy Ghost

Last week we defined probably one of the most misunderstood doctrines, or really two of them, found in the Bible. That is dealing with the aspect of the doctrine of the baptism of Jesus' death, and then we talked about the baptism of the Holy Ghost. We showed you how those two are probably the most misunderstood teachings anywhere in Christianity today. You have one group of people who teach that you get baptized to go to heaven. You have another group that teaches that when you got saved, you did not get everything that God had for you, and then you've got to get this mystical baptism of the Holy Ghost that kind of finishes you off, I guess, of getting all that God has for you.

You now should understand those. As we come through Romans, I told you Romans chapters 6, 7, and 8 are probably the greatest chapters in all of the Bible that really begin to fix a foundation for what you and I believe as the New Testament local church. These are great passages, and you're going to find that each passage really deals with a different aspect and almost breaks it down in a very unique way that you can begin to grasp the great concepts of how we live our lives. We're going to talk about that today as we get into the next section.

You should understand now that the baptism of Jesus' death refers to Christ coming down out of the throne of heaven, coming down to this earth, and dying, and then going back up to the throne of God and making Himself the offering for your sin and for my sin. Because He did that, the moment you trust Christ as your own personal Savior, you become complete in Him, as the Bible says, and you become immersed in the Holy Spirit of God. That's why, as we talked about last week, when we baptize, we baptize by immersion. We put you down and we put you back up again. Baptism represents the death of Christ, and that's why all through the Bible, you only find adult people who, after they have trusted Christ, you don't ever find any children being baptized, you never find any babies being baptized. It's all adults after they have trusted and believed and taken Christ into their heart.

The very aspect of why we immerse versus somebody who sprinkles, to me, it's always been a basic thing. Baptism represents somebody's death, and you go under and you come back up. I've been to many funerals, I've preached many funerals, and I've never seen somebody buried where they stood him up in a corner and threw dirt in his face. It's always a thing where you go under, and that's why we baptize the way we baptize. Some things in life are just very simple if you just think them through.

II. The Absolute Victory Over Sin

Now we're going to start another section today in Romans chapter 6, and we're going to look at verses 5 through 13. This passage begins another whole deal that will lead us into chapter 7. What we're going to talk about today, we kind of got this going last week, but we're going to

continue on and we're going to talk about the absolute victory that you and I can have as a child of God in our lives over sin.

I want to begin reading here in chapter 6, and you can follow along with me in verse 5. It says this:

Romans 6:5-13

For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:

Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

For he that is dead is freed from sin.

Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:

Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.

For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.

Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.

Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin, but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.

Father, we thank you and praise you for the Lord Jesus today, and we ask you as we come to your word that you take these verses, Lord, and help us to dissect them today. Help us to look at each concept. Help us to take this passage, which is such a great passage, Lord, but we need to learn how to glean out of these passages the great truth. And Lord, I pray with all that this church has done to try to help people learn the Bible, now with all of the different areas, now that you've provided this building for us, something that as I said last week, we weren't looking for. We were where we were at, and we were satisfied and content. But Lord, you saw fit in your sovereign wisdom to give us what we have today, and Lord, we now want to take and use that to use it as we dedicated it the first Sunday, Lord, to helping young men and young ladies, moms and dads, and people to really grasp and understand the Bible with all of the classes, with the bookstore, Lord, and all of the things that we can now and all the resources that we can put in people's hands to help challenge them, to help them learn, to help them grow, and to help us better when we come to the Bible. Lord, and really, it's all what it's about is when we read our own Bibles that we can begin to do what I'm going to do today, that each individual in time will be able to read a passage of Scripture and then go through and define for themselves these great truths, much like I do today on Sunday. And Lord, we'll thank you and praise you in Jesus' name for the sake we ask it. Amen.

III. The Key to Victory: Consistency

Now, if a Christian could live by the doctrines of Romans, chapters 6 and 7, and actually apply the material in our lives the way that we need to, and take those chapters and really break them down piece by piece and put them into our lives, we would have the complete victory in our lives over sin. But here's the problem: the problem is how to do that on a regular basis and how to apply them. That's what church is for.

As I said as we prayed a moment ago, my goal is to get you to the place. If you think the day I got saved that I was able to understand my Bible as I am to the degree I am today, not that I understand it, but better than I did when I got saved. If you think that I just woke up one morning and suddenly had a handle on the Bible and now could get in there for myself and figure it out, you're sadly mistaken. I had to have people help me just like you have to have people help you. I had a man make an investment in my life just like my job is to make an investment in your life. I had to get my hands on the right material at the right time to read to help further me along by men who knew more about it than I did and always pointed me back to the scriptures, and that's why I've tried to create that same atmosphere.

I only know when it comes to the ministry, I only know what's worked for me. I only know how to duplicate what somebody has done in my life into your life and help you get to that point, but my goal is to help you get it all together. When you begin to study the aspect and this material in the victorious Christian life, there's one word that is key that you want to remember. I believe it's probably the single most important word when it comes to the victory that we are to have in Christ Jesus, and that word is a simple little word, but it bears so much as we come through the Bible. It's the word consistency.

Consistency. Not much of a word. In fact, I may be wrong about this, but I don't even think you'll find that word in the Bible, but it's a word that when it comes to your life and my life that I believe is really the key. In the world with your flesh and my flesh, let's face it, as hard as you try, as hard as I try, we will never be sin-free until we get our glorified body. We know that Romans chapter 7, and we looked at it from other aspects a couple of weeks prior to this time today, we know that we have an old sin nature and it battles back and forth with our new nature.

A couple of weeks ago on Thursday night, somebody asked a question about particular problems we have in our lives, and I told you that the only way that you're going to fix whatever problem you have is to first of all, identify the problem. Most of us don't want to do that. Most of us want to take a passing swing at really what is our issue in life. We really don't want to face the issue and deal with it, but once you do that and be honest with yourself, then you start a war against your flesh. You separate yourself from whatever you have to do or that sin that so easily besets you, and you begin to focus on what God wants you to do and put that thing out of your life. It may not be easy, you may fail, but the key word that we're looking for here is consistency.

The Bible says that if we say we have no sin, we lie and do not the truth. Now that gets confusing sometimes to people who first get saved because you hear me talk about the fact that God forgives you for all your sins, and then in the next breath I'll say, "You know what? You're

going to struggle with sin in your life." And somebody says, "Well, I don't know." Well, here's the bottom line, and most of you already know this, but the price of learning is repetition. When you got saved, God saved you from all of the sin that was going to send you to hell and took your place on the cross. He now wants to have fellowship with you, but the only way God could do that was to separate you out from your flesh and your soul. We know that.

At that point, He begins a relationship with your soul, and your flesh, by the way, your flesh is never going to get saved. You know that? Your flesh is never going to heaven. That's why you got to get a glorified body because this flesh here is always going to be against whatever God wants you to do. And the victory you have in my life, in your life, is the one that you understand that. You work toward a consistency. That's 1 John chapter 2 verse 1, one of the great paradoxes in the Bible. He says:

1 John 2:1

My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

Now that's called the great doctrine of the advocacy of Jesus Christ. And I gave you those 12 doctrines or so a while back. The doctrine of the advocacy of Jesus Christ simply means this: once you're saved and we still struggle with the flesh, and when we fail, we have someone to go to God to plead our cause to restore that fellowship. Not that we have to get saved again, taken care of, but to restore that fellowship that God wants to have with us.

You in your life and me in my life, I'm going to be very honest with you, and this is not a license to do what you want to do, but if you're a sincere child of God, at the same time, I don't want it defeating you. I'm going to tell you right now, folks, you are never going on this side of eternity until you get your glorified body. You are never going to live a sinless life. You are going to struggle. You're going to fail. We're going to make mistakes. I told you last week, old Sabaka used to say, "I don't care if you fall down a thousand times. The key is consistency of getting up that one thousand and one time and keep on going." You can do that in your life and you can get to the point in your life where you have a consistency.

Today I want to talk, I want to take this section and give you some tools that I want to help you. My goal is to help you get that consistency. My goal is to help you get to the point in your life where you have that victorious Christian life. This is what the Bible talks about when you find the word perfection or perfect. The Bible says that the Word of God helps, makes you perfect unto all good works. It doesn't make you perfect as sinless, but it perfects you for the work that God has for you to do. Consistency.

IV. Two Key Concepts for Victory

Now for me, when I come to the Bible, and I've always had to do this, when I'm faced with a tough passage or a tough text or something like Romans chapter 6, what we just read here, what I have to do is get the basic, break it down into basic Bible concepts so I can better understand it.

In this text, there's a couple of things that I think will help you in your quest for the victorious Christian life and probably help you grasp the material a little better.

This victory that we're talking about here in verses 5 through 13 is based on two key concepts, and you want to put this in your Bible. To me, this is really where it starts for me. If you would take the Christian and you would boil or peel them back like an onion by layers or a petal lettuce and get to the real core of what a Christian stands on and what really drives him through his life or her life, these two principles I was going to say would be there, I better say should be there. Because when it talks about the victorious Christian life like in verses 5 through 13, it's based on two key concepts that's found in his passage. And you want to put this in your Bible at some point.

- 1.) The first thing is found in verse 5 and it says, "we have been planted together in the likeness of his death."
- 2.) Now the second concept in verse 5, it says, "we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection."

V. Three Steps to Maintain Victory

Now based on this great truth, Paul gives us a, in this passage that we're looking at, we want to break this down now. Paul gives us a three-step process to help us maintain the victory and to keep our consistency, and it's really based on three key words. I suggest that in your notes or your Bible you build this around these three key words. Romans 8:18 is a great three by five card verse. It's a great three by five card verse. You want to put that on there. That'll, that'll really help you because we're all going to struggle. We all struggle with different things, but we all struggle.

- 1.) The first word we want to look at here is found in verse 6, and it's the word "knowing."
- 2.) All right, the next word, next word is found in verse 11. This word is the word "reckon."
- 3.) Then the third word, verse 13, the word is "yield."

VI. Replacing the Flesh with the Spirit

Now Paul gives some great examples in this and in Ephesians chapter 4, the last thing I want to show you here, and I want to go through this very quickly. I want you to turn over to Ephesians chapter 4 verse 22 and 32 and, and, and show you how you begin to yield yourself. Now while you're turning there, you need to understand this right out of the chute: when it comes to your flesh, you can't make a deal with it. Our flesh is non-negotiable. It will deceive you every time. You can't make a deal with it. The Japanese have a profound proverb, it says, "Man take drink, drink take drink, drink take man." And that's the way it works. We think we can stop. We throw,

we're adults, we know when is enough. We don't know. If there's anything that I've learned about the flesh, and it's true in your life, in my life, the flesh cannot be satisfied. It just wants more and more. And this is the basic reason why many of you have the basic problem of no victory in your life. It's just that simple.

Now look at Ephesians chapter 4. I'm going to read it here, 22 through 32, and this is some great stuff here. This is some great stuff. It said in verse 22:

Ephesians 4:22-32

That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.

Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:

Neither give place to the devil.

Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:

And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

Now you know what you have here? You have a great passage here that you all need to really take home and work on next week because this is a great what I call the great replacement chapter, replacing the things of the flesh with the things of the spirit. Let's look at them. Let me give you a little breakdown here so you can put it together.

- 1.) Verses 22 through 24: First thing he says, "put off the former conversation."
- 2.) Verse 25: "Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour."

- 3.) The next one, and this is a great concept, you need to put these on three by five card. This one: "Let not the sun go down upon your wrath."
- 4.) Look at verse 28: "Let him that stole steal no more, but rather let him labor, working with his hands the things that which is good to use of edifying that he may have give to him that needeth."
- 5.) Then look at the next last verse here, 31 through 32: "Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamour, clamor is like clamoring around, it's like making loud noises and tearing things up, and evil speaking be put away from you with all malice."