



Pursuit of Holiness

Chapters 5 thru 8

Up Front...

- We are not talking about ‘gaining salvation’
 - This is about our SANCTIFICATION, not our JUSTIFICATION.

- How good do you think your righteousness is?
 - Isaiah 64:5-7 (strong words!)
 - Luke 18:9-14

- Our very best is not up to the task of ‘saving us’.

It's the Reformation, baby!

- Salvation is ours...
 - Only by God's Grace
 - Only through Faith
 - Only in Christ

Sola Gratia, Sola Fide, Sola Christus

Moving in the lesson...

- Now that we have been justified, we've got marching orders...
- Question: If we're saved by grace, irrespective of works, why should we pursue holiness?
 - A: Romans 6:1-2, 6-7, 15-18

We've been freed to do...

- Romans 7:4-6

Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God. For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death. But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve not under the old written code but in the new life of the Spirit.

Bridges calls this “Kingdom Transfer”

The Before/After Shot

■ BEFORE

- 1 Corinthians 2:14
- 1 John 3:8

■ AFTER

- 1 Corinthians 2:16
- 1 John 3:9



We've been freed for holiness...

- BUT...

- Now check out Romans 7:15-18, 21-24

- So we're freed to be holy, but are we up to it?

We've been freed to do that which we *can't* do.

- So, how do we reconcile this?

Why do we still choose to sin?

- We've been freed from bondage to sin, but we still have sinful natures.
- Consider yourself an 'Iraq'...
 - The country has been 'liberated'
 - Is there peace?
 - Inside us, there is still a war raging between the old self and the new. And we lose a lot of skirmishes...

How do you do what you can't?

- How can we pursue holiness if our flesh is so weak?
 - Only one chance: God makes a way!
 - Romans 8:7-11
 - Note especially:
 - v9: “You, however, are not in the flesh...”
 - v10: “... although the body is dead because of sin...”
 - v11: “[If you have the Spirit, He] **will** also give life to your mortal bodies...”



Obvious practical question:

**How do we strengthen the new, spiritual
being inside of us?**



The tools to do what we can't.

- The Holy Spirit
 - John 16:7-11
 - Romans 8:13-17
- The Scripture
 - Hebrews 4:12-13
 - 2 Timothy 3:14-17
- Prayer
 - Colossians 4:2-4
 - Romans 8:26
- Discipline
 - Hebrews 12:1-2
 - 1 Corinthians 9:25-27

The Big Finish [1]

- We're commanded to do what we cannot do...
 - *Told to pursue holiness though our sin nature wages war against us*
- ... but God makes a way for us to do what we must do.
 - *The indwelling Holy Spirit strengthens and conforms our will to Christ's*

The Big Finish [2]

- This is about **obedience**, not victory.
 - We will be fighting this fight until we taken home to Heaven.
- “This is the New Testament teaching – ‘Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.’ We have to do so. But note the accompaniment – ‘Because it is God that worketh in you, both to will and to do of His good pleasure’! ... It is because I am not left to myself, it is because I am not ‘absolutely hopeless’, since the Spirit is in me, that I am exhorted to work out my own salvation with fear and trembling.”
Dr. Martin Lloyd-Jones

The Big Finish [3]

- “Then earnestly entreat of the Lord to support you under those temptations, which the devil may assault you with; he is a powerful adversary, he is a cunning one too; he would be too hard for us, unless we have the strength of Christ to be with us. **But let us be looking up unto Jesus, that he would send his Spirit into our hearts, and keep us from falling.**

O my dear brethren in Christ Jesus, how stands it now between God and your souls? Is Jesus altogether lovely to your souls? Is he precious unto you? I am sure, if you have not gone back from Christ, he will not from you; he will root out the accursed things of this world, and dwell in your hearts. You are candidates for heaven; and will you mind earth? **What are all the pleasures of earth, without an interest in the Lord Jesus Christ? And one smile from him is more to be desired than rubies, yea more than the whole world.**

George Whitefield



Q & A

- We'll never get to this slide. But if we do...