



3/24/24

Pastor Mike Berry

LESSON #10

Our Adult Equipping School **THEME** this year is "**Christ Loves and Uses Messy People**" (Ephesians 4:11-16).

In this course our goal is to explore the fundamental aspects of **Christian doctrine**, tracing key themes found in the Bible. We hope it serves as an introduction for beginners and a grounding experience for long-time believers.

Pregame Warmup (Q & A).

- Here is a **repaired link** for the [Ninety Day Bible Challenge](#) schedule.
- [HERE](#) is a new playlist I found on YouTube that follows a 90 Day schedule.
- [Day 24](#) - 2 Samuel 23 - 1 Kings 8
 - Use with your favorite audio Bible or with [The Word of Promise Whole Bible Playlist](#).
 - **Gifts will be available for those who complete the Ninety Day Bible Challenge by the end of this course.**

REVIEW:

LESSON 1 - Who is Jesus & what has the Father required of him? (Col. 1:19 For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, 20 and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross...)

Your only comfort in life and death is knowing that you do not belong to yourself but to your faithful Savior Jesus Christ, who with His own blood has fully satisfied for all your sins...He is your redeemer and creator, your prophet, priest, and king.

What has the Father required of Jesus? To lay His life down (John 10:17). **Christ must be our redeemer before He can be our example.**

Philippians 2:8 Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself **by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.**

LESSON 2 - What has God required of you & what's wrong with you? (Rom. 3:19...we know that whatever the law says, it says...that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. 20 Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.)

The Law of God helps us **diagnose our disease**. God requires us to **love God and our neighbor personally, perpetually, and perfectly**. The problem is we by nature hate the true God and our neighbor. Understanding this shows us our misery, but **does not** leave us in despair, because the Law drives us to God's promise and provision in Christ.

- What has God required of you?** HCQ4....To love God and our neighbor **personally, perfectly, and perpetually** (Matt. 22:38-40).
- What's wrong with you?** HCQ3. From where do you know your misery? From the Law of God. HCQ5. Can you keep all this perfectly? No, for I am prone by nature to **hate God** and my neighbor.

LESSON 3 - What has God promised you & what has He provided for you? (Romans 10:4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.)

One of the **things necessary to know** for your own comfort in life and death is **HOW** you are redeemed from all your sins and misery...

I. What Has God Promised You? God has promised to redeem you from all your sins and misery.

Gal. 3:13 Christ has **redeemed** us from the curse of the **law**, having become a curse for us...

Acts 13:38 Therefore let it be known to you, brothers, that through Jesus the **forgiveness of sins** is proclaimed to you. 39Through Him **everyone who believes is justified from everything you could not be justified from** by the law of Moses.

II. What Has He Provided for You? God has provided you a redeemer in His Son Jesus Christ.

"Redemption" means Christ's death ransomed us from the curse of the law and the punishment and power of sin" (DeYoung, p. 41).

"...the heart of the gospel is the good news of divine self-satisfaction through divine self-substitution."

2 Cor. 5:21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin **for us**, that we might become the righteousness of God **in Him**.

Romans 8:31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is **for us**, who can be against us?32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up **for us all**, how shall He not **with Him** also **freely give us** all things?

LESSON 4 - What is true faith & what does repentance look like? (Acts 10:43 "To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name")

I. What Is True Faith? HCQs 21 What is true faith? True faith is not only a certain **knowledge** whereby I hold for truth all that God has revealed to us in His Word; but also a hearty **trust**, which the Holy Spirit **works** in me by the Gospel, that not only to others, but to me also, forgiveness of sins, everlasting righteousness and salvation are freely given by God, merely of grace, only for the sake of Christ's merits.

Here we see **five key concepts** in the Reformation understanding of justification by faith (S.A.I.Fa.Fi.)

- 1) Our right standing with God by faith does NOT mean we are no longer sinners in this life (*simul Justus et peccator*...**simultaneously** justified and a sinner).
- 2) Our right standing before God is based on an **alien righteousness** (not our own, Christ's).
- 3) Our right standing before God is ours by **imputation**, not impartation.
- 4) Our right standing before God is by means of **faith alone** (Rom. 3:28; Titus 3:5; Acts 16:31).

"The gospel is 'believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved' (Acts 16: 31), not 'believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and cooperate with transforming grace and you shall be saved.'" (DeYoung, pp. 116-117).

- 5) Nevertheless, faith is the **instrument** of our right standing before God, not the ground, which is Christ. We don't believe in our belief; we believe in Christ.

Acts 3:16 "And His name, through faith **in His name**, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which comes **through Him** has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all" (cf. John 3:36; Acts. 16:31).

II. What Does Repentance Look Like?

Acts 20:21 "testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, **repentance** toward God and **faith** toward our Lord Jesus Christ."

Mark 1:15 and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. **Repent**, and **believe** in the gospel."

"When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, 'Repent' (Mt 4:17), he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance" (Luther, first of the 95 Theses).

Matt. 4:17 From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent [*present active imperative*], for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." [To whom was Jesus preaching at this point?]

Acts 3:19 "Repent therefore and be converted, **that** your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord."

Three aspects of **TURNING OUR MINDS TOWARD GOD in faith** (other aspects of repentance will come later in the class).

- a. **Repentance is rightly required by God** (Acts 17:30 - "...God...commands all men everywhere to repent").
- b. **However, man refuses to "change his mind"** (Rom. 1:28; 1 Cor. 2:14).
- c. **Repentance is graciously granted by God** (Acts 11:18; 2 Tim. 2:24-26).

Acts 5:31 God exalted Him to His right hand as Prince and Savior, in order to grant **repentance and forgiveness** of sins to Israel.

Repentance Is Fundamentally a **Change of Mind**: A turning of the heart, a reorientation of the will, a radical change of worldview, we might say today.

It is instantaneous at our conversion, and yet happens over a lifetime in the hearts of God's children. True repentance is always miraculous in the sense that it involves God gracing us by a movement of His will upon our wills with a "sweet spiritual persuasion" (as CH Spurgeon puts it).

A warning: "...if you put your *repentings* into the place of Christ, you make an antichrist of them..." Spurgeon

LESSON 5 - How Christ tends to and loves His Body (Eph. 5:29 for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church")

I. What Is the Body of Christ? (Defined)

- Ephesians 1: 22-23, "and he (the Father) put all things in subjection under his feet, and gave him (Christ) as head over all things to the church, which is his body ... the fullness of him.
- Christian marriage is a picture of the oneness of Christ and his body, the Church.
- In Acts 9 - "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting **me**?"

The Heidelberg Catechism Question 54: The Son of God...gathers, defends, and preserves to himself by his Spirit and Word, **out of the whole human race**, a church chosen to everlasting life, agreeing in true faith; and that I am and forever shall remain, a living member thereof.

II. How Does Christ Care for His Body? (Delivered)

John R.W Stott: "It is to this constructive end that Christ has been working and is continuing to work. **The bride does not make herself presentable; it is the bridegroom who labors to beautify her...** his love and self-sacrifice for her, his cleansing and sanctifying of her, are all designed for her liberation and her perfection when at last he presents her to himself in her full glory."

1. He delivers His Body through His sacrificial love (Eph. 5:25 - "Just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her")
2. He delivers His Body through His sanctifying love (v. 27).

5:28: the one who loves like Christ "Nourishes and cherishes" their own body, just as Christ also does the church.

John Piper wrote: "Christ did not choose a wife the way we men choose wives. He did not look for an attractive...intelligent...or even a faithful woman. He chose an unlikely woman. Then he set out to make her attractive and to make her faithful at the cost of his own life."

3. He delivers His Body through His cleansing love (v. 26 - "having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word."

His death secured us to him, to his body, but the work of the Holy Spirit, the preaching of the Word, work together to cleanse and recleanse a people that are in constant need of it...So that he could present us to himself his body, adorned in beautiful, Christ-made, Christ-bought clothes of his own righteousness: No spots. No wrinkles. Clothed in those garments, we will be holy and blameless before the Father.

LESSON 6 - How should we hear God's Word? (Romans 10:14, 17 "14... And how are they to hear without a preacher?...17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.)

I. What is the Word of God?

- a. **The Scriptures are the Word of God (the Bible)** (Exodus 31:18, 32:16; Jeremiah 45:1-2; Matthew 4:4; 2 Timothy 3:16-17).

WHAT IS THE PRIMARY MESSAGE OF THE SCRIPTURES? (Luke 24:26-27; 44-47; John 5:39, 45-47)

- b. **The Scriptures tell us that God at times spoke via personal address** (Genesis 15:1 ff.; 1 Sam. 3:7 ff.) **and at times spoke through human lips** (Jer. 1:4 ff.).
- c. **The Word of God is spoken of in Scripture as Christ Himself** (John 1:1-3; Revelation 1:2; 19:13; 1 John 1:1).
- d. **The Word of God is spoken of in Scripture as the message of Christ (the Gospel)** (Col. 4:3; Rev. 20:4; Phil. 1:12-18; Heb.1:1-3; Acts 10:36-43).

II. How do we get the Word of God inside of us?

- a. **We hear it preached to us** (Rom. 10:14-17; Eph. 4:11-16; 2 Tim. 4:1-2; Acts 2:42).
- b. **We proclaim it to each other and others (reading, teaching, singing, eating the Lord's Supper, evangelism, etc.)** (Josh. 8:34-35; 1 Tim. 4:13; Eph. 4:15-16; Col. 3:16; 1 Cor. 11:26; Acts 8:30-35).
- c. **We think about it** (Joshua 1:8; Psalm 119:148).
- d. **Some Suggestions on Getting the Word in You** (CFBC Bible Studies)

LESSON 7 - How did Jesus teach us to pray? (Matt. 6:9 "Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name")

- Think about prayer as redirecting your self-talk to God.
- Think about prayer as a gift. God doesn't need it; you do.
- Think of Christ as your M.V.P. (Most Valuable Prayerer—John 17; Rom. 8:34; Heb. 7:25; 9:24)

I. OUR ADDRESS: Our Father which art in heaven

"When we pray to God, we are not petitioning some local power broker or political bigwig or academic know-it-all. We are making our requests before the one who rules over all from His heavenly throne" (ibid.)

II. OUR REQUESTS:

a. First Main Request: May your name be hallowed.

- i. Hallowed be thy name.
- ii. Thy kingdom come.
- iii. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

God's name is hallowed as His kingdom comes and as His will is done.

b. Second Main Request: Give us all that we need.

- i. Give us this day our daily bread.
- ii. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

We need forgiveness every day because we rack up debts every day.

- iii. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

We ask our Father to GIVE us sustenance, forgiveness, guidance and protection.

III. OUR RELEASE: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

"...pray rather that the Lord will grow his kingdom despite our continual screw ups, that he will keep us from knocking over the furniture, and that, when all is said and done, somehow, by God's grace, we will finish well despite our best efforts to the contrary" ([Carl Truman](#), "An Unmessianic Sense of Nondestiny").

LESSON 8 - What does Jesus want you to do? (Eph. 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.)

I. NOTHING – He's Got This! God Needs Nothing from You. (Eph. 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith...9 **not of works**...)

II. However, HE Does Things for You and through You.

CFBC Equipping School Class

We are **God's good work** which He has created/regenerated in Christ Jesus for the purpose of doing good works (*biblically defined*) which He has already prepared for us to walk in (*Gratitude to God; Love for Your Neighbor*).

a. **We Are God's Good Work** (Eph. 2:10). In other words: **In good works of a Christian, Christ is the Doer and we are the Done-deed, God-pleasing because of the Doer.**

HCQ1. ...Wherefore, by His Holy Spirit, He also assures me of eternal life, and **makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live for Him.**

b. **God Does Works through Us and for Us.** (Phil. 1:6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ (Isa 26:12; Phil. 3:12).

c. **Rest Is the Basis for Work - Horatius Bonar (God's Way of Holiness) -** The gospel does not command us to *do* anything in order to obtain life, but bids us live by that which another has done...for in receiving Christ we do not work in order to rest, but we rest in order to work.

III. With Christ's work in view, do what you have been regenerated to do...

...love God and your neighbor in all the ways Christ instructs us and sets the example for us in the Scriptures.

a. What Are Good Works according to the Scriptures?

What man calls "good works" are not necessarily good works. And the works of God (the center of which is the crucifixion) are often described as evil by man.¹ We need God to tell us what **good** works are.

HCQ91. What are good works? Those **only** which proceed from true **faith**,¹ and are done according to the **Law** of God,² unto His **glory**;³ and **not** such as rest on our own **opinion** or the **commandments of men**.⁴ ¹ Rom 14:23. ² 1 Sam 15:22. Eph 2:10. ³ 1 Cor 10:31. ⁴ Deut 12:32. Ezek 20:18, 20. Isa 29:13. Matt 15:9. * Num 15:39.

b. Why Should We Do Good Works?

HCQ86. Since then we are redeemed from our misery by grace through Christ, without any merit of ours, why should we do good works?

Because Christ, having redeemed us by His blood, also **renews us by His Holy Spirit** after His own image, that with our whole life we show ourselves **thankful** to God for His blessing,¹ and also that He be **glorified** through us;² then also, that we ourselves may be **assured** of our faith by the fruits thereof;³ and by our godly walk **win also others to Christ**.⁴ ¹ Rom 6:13. Rom 12:1, 2. 1 Pet 2:5,9,10. 1 Cor 6:20. ² Matt 5:16. 1 Pet 2:12. ³ Matt 7:17,18. Gal 5:6, 22, 23. ⁴ Rom 14:19. 1 Pet 3:1, 2. * 2 Pet 1:10.

c. How Do We Do Good Works?

- i. **By Faith** (Gal 2:19-21)
- ii. **Through the Holy Spirit** (Gal. 5:13-18, 22 ff. "fruit of the Spirit")
- iii. **Walking in Obedience to God's Word in Everything It Says.**

¹ Heidelberg Disputation – "Although the works of man always appear attractive and good, they are nevertheless likely to be damning sins. Although the works of God always seem unattractive and appear evil, they are nevertheless really eternal merits."

Luther (Intro to Galatians) - When I have this righteousness within me, I descend from heaven like the rain that makes the earth fertile. That is, I come forth into another kingdom, and I **perform good works whenever the opportunity arises**.

- If I am a minister of the Word, I preach, I comfort the saddened, I administer the sacraments.
- If I am a father, I rule my household and family, I train my children in piety and honesty.
- If I am a magistrate, I perform the office which I have received by divine command.
- If I am a servant, I faithfully tend to my master's affairs.

In short, **whoever knows for sure that Christ is his righteousness not only cheerfully and gladly works in his calling but also submits himself for the sake of love to magistrates, also to their wicked laws, and to everything else in this present life—even, if need be, to burden and danger. For he knows that God wants this and that this obedience pleases Him.**

d. What Is the Relationship of the Law to Good Works?

LUTHER - ...so also by the righteousness of the Law we do nothing even when we do much; we do not fulfill the Law even when we fulfill it. Without any merit or work of our own, we must **first** be justified by Christian righteousness, which has nothing to do with the righteousness of the Law or with earthly and active righteousness.

Philip Melanchthon is helpful here.

- Your best works are incomplete and imperfect. **You fail to do perfect works.**
- Your works are counted as complete only on account of Christ.
- The law always accuses. Your works will accuse you, too.
- **Moreover, trust in good works leads to arrogance.**
- **Nevertheless, just as the law is good so are godly, biblical works. They are just not to be trusted.**

James 2:8-10; Romans 13:8-10; John 13:34-35; 1 Thessalonians 4:9-11

LESSON 9 - If Christ suffered, why do you suffer? (1 Pet. 5:10 But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.)

I. Some Wrong Views of Suffering

- a. Suffering is just part of this **tooth and claw**, survival of the fittest world.
- b. Suffering is random and **meaningless**. ("Eat and drink for tomorrow we die.")
- c. The **wicked suffer** and the righteous are blessed (Job's friends).
- d. If you continue to suffer you must **lack faith**.

II. Suffering Viewed through Christ and the Cross

- a. All human suffering is **connected to sin** in some way (since the Fall). However, we should not draw a straight line from a particular pain to a particular sin.
 - i. Sometimes there is a direct connection (1 Cor. 11 – abuses in Corinth; Acts 5 – Ananias and Sapphira).

- ii. Sometimes suffering is planned for God's glory (John 9 – the blind man; John 11 – Lazarus; **Acts 2:22-23; 4:27-28 – the crucifixion**).
- iii. Sometimes suffering comes from the Fatherly hand of God for the sake of discipline (Heb. 12:3-13).
- b. All suffering is **connected** in some way to **God's providence**.
 - i. John Piper - What God permits Satan (or sin, or the world) to do, He plans to permit it.... and **planned permissions are His providence**.
 - ii. Sometimes God uses suffering to spread the Good News (Acts 8:1; 2 Kings 5 – young Israelite slave girl that served Naaman's wife) or save God's people (**Gen. 45:5-8; 50:20**; Esther 4:13 – “for such a time as this”).
- c. **Christ suffered** for His Body. **His Body will suffer**, too.
 - i. Christ Suffered (Acts 3:17-26; Acts 26:19-23)
 - ii. **A Theology of Glory vs. a Theology of the Cross** from [“Luther's Theology of the Cross,” by Carl R. Trueman:](#)

Romans 8:28 is true because of the cross of Christ: **if God can take the greatest of evils and turn it to the greatest of goods, then how much more can he take the lesser evils which litter human history, from individual tragedies to international disasters, and turn them to his good purpose as well.**

- iii. Suffering is one of the **marks of the true church**.

Marks of the Church (Luther) – “Seventh, the holy Christian people are externally recognized by the holy possession of the sacred cross. They must endure every misfortune and persecution, all kinds of trials and evil from the devil, the world, and the flesh (as the Lord's Prayer indicates) by inward sadness, timidity, fear, outward poverty, contempt, illness, and weakness, in order to become like their head, Christ. And the only reason they must suffer is that they steadfastly adhere to Christ and God's word, enduring this for the sake of Christ, Matthew 5 [:11], “Blessed are you when men persecute you on my account.”

- d. However, we should not blame God for our sin-produced sufferings.

1 Peter 4:15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters.
- e. Those who suffer for Christ may rejoice because they are blessed (1 Peter 4:12-13; Matthew 5:10-12).
- f. Those who suffer receive consolation from God and gain greater capacity to console others (2 Cor. 1:3-7).

“...the gospel makes genuinely good news out of every other aspect of my life, including my severest trials” (John Piper, *Providence*, pp. 31-32).

HOW HOLY ARE YOU? WHEN WILL YOU STOP SINNING, ALREADY?

Hebrews 12:14 Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord.²

Introduction

- We asked you to read [Romans 7:7-25](#) & [HCQ 56](#) and [“I’ve Been a Prosperity Gospel Parent,” \(by Gretchen Ronnevik\)](#)
- [JOHN PIPER ON PROGRESSIVE SANCTIFICATION at The Shepherd’s Conference ‘24 Q & A with John MacArthur and Austin Duncan:](#)

"That prayer, '...He will hold me fast, for my Savior loves me so. He will hold me fast.' No hope without it, because **if you think sanctification is progressive in the sense that there's no battle after age 70 of walking with Jesus, you're not thinking straight.** The danger of the sins of lust at age 78, sloth, doubt...Keep me, don't let me do anything stupid to undermine the ministry. Don't let me betray my wife. Don't let me give up on prayer. Don't let me become superficial...**Oh God, protect me from the world and the worldliness that can creep into a 78-year-old heart...**

I used to think...that since sanctification is progressive, that my 30-year-old patience would be 40 years old, more patient, 40 years more patient. **It didn't work. I mean, that might be just absolutely self-indicting for me to say that—because of progressive sanctification you ought to be a 78-year-old more holy person than at 38, and it doesn't feel quite like that.** Like **I'm an embattled soul every day.** These arrows just keep flying and you know, the shield of faith every day, sword of the spirit every day...

Now...the way that balances out with the fight is, don't view aging as so embattled and so beleaguered... Believe that while you have life, you have ministry...So, all that to say, **be sober-minded about the battle and be hopeful and optimistic and energetic about what God might call you to do between 65 and 85."**

I. How Holy Are You?

a. What does it mean to be holy or sanctified?

The Hebrew and Greek words translated as *sanctify, hallow, saint, sanctification, holiness, Holy One, hallowed* and *holy* carry the basic idea of *setting apart from or consecrating to* (Ex. 13:2; 1 Pet. 2:9; 1 Cor. 1:2). In the Bible we find...

b. Holiness/sanctification has present, future, and progressive senses.

1. As a child of faith, you are right now a saint and stand completely holy/sanctified.³

Heb. 11:6 But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*

Romans 10:10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness...

² Matthew 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. 9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

³ Many theologians call this “positional sanctification,” which begins at regeneration and is maintained on into eternity. Several observations may be made about positional sanctification (Barackman, pp. 360-61):

1. It is a permanent state (1 Cor. 1:30; 6:11).
2. It was wrought by the Spirit (1 Cor. 6:11) in response to our faith (Acts 26:18).
3. It belongs to every saved person alike, regardless of condition (1 Cor. 6:11; cf. 3:1-4).
4. Being perfect and complete, this sanctification will stand forever (Heb. 10:10).
5. This makes every saved person a saint (1 Cor. 1:2; Phil. 1:1; Col. 1:2).

1 Corinthians 1:30 But **of Him** you are in Christ Jesus, who became **for us** wisdom from God -- and righteousness and **sanctification** and redemption --

Psalms 106:16 And Aaron the **saint** of the LORD

Philippians 1:1 Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ, To all the **saints** in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:

2 Cor. 5:21 For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become **the righteousness of God in Him**.

2 Thessalonians 2:13 But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because **God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth**, 14 to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the **glory** of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 1:2 elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, **in sanctification of the Spirit**, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be multiplied.

Hebrews 10:10 By that will **we have been sanctified** through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all...

Jude 1:1 Jude, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, To those who are called, **sanctified** by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ:

1 Corinthians 6:11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, **but you were sanctified**, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the **Spirit** of our God.

2. As a child of faith, you will be completely holy forever.

Jude 1:24-25 ²⁴ Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And **to present you faultless** Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, ²⁵ To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, *Be* glory and majesty, Dominion and power, Both now and forever. Amen.

3. As a child of faith, you are becoming holy.

- a. **Hebrews 2:11** For both **He who sanctifies** and those who are **being sanctified** *are* all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren...

Hebrews 10:10 By that will **we have been sanctified** through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all... 14 For by one offering He has **perfected** forever **those who are being sanctified**.

- b. **Sanctification Defined** - Being intentionally set apart to be **useful**. Sanctification is being made holy. **Sanctification is a promise.** Good works are the **result** of being sanctified. **The sanctified do good works.**

- The Holy Spirit is the one who makes us holy.

- The church is where that takes place. This is where the Holy Spirit works (holy people come together, the word is preached, forgiveness exchanged, love shared).
- The Holy Spirit makes you holy and preserves you in that holiness.
- **So: Sanctification is a work of the Holy Spirit and a work done in the communion of saints through the forgiveness of sins and results in the resurrection of the body and life everlasting.**

c. In view of the Spirit's application of Christ's righteousness, you are called to "become who you are."

Hebrews 12:14 Pursue (run down; strive for) peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:⁴ (cp. Heb. 10:10-14; Eph. 2:7; 6:10-18)

- "...strive for what you already are declared to be" (Erick Sorensen).
- "Well, it works like this: If you think Sola Fide is something that also requires no striving, you'll naturally believe, 'by grace through faith alone'—you can look through the entire testimony of scripture and know that's not the case. You'll be constantly tempted to not believe, to add other things, to base your assurance on something else. **So, what is this striving for holiness without which no one will see the Lord?** It's surrendering all the holiness you think you may have that will not help you see the Lord. It's actually trying to pass through the narrow gate, which is you and the holiness that Christ gives by itself, nothing else. The hardest thing to do is to constantly die to your own self-salvation projects, your self-justification, all of your works-righteousness, all of this other stuff that you think are good things and everyone's telling you are good things, but are not the things that God is ultimately going to approve of. We've said this over and over again, but **God only approves of what He's given.** So God looks at the faith that He gives and says, 'I accept it,' and He looks at the holiness that He's imputed and says, 'I accept it,' but that's it" (Daniel Price).

d. The Power of the Gospel in Sanctification

1. "This initial step in sanctification involves a definite break from the ruling power and love of sin, so that the believer is no longer ruled or dominated by sin and no longer loves to sin" (Rom. 6:11-14, 18) (Milton Vincent).
2. "To be dead to the ruling power of sin means that we as Christians, by virtue of the power of the Holy Spirit and the resurrection life of Christ working within us, have power to overcome the temptations and enticements of sin" (ibid.).
 - a) On the one hand we should never say that we are completely free from sin.

⁴ Matthew 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God. 9 Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God.

- b) However, on the other hand we should never say, "Sin has defeated me. I give up. I have had a bad temper for thirty-seven years, and I will have one until the day I die. This is just the way I am."

II. When Will You Stop Sinning?

- a. When you die or when Christ returns.

Colossians 3:4 **When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.** 5 Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. 6 Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, 7 in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. 8 But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, 10 and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him...

1 John 3:1 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

² Beloved, now we are children of God; and **it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.** ³ And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

- b. The Heidelberg's Scripture summary

56. *What do you believe concerning the "forgiveness of sins"?*

That God, for the sake of Christ's satisfaction,¹

will no more remember my sins,

*nor the sinful nature **with which I have to struggle all my life long;***

but graciously imputes to me the righteousness of Christ,²

that I may nevermore come into condemnation.³ ¹ [1 John 2:2](#). ² [2 Cor 5:19](#),

*[21. Rom 7:24](#), [25. Ps 103:3,10,12](#). [Jer 31:34](#). [Rom 8:1-4](#). ³ [John 3:18](#). * [Eph 1:7](#). * [Rom 4:7,8](#). * [Rom 7:18](#).*

¹ 1 John 2:2 He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

² 2 Corinthians 5:19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation...21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Romans 7:24 Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? 25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

Psalms 103:3 who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, 10 He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. 12 as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

Jeremiah 31:34 And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. 3 For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, 4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

³ John 3:18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

* Ephesians 1:7 in him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,

Romans 4:7 "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; 8 blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin."

Romans 7:18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out.

c. Luther's Doctrinal Summary in His Introduction to Galatians:

"Although **I am a sinner according to the Law**, judged by the righteousness of the Law, nevertheless I do not despair. I do not die, because Christ lives who is my righteousness and my eternal and heavenly life. In that righteousness and life **I have no sin**, conscience, and death. **I am indeed a sinner** according to the present life and its righteousness, as a son of Adam where the Law accuses me, death reigns and devours me. But **above this life I have another righteousness**, another life, which is Christ, the Son of God, who does not know sin and death but is righteousness and eternal life. For His sake this body of mine **will be raised from the dead** and delivered from the slavery of the Law and sin, and **will be sanctified** together with the spirit...

...Thus **as long as we live here**, **both remain**. The flesh is accused, exercised [agitated], saddened, and crushed by the active righteousness of the Law. But the spirit rules, rejoices, and is saved by passive righteousness, [WHY?] because it knows that it has a Lord sitting in heaven at the right hand of the Father, who has abolished the Law, sin, and death, and has trodden all evils underfoot, has led them captive and triumphed over them in Himself (Col. 2:15)."

III. Thoughts for Confession, Repentance, and Hope

- a. **Maturity in the Christian life goes downward.** Growth in humility involves our understanding of our own sinfulness and our daily need for Christ.
- b. **Maturity in Christ does not involve minimizing our remaining sin.** One of the ways that we can give power to sin is by minimizing it and acting like it's not as bad as it really is, that we don't sin as much as we really do, and then not confessing our sins as we should. To not confess ourselves as sinners is actually to minimize sin and to play into sin's hand. We don't want to play into sin's hand. Confess your sin like the tax-collector did.... Like Peter did...like Paul.
- c. **Understanding ourselves as conflicted can help us be more careful.** Let him who thinks he stands, take heed lest he fall. This is one of the reasons our doctrinal statement speaks of SEPARATION: to "live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord; and, that separation from all religious apostasy, **all worldly and sinful pleasures, practices and associations** is commanded of God." [Analogy of someone who knows they are in danger vs. someone who doesn't.]
- d. **Understanding ourselves as conflicted can help us be more compassionate** (Gal. 6:1-3).
- e. **The end of Romans 7 is the normal Christian life.** Chapter 7 is bookended by justification and its implications on one side and the work of the Spirit on the other. Right in the middle of justification by faith and the power of the Holy Spirit is the normal Christian life this side of heaven...with the things that we don't want to do are getting done and the things we want to do aren't getting done. Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death... Jesus Christ.
- f. **You can do this in the power of His might!**

Ephesians 6:10-13 ¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, **be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.**

¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, **that you may be able to stand** against the wiles of the devil.

¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, **that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.**

Q&A

CFBC Equipping School Class

NEXT WEEK:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Class Preparation</i>	<i>Teacher</i>
Mar 31	EASTER	NO CLASS	-
Apr 7	The Torah	Ninety Day Bible Challenge	Mike
Apr 14	Wisdom Books	Ninety Day Bible Challenge	Mike
Apr 21	Historical Books	Ninety Day Bible Challenge	Brad Peters
Apr 28	Major Prophets	Ninety Day Bible Challenge	Mike
May 5	Minor Prophets	Ninety Day Bible Challenge	Mike
May 12	Gospels & Acts of the Apostles	Ninety Day Bible Challenge	Mike
May 19	Paul's Epistles	Ninety Day Bible Challenge	Wade Sorola
May 26	General Epistles & Revelation	Ninety Day Bible Challenge	Mike

April 7 Read these chapters in light of their prompts.

1. Who did Moses write about? (John 5:45-47)
2. Who is the whole Old Testament about? (Luke 24:27, 44)
3. Where is one place we find the Word of Christ according to Paul? (Col. 3:16)
4. Who ate lunch with Abraham? (Gen. 18)
5. Who wrestled with Jacob? (Gen. 32)
6. Who is the Angel of the Lord? (Exodus 3)
7. Who wrote the Ten Commandments? (Exodus 20)
8. Who is our Passover? (Exodus 12; 1 Cor. 5:7)
9. Who does the bronze serpent point to? (Num. 21; John 3:14)
10. Who is the Rock? (Ex. 17:6; 1 Cor 10:4)
11. What's up with Abraham being told to kill his son? (Gen. 22)

If you have time, watch ["Jesus in the Torah" \(65 minutes\)](#)