

Rebuilding The Broken Walls

Wednesday Evening Series Led By Pastor Dan Betzer

Wednesday, October 31, 2012

STUDY # 4

* Brief review. In our study we are re-visiting the great walls of our redemption, some of which are under great attack both by skeptics and deniers of New Testament fundamentals. Last week we studied CONVERSION. Tonight: JUSTIFICATION. Still to come the walls of REGENERATION, SANCTIFICATION AND RECONCILIATION.

The lessening TO ANY DEGREE of any of this load-bearing walls causes the collapse of homes, nations, societies and certainly individual lives.

JUSTIFICATION

Romans 5:12-19 (TLB)

Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned— [13] for before the law was given, sin was in the world. But sin is not taken into account when there is no law. [14] Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who was a pattern of the one to come.

[15] But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! [16] Again, the gift of God is not like the result of the one man's sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. [17] For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

[18] Consequently, just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men, so also the result of one act of righteousness was justification that brings life for all men. [19] For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

The same scripture verse (18) taken from the King James:

1 Romans 5:18

2 Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even
3 so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto **justification** of life.

4
5 Last week we studied CONVERSION which means A SINCERE CHANGING OF THE
6 MIND AND DISPOSITION IN REGARD TO SIN, INVOLVING A SENSE OF
7 PERSONAL GUILT AND HELPLESSNESS, APPREHENSION OF GOD'S MERCY
8 AND A STRONG DESIRE TO ESCAPE - OR BE SAVED FROM SIN, AND THE
9 VOLUNTARY ABANDONMENT OF IT.

10
11 Now....what is the definition of Justification? JUSTIFICATION IS THE REVERSAL
12 OF GOD'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THE SINNER BECAUSE OF THE SINNER'S
13 NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST. IT IS "JUST-AS-IF-I'D-NEVER" SINNED
14 IN THE FIRST PLACE.

15
16 My friend, all your good works piled on top of each other cannot bring justification to
17 pass. Why? Because justification is something DECLARED B Y GOD.

18
19 **1. Before conversion and justification, man is thought of by God as a transgressor**
20 **and an eternal criminal:**

21 **Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;**

22 **Romans 5:6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died**
23 **for the ungodly.**

24 **Col. 1:21 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by**
25 **wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled:**

26 **Titus 3:3 For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived,**
27 **-serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one**
28 **another.**

29
30 Not a very pretty picture God had of us all, was it? And His condemnation came
31 with a penalty: **Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is**
32 **eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

33
34 It was that pronouncement from the very beginning: **Genesis 2:16-17 And the**
35 **Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest**
36 **freely eat: [17] But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of**
37 **it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.**

38
39 THEREFORE – IF YOU AND I ARE TO BE SAVED FROM GOD'S JUDGMENT,
40 TRULY SAVED, THIS DEATH PENALTY HAS TO BE REMOVED!

1 How could it be removed? It was done by the death of Jesus on the cross:

2
3 **Isaiah 53:5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our**
4 **iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are**
5 **healed.**

6
7 **1 Peter 2:24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we,**
8 **being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.**

9
10 Jesus bore my penalty of death on the Cross. THEREFORE...God remits that penalty if I
11 believe on His Son. THIS IS WHAT FORGIVENESS OF SINS IS BASED UPON!

12
13 So - bear in mind this first primary principle: SIN CAUSES DEATH!

14
15 **2. You know what else sin does? IT CAUSES THE SINNER TO LOSE GOD'S**
16 **FAVOR.**

17
18 **John 3:36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth**
19 **not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.**

20
21 Do we have much fear of God anymore?

22
23 **Romans 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness**
24 **and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;**

25
26 **NOTE:** Forgiveness of sin and the remission of its penalty is one aspect of God's
27 redemptive plan; BUT restoration to God's favor is quite another.

28
29 **A pardoned criminal may be restored to his civil rights so far as the penalty**
30 **involved; but he is not necessarily reconciled to society."** That was proven by
31 President Nixon and some of his cabinet. It was also revealed in the life of President
32 Clinton after his impeachment hearings. The stigma remains. BUT HERE IS WHERE
33 JUSTIFICATION SUCH A GLORIOUS GIFT: **JUSTIFICATION RESTORES THE**
34 **FAVOR - AS WELL AS REMOVING THE PENALTY.**

35
36 Sin took us away from our Heavenly Father's favor but: **Galatians 3:26 For ye are**
37 **all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.** Hallelujah - once outcasts to God,
38 but now HIS CHILDREN.

39
40 **3. Justification also imputes (ascribes) righteousness.**

1 Please take careful note of this eternal fact: THE SINNER MUST NOT ONLY BE
2 PARDONED FOR HIS PAST SINS, BUT ALSO SUPPLIED WITH A POSITIVE
3 RIGHTEOUSNESS BEFORE WE CAN HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD.
4

5 In the New Testament story of Philemon, the Apostle Paul asked Philemon (who was a
6 wealthy landowner) not only to forgive his runaway slave Onesimus, but to restore him to
7 full favor and whatever Onesimus owed Philemon PAUL WOULD PAY BACK THE
8 DEBT IN FULL. Paul asked Philemon to IMPUTE his own "goodness" to his runaway
9 man.

10
11 SO IT IS IN SALVATION: IT IS NOT MY GOODNESS AT ALL, FOR I HAVE
12 NONE, BUT "CHRIST IN ME" WHO IS MY HOPE OF GLORY.
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There is a truly dreadful teaching making the rounds of making one's own goodness, especially that of attempting to keep the laws of the Torah (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy) as the basis for one's salvation! This, of course, bypasses the necessity of Jesus dying on the cross, doesn't it? For if one can "earn" his or her salvation by keeping the law then Jesus should not have had to die. The Books of Romans and Galatians both deal with this teaching in no uncertain terms! This teaching is rank heresy and by subscribing to your own works instead of what Jesus did on the cross puts one on the fast track to eternal lostness. (The followers of this alleged teaching will tell you that the New Testament is in error, that it was translated incorrectly, that Paul and the Apostles were wrong.) My friend, they were not wrong. All my alleged "righteousness" is as a filthy rag to God. I must have Jesus to be saved. Beware of this heresy if it is presented to you.

15
16 It is only the righteousness of Christ ascribed to me (justification) that gives me my
17 wedding garment to be worn as part of the Bride of Christ at the Marriage Supper of the
18 Lamb: (In the words of Jesus Himself) Matthew 22:11 and 14 **And when the king**
19 **came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment:**
20 **[12] And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding**
21 **garment? And he was speechless. [13] Then said the king to the servants, Bind him**
22 **hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be**
23 **weeping and gnashing of teeth. [14] For many are called, but few are chosen.**
24

25 HOW THEN CAN I BE JUSTIFIED?

26
27 Job asked that very question: Job 25:4 **How then can man be justified with God?**
28 **or how can he be clean that is born of a woman?**
29

1 1. IT IS BY THE GRACE OF GOD

2
3 It is not by our works or goodness (or our attempts to live the precepts of the Torah), but
4 only by the mercy of God:

- 5 ✓ I realize my personal lack of righteousness
- 6 ✓ I understand my inability to ever be righteous in myself
- 7 ✓ I know God has provided a righteousness FOR me
- 8 ✓ And I completely understand that God had no moral obligation to do this for me,
- 9 but He “so loved the world” that He gave His Son for me

10
11 2. IT IS BY THE BLOOD OF CHRIST

12 Romans 5:9 **Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be**
13 **saved from wrath through him.**

14
15 3. IT IS BY FAITH

16 Romans 5:1 **Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God**
17 **through our Lord Jesus Christ:**

18
19 FAITH IN GOD AND HIS WORD IS THE MEANS BY WHICH WE
20 APPROPRIATE JUSTIFICATION

21
22 THE RESULTS OF JUSTIFICATION

- 23
24 1. Remission of the penalty for sin
- 25
26 2. Condemnation is gone
- 27
28 3. I have peace with God
- 29
30 4. I am clothed in Christ’s righteousness (not my own for I have none)
- 31
32 5. I am now an heir of God Titus 3:7 **That being justified by his grace, we**
33 **should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.**
- 34
35 6. Righteous Living through Christ 1 John 3:7 **Little children, let no man**
36 **deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.**
- 37
38 7. I am assured that I will be saved from the wrath of God that is coming upon this
39 earth and all non-believers.
- 40

REGENERATION

So far we have studied:

CONVERSION: Mankind calls upon God to turn him around and change his or her life. It begins with repentance.

JUSTIFICATION: This is the reversal of God's attitude toward the sinner because of the sinner's new relationship with Christ - just-as-if-I'd-never sinned.

Now we come to **REGENERATION:** This is the communication of divine life to the soul - the impartation of a **NEW NATURE** or **HEART**.

1 John 5:11-13

And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. [12] He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. [13] These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

The Necessity of Regeneration

Salvation is NOT making a vow, weeping, signing a card, penance, making a "decision," or even working like crazy to be good (keeping the law). Scriptures repeatedly teach that a man or woman must be **REGENERATED** before seeing God, a supernatural infusion of divine life within a person.

A. Without holiness no person shall see God (**Hebrews 12:14 Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:**) - yet humanity is by nature depraved and guilty of actual transgression against God.

B. This moral change can be brought about only by an act of God in which HE **REGENERATES THE HEART**. (This is often called "the new birth.")

John 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

John 3:1-3 There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: [2] The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. [3] Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

ONLY THE DIVINE IMPARTATION OF CHRIST'S LIFE CAN PRODUCE THE

1 HOLY NATURE WITHIN SINNERS THAT MAKES FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD
2 POSSIBLE.

3
4 How Is Such A Thing (Regeneration) Possible?
5

6 1. It is the will of God. James 1:18 **Of his own will begat he us with the word of**
7 **truth, that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures.**

8 God wants your nature to be changed. He wants you to have His divine life (the
9 saving life of Christ) within you.

10
11 2. The Death and Resurrection of Christ. The new birth is conditioned on faith in the
12 crucified Christ John 3:14-15 **And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the**
13 **wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: [15] That whosoever believeth**
14 **in him should not perish, but have eternal life.**

15
16 Regeneration is also conditioned on one's belief in the resurrection of Christ.
17 1 Peter 1:3 **Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which**
18 **according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the**
19 **resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,**

20
21 3. Regeneration is also brought about by the Word of God Ephes. 5:26 **That he**
22 **might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,**

23
24 4. God uses ministers of the Word, teaching and preaching, to bring about regeneration.
25 1 Cor. 4:15 **For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not**
26 **many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.**

27
28 5. Regeneration comes about through the Holy Spirit. Titus 3:5, 6 **Not by works of**
29 **righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the**
30 **washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; which he shed on us**
31 **abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior**

32
33 Evidences of a Regenerated Life
34

35 1. Overcoming temptation 1 John 3:9 **Whosoever is born of God doth not commit**
36 **sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.**
37 1 John 5:4 **For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the**
38 **victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.**

39 1 John 5:18 We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is
40 begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.

1 NOTE: John is not saying we have sinless perfection; what he is declaring is this: the
2 Christ of God Who resides within us IS perfect and we draw from His life.

3
4 2. A regenerated person habitually loves those around. 1 John 4:20 **If a man say, I**
5 **love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother**
6 **whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?**

7
8 3. A regenerated person sees the lost world as God does. 2 Cor. 5:14 **For the love of**
9 **Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all**
10 **dead:**

11
12 A regenerated person therefore loves missions and evangelism.

13 The Consequences Of A Regenerated Life

14
15
16 1. Union with Christ at your new birth means nothing can separate you from the love of
17 God other than your own will. Romans 8:38-39 **For I am persuaded, that neither**
18 **death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor**
19 **things to come, [39] Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to**
20 **separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

21
22 2. Your union with Christ will produce fruitfulness in you. John 15:5 **I am the vine,**
23 **ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth**
24 **much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.**

25
26 3. Union with Christ, the regenerated life, means endowment for service. 1 Cor.
27 3:11-15 **For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus**
28 **Christ. [12] Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones,**
29 **wood, hay, stubble; [13] Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall**
30 **declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's**
31 **work of what sort it is. [14] If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon,**
32 **he shall receive a reward. [15] If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer**
33 **loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.**

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37 Next week: Missions convention - a stunning report from Joe Crews who is building
38 Assemblies of God churches all over Cuba. (I have traveled across Cuba with Joe and
39 have seen with my own eyes this "Book of Acts" miracle now taking place just a couple
40 hundred miles from us.) Don't miss this night!