

REBUILDING THE BROKEN WALLS

Wednesday Evening Series, Led By Pastor Dan Betzer

Wednesday, November 21, 2012

STUDY # 5

Brief Review: Just as Nehemiah returned to Jerusalem to rebuild the walls of the city following the Babylonian exile, so we today, as followers of Christ, have walls that must be strengthened or rebuilt. Some of those walls involve the very basic truths of salvation. As I wrote in the third session (page 1): *The truths of salvation, those load-bearing walls of our eternal hope, have in many instances been broken down to a sort of psychological experience alone. The marvel for which Jesus gave His life has been devalued and the believer often does not know the full dimension of his or her gift of salvation. So let's carefully examine the scriptural aspects of our redemption.*

SO FAR WE HAVE STUDIED:

1. Conversion - man calls upon God to turn him around and change his life - requires repentance and faith
2. Justification - 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)
3. Regeneration - impartation of a new nature or heart

SANCTIFICATION

4. Sanctification is a separation to God, purification from moral evil and conformation to the image of Christ.

Hebrews 12:1-16

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, [2] Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. [3] For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds. [4] Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin. [5] And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: [6] For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and

1 scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. [7] If ye endure chastening, God dealeth
2 with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? [8] But if
3 ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not
4 sons. [9] Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we
5 gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of
6 spirits, and live? [10] For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own
7 pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. [11] Now
8 no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless
9 afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are
10 exercised thereby. [12] Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble
11 knees; [13] And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned
12 out of the way; but let it rather be healed. [14] Follow peace with all men, and
13 holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: [15] Looking diligently lest any
14 man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you,
15 and thereby many be defiled; [16] Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person,
16 as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright.

17 18 SANCTIFICATION MEANS:

- 19
20 1. Not only separation unto God but separation FROM defilement
21 *Today's commonly accepted license to sin is a knee-jerk against our legalistic*
22 *backgrounds.*

23
24 God expects His people to be morally clean.

25 26 The Story of King Hezekiah

27
28 Good King Hezekiah was the son of a wicked father, King Ahaz. Hezekiah took the
29 throne upon the death of his father in 716 B.C. and reigned for 29 years. Because his
30 father's wickedness, Judah has been reduced to a low state, true religion had vanished and
31 the people were guilty of the most gross idolatry. Young King Hezekiah determined to
32 serve God:

33 34 2 Chron. 29:4-6

35 **And he brought in the priests and the Levites, and gathered them together into**
36 **the east street, [5] And said unto them, Hear me, ye Levites, sanctify now yourselves,**
37 **and sanctify the house of the Lord God of your fathers, and carry forth the filthiness**
38 **out of the holy place. [6] For our fathers have trespassed, and done that which was**
39 **evil in the eyes of the Lord our God, and have forsaken him, and have turned away**
40 **their faces from the habitation of the Lord, and turned their backs.**

1 Because of Hezekiah's determination and decrees, the nation was turned to God and
2 divine blessings. Sanctification always produces meaningful life. This is a New
3 Testament teaching as well:
4

5 2 Cor. 6:14-18

6 **Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath**
7 **righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with**
8 **darkness? [15] And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that**
9 **believeth with an infidel? [16] And what agreement hath the temple of God with**
10 **idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them,**
11 **and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. [17]**
12 **Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and**
13 **touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, [18] And will be a Father unto**
14 **you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.**
15

16 Note Paul's wrap-up of this truth in 2 Cor. 7:1: **Having therefore these promises,**
17 **dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit,**
18 **perfecting holiness in the fear of God.**
19

20 What is "the filthiness of the flesh?"
21

22 Galatians 5:19-20: Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery,
23 fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, [20] Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance,
24 emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,
25

26 Let's put a present-day translation on these. The first group are SENSUAL SINS:
27

28 1. Adultery 2. Fornication 3. Uncleanness of the mind and spirit 4.
29 Lasciviousness - which means brutality and sadism
30

31 The next group is made up of RELIGIOUS SINS:
32

33 5. Idolatry (anything that comes before God 6. Witchcraft (which comes from a
34 Greek word pharmakeia or "pharmacy" or illegal drugs 7. Hatred or enmity 8.
35 Variances - contentions or quarrels
36

37 And the last group is composed of SOCIAL SINS:
38

39 9. Emulations (rivalry or jealousy) 10. Wrath - a hot temper 11. Strife - factions or
40 cliques 12. Seditions (divisions) 13. Heresies 14. Envyings 15 Murders

1 And the last group is made up of PERSONAL SINS:
2

3 16. Drunkenness 17. Revelings (wantonness)
4

5 Then note: Paul adds “and such like” meaning there are many others things that are
6 displeasing to God.
7

8 Now on the POSITIVE side we are to BE CONFORMED TO CHRIST.
9

10 Galatians 5:22-23 **But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering,**
11 **gentleness, goodness, faith, [23] Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.**
12

13 Someone might object, “ But - but - but I can’t live with those qualities consistently in my
14 life!” Not true. For, as Paul reminded us, 2 Cor. 3:18 **But we all, with open face**
15 **beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from**
16 **glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.**
17

18 NOW....HOW DOES THIS SANCTIFICATION HAPPEN? AND WHEN?
19

20 1. First...it happens when you are converted. This is called POSITIONAL
21 sanctification.

22 The scriptures teach that the moment a person believes on Christ, he or she is
23 sanctified. NOT ON OUR MERIT OR ACHIEVEMENT....but we are
24 APPROPRIATING the sanctity of Jesus Christ.
25

26 2. Sanctification also CONTINUES and progresses throughout life: Romans 8:13
27 **For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify**
28 **the deeds of the body, ye shall live.**
29

30 Don’t misconstrue this verse to advocate sinless perfection. That is an unscriptural
31 doctrine - as is sinful imperfection. Romans 6:1 **What shall we say then? Shall we**
32 **continue in sin, that grace may abound? SO....POSITIONALLY WE ARE**
33 **PERFECT IN CHRIST THE DAY WE BELIEVE IN CHRIST...BUT**
34 **EXPERIENTIALLY WE ARE PERFECT ONLY IN A LIMITED, YET**
35 **PROGRESSIVE, SESE.**
36

37 3. Complete and final sanctification comes at the Rapture. Our body will be glorified.
38 And that which is imperfect will be done away.
39

40 RECONCILIATION

1 Repeating:
2

3 **CONVERSION** - man calls upon God to turn him around and change his life. This
4 requires repentance and faith

5 **JUSTIFICATION** - is the reversal of God's attitude toward the sinner because of the
6 sinner's new relationship with Christ - "just as if I'd never sinned"

7 **REGENERATION** - this is the new birth - impartation of Christ's nature and heart

8 **SANCTIFICATION** - a separation to God, purification from moral evil and conformation
9 to the image of Christ

10
11 **RECONCILIATION IS TO RESTORE TO FRIENDSHIP OR HARMONY - TO**
12 **SETTLE DIFFERENCES - TO SUBMIT TO THE HIGHER AUTHORITY.**

13
14 2 Cor. 5:17-20

15 **Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed**
16 **away; behold, all things are become new. [18] And all things are of God, who hath**
17 **reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of**
18 **reconciliation; [19] To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto**
19 **himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the**
20 **word of reconciliation. [20] Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though**
21 **God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.**

22
23 *At first God and man stood face to face with each other in the Garden of Eden. In*
24 *sinning, man turned his back upon God. Then God turned His back upon Adam.*
25 *Christ's death has satisfied the demands of God and now God has again turned His*
26 *face toward man. It remains for man to turn round about and face God. Since God*
27 *has been reconciled by the death of His Son, man is now entreated to be reconciled to*
28 *God.*

29 DR. HENRY THIESSEN "LECTURES IN SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY"

30
31 Reconciliation, then, is the ministry of changing completely. BUT....WHO CHANGES?
32 Not God for He cannot change. He is immutable. IT IS THE SINNER WHO MUST
33 CHANGE!

34
35 But this change is possible only because of what Jesus did for us on the cross: Col.
36 1:20-23 **It was through what his Son did that God cleared a path for everything to**
37 **come to him--all things in heaven and on earth--for Christ's death on the cross has**
38 **made peace with God for all by his blood. [21] This includes you who were once so**
39 **far away from God. You were his enemies and hated him and were separated from**
40 **him by your evil thoughts and actions, yet now he has brought you back as his**

1 friends. [22] He has done this through the death on the cross of his own human
2 body, and now as a result Christ has brought you into the very presence of God, and
3 you are standing there before him with nothing left against you--nothing left that he
4 could even chide you for; [23] the only condition is that you fully believe the Truth,
5 standing in it steadfast and firm, strong in the Lord, convinced of the Good News
6 that Jesus died for you, and never shifting from trusting him to save you. This is the
7 wonderful news that came to each of you and is now spreading all over the world.
8 And I, Paul, have the joy of telling it to others.

9
10 It is essential to remember that IT IS NOT GOD WHO IS RECONCILED....He has not
11 changed. You cannot mold God into your image. Reconciliation begins when you
12 understand you will be conformed into the image of Christ.

13 14 HOW THE CROSS CHANGED EVERYTHING

15
16 The position of the world changed when Christ died on the cross. Today God has His
17 arms outstretched to a lost world. Whosoever will may come.

18 – The worst sinner in the world can come to God

19 – No one in the world can change God's mind about you - except you.

20
21 Scriptural cases in point:

22 23 John 8:1-11

24 Jesus went across to Mount Olives, [2] but he was soon back in the Temple again.
25 Swarms of people came to him. He sat down and taught them.

26 [3] The religion scholars and Pharisees led in a woman who had been caught in an
27 act of adultery. They stood her in plain sight of everyone [4] and said, "Teacher, this
28 woman was caught red-handed in the act of adultery. [5] Moses, in the Law, gives
29 orders to stone such persons. What do you say?" [6] They were trying to trap him
30 into saying something incriminating so they could bring charges against him.

31 Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger in the dirt. [7] They kept at him,
32 badgering him. He straightened up and said, "The sinless one among you, go first:
33 Throw the stone." [8] Bending down again, he wrote some more in the dirt.

34 [9] Hearing that, they walked away, one after another, beginning with the oldest.
35 The woman was left alone. [10] Jesus stood up and spoke to her. "Woman, where
36 are they? Does no one condemn you?"

37 [11] "No one, Master."

38 "Neither do I," said Jesus. "Go on your way. From now on, don't sin."

39
40 What did Jesus write in the dirt? We don't know. Could it have been Jeremiah 17:13:

1 **O Lord, the hope of Israel, all that forsake thee shall be ashamed, and they that**
2 **depart from me shall be written in the earth, because they have forsaken the Lord,**
3 **the fountain of living waters.**

4
5 Note: JESUS DID NOT SHUT HIS EYES TO THE WOMAN'S SIN.....INSTEAD HE
6 WENT TO THE CROSS FOR IT.

7
8 What is our role since we have been reconciled?

9
10 2 Cor. 5:20

11 **Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us:**
12 **we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.**

13
14 An AMBASSADOR is a minister of the highest rank accredited to a foreign government.

15
16 While you and I are pilgrims down here, on our way to Glory, we must remember that:
17 Philip. 3:20

18 **But there's far more to life for us. We're citizens of high heaven! We're waiting**
19 **the arrival of the Savior, the Master, Jesus Christ,**

20
21 What is the role of an ambassador?

22
23 1. A government only sends an ambassador to a nation with which it is still friendly.
24 SO GOD IS STILL DEALING WITH THIS WORLD THROUGH BELIEVERS.
25 But when the Rapture occurs, God will recall all His ambassadors and judgment will
26 begin.

27
28 2. Now an ambassador presents his or her sovereign - authority - and does not make up
29 personal policies.

30 Many believers think erroneously that they can write their own rules, make their own
31 policies. They are NOT reconciled to God.

32
33 An ambassador knows what his or her government demands and represents THAT
34 view. He or she does not violate his or her government's dictates for the ambassador is
35 under orders.

36
37 An ambassador faithfully declares the government's message.