

The Christian's Necessary Pursuit of Holiness (Sanctification) (Part 5)

Romans 6:11-14

Introduction

Once upon a time there was a kingdom of darkness which was ruled by a brutal and powerful king who was, ("the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient") (Eph.2:2).

The evil king had ("taken" the people, "captive to do his will") (2Tim.2:26); **and they were all,** ("under the control of" of the "evil one") (1Jn.5:19)

This king was, ("a murderer from the beginning") of time (Jn.8:44b); **and was the ultimate liar,** ("for he does not hold to the truth and there is no truth in him") (Jn.8:44)

Moreover, His subjects suffered from an eternal disease for they were, ("spiritually dead") (Eph.2:1; Col.2:13); **morally flawed** ("there was no-one righteous not even one") (Rom.3:10); **as well as being deceived,** ("The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel") (2Cor.4:4)

Therefore, ("they suppress(ed) the truth") (Rom.1:18) ("they love(d) darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil") (Jn.3:19)

And this darkness manifested itself in their being, ("futile in their thinking...and darkened in their understanding") (Eph.4:17,18); "foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures") **They,** ("lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another") (Titus 3:3). **They were,** ("slaves of depravity") (2Pet.2:19)

They, ("hated the light and would not come into the light") (Jn.3:20)

But,

There was an ancient writing which predicted that, ("the people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned") (Is.9:2)...("For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace") (Is.9:6). ("He will reign on David's throne...with justice and righteousness...for ever") (Is.9:7) (Matt.4:15-16). **Moreover, it was this Light that would** ("be pierced for our transgressions") (Is.53:5)

And, one day this great light shone visibly in the Person of a Radiant King. This King was baptised, ("to fulfil all righteousness") (Matt.3:15); **by identifying with sinners in their darkness, and representing His people; so that,** ("as in Adam all die, in Christ all will be made alive") (1Cor.15:22)

And, it was this King who brought the ultimate Good News (gospel) when He said, (The Kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the gospel") (Mk.1:15) **and,** ("I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life") (Jn.8:12; 9:5); **so,** ("Put your trust in the Light while you have it, so that you may become sons of light") (Jn.12:36)

Then, for a moment, it appeared as if the Light was extinguished on a cross (Jn.19:30). But, this Light could not be contained by death, and miraculously, the Light re-appeared (Jn.20:14ff), and now burns eternally; and with infinite brightness (Acts 2:34; Rev.5:6)

And,
Because of the cross, God has in His ("grace") (Rom.3:24; Eph.2:8), ("made His light shine" in dark hearts, "to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ") (2Cor.4:6); **to** ("open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me"(Christ) (Acts 26:18)

Now,

Those who once walked in darkness are by God's ("grace") **alone** (i.e. apart from obeying the law) (Eph.2:4-10; Gal.3:1-14; Rom.3:21ff); **and by** ("faith") **alone** (Rom.4; Gal.3); ("rescued...from the dominion of darkness (i.e. slavery) and brought...into the Kingdom of the Son He loves" (Col.1:13).

They are now, ("a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God) (1Pet.2:9a); and now they, ("declare the praises of Him who called (them) out of darkness into His wonderful light") (1Pet.2:9b)

And because they are in solidarity with Jesus, they, ("are the light of the world") (Matt.5:14); ("saints") (2Cor.1:1b; Eph.1:1b); ("the body of Christ" (1Cor.12:27); **the** ("bride") of Christ (Rev.19:7; 21:2); ("God's children...heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ") (Rom.8:16,17); **recipients of God's,** ("great love") (Eph.2:4).

Now, as Christians, they are no longer, ("separated from the life of God") (Eph.4:18); **or under,** ("the wrath of God") (Rom.1:18; Eph.2:3); **and,** ("without hope and without God in the world") (Eph.2:12)

So,

In the light of these truths,

("What fellowship can light have with darkness? What harmony is there between Christ and Beliel? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God) (2Cor.6:14-16)

None!

1. Christian responsibility: Growing in what God has done to sanctify us (Rom.6:11-14)

1. Christian responsibility: Imitate Christ (6:11)

2. Christian responsibility: Use your new freedom (6:11; 1Tim.6:7)

1. We are free from:

1. The penalty of sin:

2. The power of sin:

2. Live in the light of reality

3. Christian responsibility: Fight the good fight (6:12; 2Tim.4:7; 2:3; 1Tim.6:12)

1. Sanctification is achieved through fighting the good fight and not through being passive

2. Sanctification is progressive not instantaneous (1Cor.3:1-3)

3. Sanctification: Through depending on the Holy Spirit to do what is right

4. Christian responsibility: Pursue righteousness (6:13)

1. The negative "offer" or "present" (6:13a)

2. The positive "offer" or "present" (6:13b)

1. "Offer" or "present"

2. It is a daily offering or presenting

3. The decision

3. Offering or presenting involves our whole person

4. The reason why we offer ourselves (6:13; Eph.2:1)

5. Instruments (6:13)

5. Christian responsibility and God's promise (6:14)

1. God's pledge/oath/promise, to the believer (6:14a)

2. Why? (Rom.6:14b; 8:1)

Conclusion (Parallel from Ephesians)

1. We were all spiritually dead, and in bondage to the world, and the flesh, and the devil (Eph.2:1-3a)

2. Therefore we were by nature hell bound (2:3b). But, (2:4a)

3. God, because of His love, mercy, kindness and grace alone (2:4-9)

4. Saved us through Jesus our Representative and Saviour, "God...made us alive with Christ" (2:5), and,

5. Because we are saved by grace through faith (faith is a gift); not one believer, can boast in heaven (2:8-9), and,

6. Because our salvation is all of God, then He alone can, and does guarantee for His people; (1) a changed lifestyle in this world; and, (2) our eternal salvation (Eph.1:13-14)

7. Therefore, "Live a life worthy of the calling you have received" (Eph.4:1)