

“The Normal Christian Life – HOW Then Should We Live?”

Review: The Normal Christian Life – Truth and Consequences: What If Jesus Were Not Raised From the Dead?

Last Week: “Co-Operating With Christ in His Resurrection from the Dead”

- ***If Jesus Were Not Raised From the Dead, We Could Have No Hope***
- ***If Jesus Were Not Raised From the Dead, We Could Have No Peace***
- ***If Jesus Were Not Raised From the Dead, We Could Have No Freedom***
- ***If Jesus Were Not Raised From the Dead, We Could Have No Joy!***

... and We Would Be of All Most Miserable!!!

- **But praise be to God, for HE IS RISEN!!!**

Transition:

- What is the primary theme of the Scriptures written to the church, the Body of Christ? Justification by faith? No. The gospel? No. It is the walk of the believer in and under grace, living in the sphere of the full, unmerited, undeserved, riches of God as poured out without limit on sinners considered by God (because of their faith and that alone) to be the proper and appropriate recipients of all of His Good Pleasure.

But there are many enemies believers face, in every realm, physical and spiritual. In the spiritual realm, the area our apostle primarily addresses, the attacks come from the world, the flesh, and the devil. Though liberty is our proper domain, we may find ourselves back under the power of sin by failure in any of these areas. The enemy uses the world all around us so effectively, the flesh always dwells within seeking its advantage, and satan and his servants are primed for war when opportunity allows.

So, how can this enslavement be broken?

- Our apostle teaches clearly and powerfully that this deliverance, this salvation, cannot be found through the religions of this world, even when they are called “christian”.

The only deliverance is through the completed death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ and by simple, saving faith in him and his revealed work on our behalf. For that work was designed to deliver us, in the first place, from the penalty of sin, and then as well the power of sin in our living, and then finally

from the presence of sin at our departure from this life or our upward and homeward calling.

- So there are three areas Paul must address if he is to give us the full teaching on this critically important subject. In the letter to the Romans, he covers that teaching well, as we have seen. In that teaching, we saw how Practical truth (or living truth) is Positional truth applied to one's life. What we saw there was that when Christ died, we died with Him, and when he was raised, we were raised with him. And now, every moment is a segment of his new life worked out in and through us believers. For the abundant life is now our realm of living, if we will by faith receive it.
- But to live out that life to its fullest, we must be victorious over our many enemies. In this lesson, I will summarize Paul's teaching in the letter to the Romans, and then guide us into his letter to the Galatians, where he expands on the Romans teaching so wonderfully.

Our Outline Today: "The Normal Christian Life – HOW Then Should We Live?"

- ***The Normal Christian Life According to Paul's Letter to the Romans***
- ***The Normal Christian Life According to Paul's Letter to the Galatians***

I. The Normal Christian Life According to Paul's Letter to the Romans:

- In the earlier chapter of Romans, 1 - 3 and most of 4, Paul reveals how God worked to communicate his standard of righteousness down through the ages. Finally, Abraham is set forth as an example for all in that God's own standard for righteousness is revealed to him, and he by faith alone receives it. Paul, at the end of chapter 4, applies the same principle to us today, full beneficiaries of Christ's redemptive work:
- Chapters 4-5:

Romans 4:23-25 [How is this righteousness attained?]

23 Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him [Abraham];

24 But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead;

25 Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.

[READ] Romans 5:1-5

1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

3 And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;

4 And patience, experience; and experience, hope:

5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

- This is all about our living out the blessings secured to us through Christ in his death, burial, and resurrection. We are on a path of “grace, hope, and glory”, as it were, with trials that only increase our hope. Our faith makes the difference. The love of God is what it is all about! For the Lord sees us as “with him”. Amen.

Romans 5:18-21 [There is so much in chapter 5, culminating with verses 18-21.]

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

19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

20 Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:

21 That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.

○ Chapter 6:

Romans 6:1-4 [***This is now the realm of our living under grace.***]

1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?

2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

- Notice here that the focus is not on our works at all but on his work in making us his vessels to be used as he will.

But now he provides in only 6 verses an outline of the entire dynamic of our abundant and glorious living, under grace:

[READ] Romans 6:8-13 [Know->Reckon->Yield (Present) is an outline of the dynamic of our lives under grace.]

8 Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:

9 Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.

10 For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.

11 Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.

13 Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.

- In a “nutshell,” here the outline of victorious living under grace is revealed in three words: Know, Reckon, and Yield (or Present). The intent here is not to focus on our works but instead yielding to the power of sin dwelling within, we should present ourselves and our members for the Lord’s use. Then the result will be fruit unto him and his glory. Amen.

○ Chapter 7:

[READ] Romans 7:18-25 [But the enemy is near, even dwelling within – take him seriously.]

18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but *how* to perform that which is good I find not.

19 For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.

20 Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.

21 I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me.

22 For I delight in the law of God after the inward man:

23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

24 O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?

25 I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

- Chapter 8:

[READ] Romans 8:8-14 [But be encouraged, for we are on the path of glory with the Spirit and the Son always present to help.]

8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

10 And if Christ *be* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin; but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness.

11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.

13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

- This is such a fitting introduction to the letter to the Galatians with its focus on our new and abundant living. But it begins with stern warnings due to the circumstances under which Paul was writing.

II. The Normal Christian Life According to Paul's Letter to the Galatians:

- Why was a defense required regarding the Galatian believers?
 - False teachers, promoting a legal religious system with its presumed “gospel”, had come into the churches of Galatia and perverted the Galatian believers with their false teachings:

Galatians 1:6-9

6 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:

7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.

8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

9 As we said before, so say I now again, If any *man* preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

- Those false teachers were also teaching a way of living based on works of law rather than on grace and faith alone: They are therefore to be condemned with their evil teachings. For even the gospel itself was at risk.

Galatians 3:1-3

3 Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?

- Paul repeats his precious admonition in even stronger words of personal testimony when he was with the Galatians.
- How then should the Law be properly seen? The answer is in the next part of the chapter.]

Galatians 3:19-25 [The Law was only given to Israel temporarily...]

19 Wherefore then *serveth* the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; *and it was* ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator.

20 Now a mediator is not *a mediator* of one, but God is one.

21 *Is* the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law.

22 But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.

23 But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed.

24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster *to bring us* unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

25 But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.

- In chapters 3 & 4, Paul teaches that the law has been set aside now that Christ has accomplished his work and gives reasons for that here, just as he also had done in the Romans in chapter 4.
- With that introduction, Chapter 5 summarizes Paul's entire teaching here in such a fitting way to what will follow, as we will see in our next study, Lord willing:

[READ] Galatians 5:1-5 [Here we have reached the summary of what is to follow regarding our standing in Christ and its challenges.]

1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

2 Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing.

3 For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law.

4 Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

5 For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.

- Compare with Romans 5 where the same subject is addressed:

Romans 5:1-5

1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

3 And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;

4 And patience, experience; and experience, hope:

5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

- The teaching regarding the living out of our lives under grace is as simple as it is taught here. The rest of the chapter will give important details, but it is a teaching for believers who have already believed the gospel of grace and who were established in gracious living, but who have now turned aside to carnal works of law, and for some, denial of the true gospel of the grace of God. This is the outline of that teaching, and in our next fellowship here around God's word of grace, we will look again at it and the chapter 5 context where it is found. For it is the introduction to the rest of the chapter:

Galatians 5:1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

- We have liberty now, we should stand fast in it, resting there due to the unfailing promises of God, and never give in to the bondage of the flesh. For the law with its works will surely always interfere with the working of Almighty God under grace and the next verses show so well:

Galatians 5:2-4

2 Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing.

3 For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law.

4 Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

- Legalism of any kind always cancels, short-circuits, grace, and its workings. Why? Because it encourages the indwelling flesh with its power, and we are then even more easily brought back into slavery to it. The works of the flesh are the result.

Romans 7:7-8

7 What shall we say then? *Is* the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.

8 But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. For without the law sin *was* dead.

- The admonition here in verses 2 through 4 is so strong, isn't it? It is so clearly and powerfully written. And yet the legalism among believers is evident nearly everywhere. Could it be because the churches are not Pauline in their orientation and teaching? Perhaps the teaching we are engaged in here today is not that prevalent, sadly.
- And so we reach verse 5:

Galatians 5:5 For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.

- Here we find a simple and yet powerful summary of the entire walk of faith in one verse!
- We start here next time, Lord willing. Keep those words in your minds and in your hearts, and may they teach us always. Amen.

Our Outline Next Time:

- ***We Have Liberty through Christ's Gracious Free Gift***
- ***But Bondage Continues Even for Believers Today***
- ***What Are the Impediments to This New Life?***
- ***Paul Defines the Way For Our Walking with Him***

Our Scripture:

Galatians 5:1-5

1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

2 Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing.

3 For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law.

4 Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

5 For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.

Galatians 5:6-15

6 For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.

7 Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?

8 This persuasion *cometh* not of him that calleth you.

9 A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.

10 I have confidence in you through the Lord, that ye will be none otherwise minded: but he that troubleth you shall bear his judgment, whosoever he be.

11 And I, brethren, if I yet preach circumcision, why do I yet suffer persecution? then is the offence of the cross ceased.

12 I would they were even cut off which trouble you.

13 For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only *use* not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.

14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, *even* in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

15 But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.

Galatians 5:16 *This* I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

I. We Have Liberty through Christ's Gracious Free Gift:

Galatians 5:1-5

1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

2 Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing.

3 For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law.

4 Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

5 For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.

○

II. But Bondage Continues Even for Believers Today:

Galatians 5:6-15

6 For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.
7 Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?
8 This persuasion *cometh* not of him that calleth you.
9 A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.
10 I have confidence in you through the Lord, that ye will be none otherwise minded: but he that troubleth you shall bear his judgment, whosoever he be.
11 And I, brethren, if I yet preach circumcision, why do I yet suffer persecution? then is the offence of the cross ceased.
12 I would they were even cut off which trouble you.
13 For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.
14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, *even* in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.
15 But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.

○

III. What Are the Impediments to This New Life?

- The flesh: Verse 13 here and many others:

Gal. 5:13 For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only *use* not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.

Romans 7:18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but [how] to perform that which is good I find not.

Romans 7:25

I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

Romans 8:8-9

8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

Ephesians 2:1-10

1 And you *hath he quickened*, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

6 And hath raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus:

7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in *his* kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God:

9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

- The spirit: 2 Cor. 7 — the spirit can move in many directions

2 Corinthians 7:1-16

1 Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

2 Receive us; we have wronged no man, we have corrupted no man, we have defrauded no man.

3 I speak not *this* to condemn *you*: for I have said before, that ye are in our hearts to die and live with *you*.

4 Great *is* my boldness of speech toward you, great *is* my glorying of you: I am filled with comfort, I am exceeding joyful in all our tribulation.

5 For, when we were come into Macedonia, our flesh had no rest, but we were troubled on every side; without *were* fightings, within *were* fears.

6 Nevertheless God, that comforteth those that are cast down, comforted us by the coming of Titus;

7 And not by his coming only, but by the consolation wherewith he was comforted in you, when he told us your earnest desire, your mourning, your fervent mind toward me; so that I rejoiced the more.

8 For though I made you sorry with a letter, I do not repent, though I did repent: for I perceive that the same epistle hath made you sorry, though *it were* but for a season.

9 Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing.

10 For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.

11 For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, *what* clearing of yourselves, yea, *what* indignation, yea, *what* fear, yea, *what* vehement desire, yea, *what* zeal, yea,

what revenge! In all *things* ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter.

12 Wherefore, though I wrote unto you, *I did it* not for his cause that had done the wrong, nor for his cause that suffered wrong, but that our care for you in the sight of God might appear unto you.

13 Therefore we were comforted in your comfort: yea, and exceedingly the more joyed we for the joy of Titus, because his spirit was refreshed by you all.

14 For if I have boasted any thing to him of you, I am not ashamed; but as we spake all things to you in truth, even so our boasting, which *I made* before Titus, is found a truth.

15 And his inward affection is more abundant toward you, whilst he remembereth the obedience of you all, how with fear and trembling ye received him.

16 I rejoyce therefore that I have confidence in you in all *things*.

- Satan and his servants:

2 Corinthians 10:1-5

1 Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who in presence *am* base among you, but being absent *am* bold toward you:

2 But I beseech *you*, that I may not be bold when I am present with that confidence, wherewith I think to be bold against some, which think of us as if we walked according to the flesh.

3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:

4 (For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

Ephesians 6:10-17

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*.

13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

-
-

IV. Paul Defines the Way For Our Walking with Him:

Galatians 5:16 *This* I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

-