

Sunday Celebration (February 15, 2009)  
**"Motivation...It's a Matter of Life & Death"**

**"Walking in Newness of Life" (Pt. 3)**

## **INTRO**

... Hebrews 8, 10 and the Temptation to LICENSE

***"If there's not a severe enough consequence when we sin, then what's to keep us from running after sin?"***

*"If we are proclaiming Paul's gospel, with its emphasis on the freeness of grace and the impossibility of self-salvation, we are sure to provoke the charge of antinomianism. If we do not arouse this criticism, the likelihood is that we are not preaching Paul's gospel." John Stott, "Romans", BST, p. 167*

### **Rom 5, 6:1ff**

- CONTEXT... Justification that is Based in God's Mercy NOT Man's Merit
  - Rom 3:3-8** ... God will be faithful to show His Grace in spite of man
  - Rom 3:20-24** ... All are disqualified and therefore must receive justification on the basis of God's grace
  - Rom 3:27-28** ... Sovereign Grace is the Foundation for humility
  - Rom 5:8-11** ... If the greatest act of God's Grace came to us while we were God's enemies, how much greater expectation should we now have of the grace of God in our lives!
  - Rom 5:20-21** ... Where sin is great... Grace is greater
- QUESTION... **Rom 6:1**

***How Does the Bible Answer the Question of Christians Choosing to Continue in Sin? ...and How Have You Been Answering It?***

## **2 APPROACHES:**

### **1. The Fence-Building Christian**

- The Focal Point is at the "Edges" of the Christian Life—Where's the Line Where I Need to STOP? What are the boundaries of "Acceptable Christian Activities and Lifestyle"? How much of sin and the world and fleshly pleasure can I have and still be OK?

## 2. The Christian on an Invisible Heart Leash (2Cor 5:14-15)

- The Focal Point is at the CENTER (not the edges)
- It is a life of Compelling Desire not merely Duty Bound Restraint (Ps 24:7)

... *The "Bit & Bridle Christian"* ... Ps 32:8-9

*"The horse does not understand his driver's wishes, except as he intimates them through the bit and bridle. When he is to turn, when he is to quicken his pace, and when he is to stand still, must be told to him through the rein; for apart from the bit in his mouth, he has no understanding of the man's mind. That thought which works in the mind of his driver is not working in the mule's mind, and therefore he has to feel a pull at his mouth to make him know his master's desire. ... Be sensitive to the Spirit of God. So dwell in God that he shall dwell in you, and his indwelling shall cause you to feel at once what it is that he would have you to do." Charles Spurgeon, Metropolitan Tabernacle, Vol 37, p. 133*

## Equaling the Playing Ground

... There are some Christians who only have ears to hear certain things.

- **The Pleasure Pursuer**
- **The Religious Defender**

*How Does the Bible Address the Issue of Christians Ongoing Participation in Sin?* (...and how are you addressing it and seeking to motivate others to address it?)(...External Fences & Armed Guards in Watchtowers?)

## Motivation... It's a Matter of Life & Death

Rom 6:2-7, 10-11 ... (v. 2) How CAN we?

*"The idea is of a decisive separation from sin. Paul is talking not about the penalty, but about the power, of sin. It is better, then, to view the separation as a separation from the 'rule' or 'realm' of sin, sin being personified as a power that rules over the person outside of Christ." Douglas Moo, "The Epistle to the Romans", NICNT, p. 357*

*"The crucifixion of the old man and the destruction of the body of sin make an enormous difference to our lives. We are no longer what we once were; we are no longer related to sin the way we once were." Sinclair Ferguson, "The Christian Life", p. 138*

***... There's Been a DEATH that Changes the way sin operates in our lives***

1 John 3:8-10 Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. 9 No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God. 10 By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.

*"The term "born again" has come to mean for many people merely that someone or something got a new lease on life. So a quick survey of the internet shows that Cisco Systems, the communications company, has been born again; and the Green Movement has been born again ...and so on. So it's not surprising that we have to be careful when we read that 45% of Americans say they have been religiously born again. ...It is of enormous consequence that we know what being born again really means." John Piper, "Finally Alive", p. 16*

***... There's Been a Birth (a Life) that Changes the way sin operates in our lives***

1 **Cor 6:9-11** "Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, 10 nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God."

***How Many Christians are BOUND FOR FAILURE because of the way they think about themselves!***

***"The Salvation Event (the washing of regeneration, sanctification, and justification) CHANGED YOU!!! It Didn't Leave You the Same—THEREFORE, continuing to be who you used to be and live like you used to live DOESN'T MAKE SENSE!!!"***

**Reality #1 ... Sin Abounds in Our Lives and we are: "sexually immoral" ... "idolaters" ... "adulterers" ... "homosexuals" ... "thieves" ... "greedy" ... "drunkards" ... "revilers" ... "swindlers"**

**Reality #2 ... Grace Abounds More and Brings about DEATH to the Old and the REMOVAL of the Heart of Stone (Ez 36)**

**Reality #3 ... We don't just get a new start, we get a new Spirit to enable a different life**

*"What happens in the new birth? ... (1) What happens in the new birth is not getting new religion but getting new life. (2) What happens in the new birth is not merely affirming the supernatural in Jesus but experiencing the supernatural in yourself. (3) What happens in the new birth is not the improvement of your old human nature but the creation of a new human nature—a nature that is really you, and is forgiven and cleansed; and a nature that is really new, and is being formed by the indwelling Spirit of God." John Piper, "Finally Alive", p. 28*

***What Do I Do with This Revelation? ... Rom 6:11-12 ... Count it as TRUE!***  
And act on it.