

Sunday Celebration (April 19, 2009)
"Walking in a Fallen World"

Walking in Newness of Life

If Ez 36 is God's Indicative Intention... Why am I Still Struggling with Sin?

How Does One Interpret and Apply these Large & Sweeping Promises?

"... I will sprinkle clean water on you and you shall be cleansed from all your sins and idolatry"

"... I will remove the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh and write my laws upon your heart"

"... I will put my Spirit within you and cause you to walk in my statutes and you will be careful to obey my commands"

- Are these Absolutes that are to be realized at a 100% level by every believer from the moment a person is born-again?

Rom 7:21-24 ... The Familiar Lament of Many Christians

Thanks Be To God... There is an Answer!! (v. 25)—Launches us into Rom 8

Romans 8 ... "Life in the Spirit"

"The theme of chapter 8 is the Holy Spirit. Until this point, there have only been two mentions of the Spirit in Romans... Now chapter 8 mentions the Holy Spirit twenty times!"

Kent Hughes, "Romans", PTW, p. 148

Rom 8:1-11 ... The Day that Ez foresaw:

Rom 8:12-17 ... The Current Setting for this Life in the Spirit

● ***It includes an Alternative Presence*** – “the flesh”

By 'flesh' Paul means neither the soft muscular tissue which covers our bony skeleton, nor our bodily instincts and appetites, but rather the whole of our humanness viewed as corrupt and unredeemed, 'our fallen, egocentric human nature', or more briefly 'the sin-dominated self'. John Stott, "The Message of Romans", p. 222

Paul pictures sarx (flesh) as another 'power' of the old age, set in opposition to the Spirit. Douglas Moo, "The Epistle to the Romans", NICNT

Gal 5:16-17 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.

James 1:12-14 Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. 13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. 14 But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.

● ***It includes an Aspect of Warfare*** (v. 13)– “put to death the deeds of the body”

Indwelling sin is the lot of all of the children of Adam; the privilege of the children of God is to have the indwelling Spirit to fight and subdue indwelling sin. John Stott, "The Message of Romans", p. 225

The indicatives of God give us the ABILITY TO OVERCOME (through all the appropriate tactics of war)— They do not give us IMMUNITY from the Influence of Warfare

Why should we practice mortification? It sounds an unpleasant, uncongenial, austere and even painful business. It runs counter to our natural tendency to soft and lazy self-indulgence. If we are to engage in it, we shall need strong motives. John Stott, "The Message of Romans", p. 229

What Strong Motives are in You That Motivate You to Mortify Sin in Your Life?

... Have You Learned to Identify Deeper Motives that the Spirit Brings and that are Written On Your Heart? (Or is your mind simply "set on the flesh" and only looking for the appeal of Fleshly Reward)

- ***It includes a Dimension of Suffering*** (v. 17)— "provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him"

"These 'sufferings of the present time' are not only those 'trials' that are endured directly because of confession of Christ— for instance, persecution— but encompass the whole gamut of suffering, including things such as illness, bereavement, hunger, financial reverses, and death itself." Douglas Moo, "The Epistle to the Romans" [NICNT] p. 511

2 Cor 4:16-18 Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. 17 For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, 18 while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

All These Bring a Sense of FRICTION to the Christian Life

Rom 8: 18-25... The Current Limitations of the Life in the Spirit

v. 18 ... The GLORY that's not yet revealed

v. 20 ... Futility as a MEANS of HOPE

“ If there were no afflictions and difficulties and troubles and pain, our fallen hearts would fall ever more deeply in love with the comforts and securities and pleasures of this world instead of falling more deeply in love with our inheritance beyond this world, namely, God Himself. Suffering is appointed for us in this life as a great mercy to keep us from loving this world more than we should and to make us rely on God.”

John Piper, "Children, Heirs, Fellow Sufferers" (April 21, 2002)

- The Deliverance in Christ declared in Rom 7:25 has both *ULTIMATE Deliverance* (Heaven) and *Temporary Deliverance* (Earth) in view—but they are *NOT Identical in Experience*

v. 23 ... We Live in the FIRSTFRUITS of Ez 36 ... "The NOW & THE NOT YET"

The Spirit, then, functions to join inseparably together the two sides of the "already-not yet" eschatological tension in which we are caught.

"Already," through the indwelling presence of God's Spirit, we have been transferred into the new age of blessing and salvation; but the very fact that the Spirit is only the "first fruits" makes us sadly conscious that we have "not yet" severed all ties to the old age of sin and death. Douglas Moo, "The Epistle to the Romans", NICNT, p. 520

What Do We Do?

Eph 5:1-17

BOOK OF THE MONTH – May "**Worldliness**" or "**Set Apart**"