

THE GOSPEL FOR EVERYDAY CHRISTIAN LIVING

PART TWO

I) WE MUST PREACH THE GOSPEL TO OURSELVES EVERY DAY TO LIVE A LIFE OF SUFFICIENCY IN GOD.

Sufficiency: ALL MY NEEDS ARE MET

❖ **Romans 8:32**, “He who did not spare (hold Him back) his own Son but gave him up (sacrificed) for us all (substitution) (GOSPEL), how will he not also with him graciously (freely and generously to those who don’t deserve) give us all things.”

- I thought in my immaturity in the past—all things are greater than His own Son
- **John Piper**, “The Solid Logic of Heaven”
- When God has given us the ultimate, why will He not give us other little things?
- If we truly believe this Scripture, we will be free from all fears, anxieties, and insecurities.

Steven J. Cole: This (“all things”) doesn’t mean that He will give you a mansion, a fancy new car, a supermodel wife, and a successful career.

All things: Everything REQUIRED for the Christian life (temporal and spiritual)

Jerry Bridges: As Paul said in Romans 8:32, “He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?” Paul used the argument of the greater to the lesser to teach us God’s generosity. **No blessing we’ll ever receive can possibly compare with the gift of God’s Son dying for us.** God demonstrated His gracious generosity to the ultimate at the cross. And Paul based the assurance that we can expect God to meet all our other needs throughout life on the fact that God has already met our greatest need.

John Flavel: He spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all; how shall he not with him freely give us all things?” (Romans 8:32). How is it imaginable that God should withhold, after this, spirituals or temporals, from his people? How shall

he not call them effectually, justify them freely, sanctify them thoroughly, and glorify them eternally? How shall he not clothe them, feed them, protect and deliver them?

- This Scripture also helps us in our suffering, “When God did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, why will He withhold good things from me, even when I am suffering? Even in suffering, He works all things for our good.”

WE MUST PREACH THE GOSPEL TO OURSELVES EVERY DAY TO LIVE A LIFE OF SUFFICIENCY IN GOD.

2) WE MUST PREACH THE GOSPEL TO OURSELVES EVERY DAY TO LIVE A HOLY LIFE.

Note: Self-denial and disciplines are good, but without trusting and relying on the gospel (death and resurrection) of Christ, it is holiness by works.

- ❖ **1 Peter 2:24**, “**He [Christ] himself bore our sins in his body on the tree [GOSPEL]**, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.”
- ❖ **Romans 6:11**, “**For the death he died he died to sin, once for all (GOSPEL)**, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.”
- ❖ **1 Corinthians 6:18-20**, “Flee from sexual immorality... You are not your own, **for you were bought with a price [GOSPEL]**. So glorify God in your body.”
- In light of the gospel, I must consider that sin has no power over me.
- In light of the gospel, I must consider myself dead to sin in the death of Christ.
- In light of the gospel, I must offer myself to live for God in righteousness.
- In light of the gospel, I must fight against sin and temptations by completely trusting in the victorious atoning sacrifice of Christ on the cross for our sins.

Question: When we face every day the temptation to sin, do we preach the gospel to ourselves?

Jerry Bridges: The gospel is the very lifeblood of our walk with God. Without doubt it is the key to our salvation, but it is also the power for our daily progress in holiness. **The poverty of actual Christian experience is the result of an**

impoverished understanding of the depths of the gospel itself. The key is not to try a little harder, but to know more fully the incredible work of Christ on the cross—and to live in a more vital awareness of that grace day by day.

Note: In the spiritual life of a believer, the Gospel of Christ is the immune system that fights against the infections of sin. So feed yourself with the Gospel every day! You cannot live a holy life without feeding yourself with the Gospel of Christ.

WE MUST PREACH THE GOSPEL TO OURSELVES EVERY DAY TO LIVE A HOLY LIFE.

3) WE MUST PREACH THE GOSPEL TO OURSELVES EVERY DAY TO HAVE A NEW BEGINNING.

Quote: No human has the guts to love me if they know how depraved my heart is. The only person who fully knows who I am on the inside and yet has the guts to love me is my Heavenly Father.

- ❖ **I John 2:1**, “My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, **we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins (GOSPEL)**, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.”
- ❖ **Advocate:** Speaks on our behalf, defender
- ❖ **The Righteous:** Not like moms before the fathers (unrighteous justification). He rightly acknowledges our sin and points to His propitiation for our sin.

Paul David Tripp and Timothy Lane in “How People Change”: But verse 1 goes on to say that Jesus is our defense lawyer. When we sin, Jesus speaks to the Father on our behalf. He defends us, saying that we should not be punished for our sins because he has already atoned for us. He says something like this: “Father, I know that _____ has sinned and that change needs to happen in his life. But it would be unjust for you to condemn him. You would be exacting judgment twice for the same sin—from him and from me.” First John 1:9 says that when we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us. He is just because Jesus has already made atonement for that sin.

- ❖ **I John 1:9**, “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” CLEANSE US WITH WHAT?
- ❖ **I John 1:7b**, “the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.”

Therefore:

- Do not justify your sin
- Do not condemn yourself for sinning

A retelling of the story of the Prince of Darkness facing the great Christian Reformer, Martin Luther, is revealing on the nature of power held by the devil:

At one time, the devil came to Luther with a great scroll in his hands, written on both sides.

“What is this?” asked Luther.

“This”, replied Satan, “is the record of your sins.”

Luther examined the document very closely, and found the devil’s answer to be true, only too true. In fact, sins he had long since forgotten were there recorded, and he had to admit that he was guilty.

“Well,” responded Luther, at length, “and is this all?”

“Oh no,” exclaimed Satan, “by no means. There is yet another.”

“Go,” said Luther, “bring it to me.”

In a few moments the devil returned with a second scroll similar to the first. And again the great reformer had to plead guilty.

“Is this all?” inquired Luther.

“No, there is one more,” said Satan.

“Go, then; bring it too,” commanded Luther.

Soon the devil returned with a third scroll which Luther closely scanned.

“Yes,” admitted he, “these are all my sins. I committed them, every one. Are there still others?”

“No,” answered Satan, “these are all.”

Quietly Luther reached over to the desk, and, taking up a pen, he dipped it in a bottle of red ink, and then, taking the scrolls one by one, he wrote triumphantly across each one these words, “The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin” (1 John 1:7).

Jerry Bridges: “When you set yourself to seriously pursue holiness, you will begin to realize what an awful sinner you are. **And if you are not firmly rooted in the gospel and have not learned to preach it to yourself every day, you will soon become discouraged and will slack off in your pursuit of holiness.**”... “**To preach the gospel to yourself, then, means that you continually face up to your own sinfulness and then flee to Jesus through faith in His shed blood and righteous life.** It means that you appropriate, again by faith, the fact that Jesus fully satisfied the law of God, that He is your propitiation, and that God’s holy wrath is no longer directed toward you.”

- In light of the gospel, I must confess and repent of sin every day.
- In light of the gospel, I must rise again and move forward in Christian life.

Milton Vincent: Over the course of time, preaching the gospel to myself every day has made more of a difference in my life than any other discipline I have ever practiced. I find myself sinning less, but just as importantly, I find myself recovering my footing more quickly after sinning, due to the immediate comfort found in the gospel. I have also found that when I am absorbed in the gospel, everything else I am supposed to be toward God and others seems to flow out of me more naturally and passionately. Doing right is not always easy, but it is never more easy when one is breathing deeply the atmosphere of the gospel.

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