

Greetings:

The study that Pastor Pat brings on Sunday mornings is a reflection of the study for that week. It represents a lot of research. Not all of what he has prepared is communicated. In an attempt to continue the learning process, he is making available his study notes to the congregation.

They are edited, but not “book” ready. To the critical eye mistakes can be found. So he asks that you take the material with humility, teach-ability, and charity.

Enjoy and if you should have any questions or corrections, please do not hesitate to email him at pastorpat@waukeshabile.org.

Date: April 11, 2010

Title: Understanding A Gospel-Driven Christian Life

Text: Romans 6:1-23 (vv. 1-7)

Theme: Because of the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ and our placement into his person and work by Holy Spirit baptism that we appropriated by faith, we can walk in newness of life and live in his victory over sin and death.

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Waukesha Bible Church is a family of families seeking to live in the Storyline of the Bible. She is determined by design to have a God-centered, Christ-exalting worship; a Word-centered teaching focused on personal discipleship through intentional and systematic instruction; a Global-impacting mission that resolves to be a church planting church; and a Grace-based fellowship where disciples are invited to live under a reigning grace characterized by a Gospel-driven sanctification that celebrates a divine monergism to the Christian life.

Understanding A Gospel-Driven Christian Life

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Introduction:

Often we speak of the cross of Jesus Christ as being that pivotal moment in God's Story, yet the cross is only a piece although a significant piece, of the gospel and how the Bible tells the Story. What makes GOOD FRIDAY good from a Systematized Theology is the RESURRECTION. It is His resurrection that signifies His victory over sin, death and the grave. Because of whom He is and what He has done and does, we can walk in newness of life. This new life, the Christ life means we are no longer under sin's authority or in bondage to it. This is our new reality. Yet despite His victory, we still struggle with "issues" of our old self. This study and the next several will speak to these "issues" and how we might have victory over them. With this in mind let me lead with two thoughts concerning expectations.

1. This Is A Journey, THEREFORE You Will Never Arrive And You Will ALWAYS Be Recovering.
2. Elders Are "Students of the Soul (i.e. Psychologists)." Ultimate answers are only found **in Christ** and what the Holy Spirit says **in the Bible**.

With these two thoughts in mind, let me define my title.

A Word of Explanation:

- **Understanding**
 - I want us to learn what Romans 6 means when it says, "KNOW, CONSIDER And PRESENT" as it relates to your relationship with God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. I want all of us to learn how to apply the gospel to our Christian experience.
- **Gospel-Driven**
 - The same Gospel that saves you by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone is the same Gospel that enables, empowers, and energizes you by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. The Gospel contains all the prelude and postlude leading up to and flowing from the life, death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- **Christian Life**
 - The Christian life is everything that happens between your justification and your glorification. In other words, everything that happens between entering the Christian life and your departure from your physical body of flesh.

The Storyline:

At this point let us read Romans 6:1-7. Romans 6 paints a picture of reality that would appear foreign to our regular experience. Yet I am convinced that what Romans 6 states is my reality, and what I experience is only a residue of my old standing **in Adam**.

The Problem:

Our problems are best noted in two questions.

1. "I know what it says, but what does it mean?"
2. "What it says I am to do and what I actually do look like two very different creatures."

Questions:

1. Does His victory guarantee mine?
2. Will my performance always reflect my position?
3. Can my performance change my position?
4. Why am I right with God?
5. Was this "rightness" a consequence of my works or the work of another?
6. What does it mean when Romans 6:6, 9 speak of "knowing"?
7. What does it mean when Romans 6:11 speaks of "considering"?
8. What does it mean when Romans 6:13, 19 speak of "presenting"?
9. Is my experience **in Christ** just as real as my experience **in Adam**?
10. "How Do We Get From Where We Were, To Where We Now Are" Or "How Do We Practice Our Position" Or "How Do We Walk In Newness Of Life?"
11. Why can the Christian life be problematic?
12. Is living the Christian life a set of rules?
13. What is the Christian life?
14. What does my Adamic residue cause my Christian life to be like?
15. Do you have "issues"?
16. Are you willing to have the Holy Spirit speak to your "issues"?

The Holy Spirit is calling to us from this passage to consider three ideas.

To Know: The Holy Spirit desires for us to know God is the only one who can meet our needs and on whom we can depend.

To Choose: The Holy Spirit desires for us to choose to seek Him first above all shadows.

To Feel: The Holy Spirit desires for us to feel the joy of resting in His sufficiency.

Outline:

I. "First things First"

A. Once you were **in Adam**, but now you are **in Christ**.

B. The NEW IS as real as the OLD WAS.

C. ONE'S POSITION always changes ONE'S PRACTICE. One's practice CAN NEVER change one's position.

- Question - If His Resurrection is true, "how do we walk in newness of life?" (Rom. 6:1-4)

II. “Remember”

- A. Remember who you were **in Adam** (Gal. 5:19-21; Col. 3:5-9).
 B. Remember who you are **in Christ** (Gal. 5:22, 23; Col. 3:12-16).

III. “Question - Answer”

A. **Question**

- “How Do We Get From Where We Were, To Where We Now Are” Or
- “How Do We Practice Our Position” Or
- “How Do We Walk In Newness Of Life?”

B. **Answer** ((Rom. 12:1, 2; Eph. 4:20-24; Col. 3:8-10)

- “Put Off The Old Man,”
- “Put On The New Man”
- “By The Renewing Of Your Mind” [I.E. ‘Know, Consider, Present’]

C. **Problem**

- It is not a **rule** . . . $1+1+1=3$
- It is a **relationship**

D. **As a Relationship**

- It is built on the bedrock of Jesus Christ, . . . But . . .
- It is lived in and through jars of clay that still have **Adamic residue** clinging to them.
- Hence, . . . The roller coaster!

IV. “Let us Begin”

A. “Diagnosing the problem”

B. First, “Accept the fact that YOU HAVE ISSUES” (Heb. 12:1, 2)

¹“Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, **let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us**, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God” (Heb. 12:1, 2).

The immediate context is persecution for biblical faith. I would, however, simply note how there are “ENCUMBRANCES” and “SIN” that seem to so easily entangle us in our pursuit of

Christ. These “things” rob us of the joy and rest that is ours by inheritance and position **in Christ**; thus, whether or not you admit it, “YOU HAVE ISSUES.”

C. Second, “Yield to the Holy Spirit as He speaks to those Issues BEFORE they reach CRITICAL MASS.”

Over the next four Sundays we will “generically” speak to the “issues” and seek resolution **in Christ**.

THE BIG PICTURE:

1. Why we have Issues
2. The issue of ANGER
3. The issue of ADDICTIONS
4. The issue of ARROGANCE

Shepherding the Sheep: (What’s the NEXT STEP?)

1. Do You Know The Power Of His Resurrection?
2. Are You Walking In Newness Of Life?
3. Are You Willing To Accept The Fact That You Have Issues?
4. Are You Willing To Yield To The Work Of The Holy Spirit In Speaking To Your Issues?