

Living In The Present “BUT NOW”

Message # 2

FIGHTING AN OLD MAN & WALKING A - WAY

A fighter in a boxing match throws punches in the ring

for a knock-out blow but sometimes, his opponent gets back up

even after being hit hard and they go at it again.

The goal to be the winner of the contest

is to PUT THE OLD MAN DOWN & WALK A-WAY VICTORIOUS.

This is another ‘But Now’ issue of right division, to build sound doctrine in your soul:

Col 3:8-10 But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.

9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;

10 And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

OUT with that old man and IN with the new:

Eph 4:22-24 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

The rest of Eph chapter 4 gives a PRACTICAL LIST OF THINGS to do and not do.

SO HOW CAN WE GET RID OF THE OLD MAN & WALK THE RIGHT WAY ?

The law gives us the knowledge of sin (Rom 3:20),

and justly charges us guilty, deserving of death:

Rom 4:15 Because the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, there is no transgression.

So, since the law cannot stop sin in our life What can help us ?

It is God's GRACE that trains us

how to live right and choose not to sin:

Titus 2:11-14 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,
12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly,
righteously, and godly, in this present world;

13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

It is Christ's LOVE that supresses our selfish desires to sin

because we're thankful that He died for us:

2 Cor 5:14,15 For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:

15 And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

Yes, the law surely condemned us but God's GRACE came to our rescue:

Rom 5:20,21 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.

Let's read in Rom 6 & 7, where God provided help for our old man/new man situation.

Grace is often accused of being a LICENSE to sin.

Well, it is and it is not.

CAN we still sin? Yes, we CAN and sadly, in fact, we know we DO.

BUT SHOULD we still sin? No, we should not and in fact, we are ABLE not to.

Rom 6:1,2 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?

To live in victory over sin, there are some things we need to **KNOW:**

In our one baptism we are not put into water but into the person of Christ:

Rom 6:3 **KNOW** ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

God puts us into Jesus into His death ---

and thereby, counts HIS death as OUR death so that we can say:

Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Thus we are enabled by thankfulness to Christ

that He was faithful and paid the debt to God for our sins on the cross.

THAT blessed truth motivates us to live for His glory.

We OUGHT to walk like a new man not in our old sin nature:

Rom 6:4 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.**

This same 'one' baptism is -- not into water -- but into Christ and His death.

It is NOT a baptism that can be seen because it's through faith.

It is NOT a baptism that some preacher performs God is the operator:

Col 2:12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

People have really twisted the scripture to make these verses a picture of water

Jesus was not drowned to death in water nor was He buried in water:

Rom 6:5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: **(that's not water it's our baptism into Him)**

Here is another thing we need to

KNOW:

By baptism, we are placed into the death of Christ

therefore, since we know that our old man was killed on the cross with Christ

we should not let him control us anymore.

When we know that our old man is dead sin is no longer our master:

Rom 6:6,7 **KNOWING** this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

7 For he that is dead is freed from sin.

We also need to

KNOW

that just as Christ Himself died for sin and raised to live His life for God,

we should too --- since we're baptized into Him:

Rom 6:8-10 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.

Because we KNOW that

we need to

RECKON

this:

Rom 6:11-12 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.

We need to KNOW and RECKON

we also need to

YIELD:

Rom 6:13 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.

Here is another thing we need to

KNOW:

Here again, GRACE rescued us from SIN and the LAW:

Rom 6:14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

Don't forget it is GRACE that teaches us NOT to sin in Titus 2:11,12:

Rom 6:15,16 What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.

16 KNOW ye not, that to whom ye YIELD yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

And, here again, we see a thankful heart for our freedom from sin:

Rom 6:17-20 But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you (through Paul).

18 Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.

19 I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now YIELD your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.

20 For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness.

Now we are embarrassed about our previous life of sin:

Rom 6:21 What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death.

Notice another wonderful 'But Now' building block:

Rom 6:22,23 But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

So, Romans chapter 6, is a place to go for HELP against the OLD MAN

where we learn to • KNOW • RECKON and • YIELD

In chapter 7, we can be comforted to see that we're not the ONLY ones who struggle.

The law is right the problem is with US. The law shows how bad sin is:

Rom 7:12-14 Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.

13 Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful.

14 For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin.

Every person in the flesh **is still FIGHTING with their old man**

even though he is to be counted as a dead man.

You may be acquainted with people who have a 'Holier than thou' attitude

well, this next passage shows they contend with sin just like the rest of us.

Some people like to think Paul wrote this about his PAST experience

but the present tense verbs do not permit that mis-understanding:

Rom 7:15-25 **For that which I do I allow not:**
for what I would, that do I not;
but what I hate, that do I.

16 If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good.

17 Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.

18 For **I KNOW** (here's something else that we surely 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.

Let's make consistent mental choices

to deny our selfish flesh:

Gal 5:16-18 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye SHALL not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

18 But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.

Gal 5:24,25 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

It is a SPIRITUAL war for sure

but God has not left us powerless to fight the battles:

2 Cor 10:3-5 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;

Talk to God about everything you think about

then meditate on sound doctrine

which we learn by right division

so the choices we make will result in a PEACEFUL MIND:

Phil 4:6-9 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are **true**, whatsoever things are **honest**, whatsoever things are **just**, whatsoever things are **pure**, whatsoever things are **lovely**, whatsoever things are **of good report**; if there be any **virtue**, and if there be any **praise**, **think on these things.**

9 Those things, which ye have both **learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me (Paul), do:** and the God of peace shall be with you.

Then we will **EXPERIENCE DELIVERANCE** because of the cross:

Gal 1:3,4 Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ,

4 Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:

We have freedom

- FROM our PAST,
- FOR the PRESENT, and
- eventually
- IN the FUTURE:

2 Cor 1:9,10 But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead:

10 Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver:
in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us;

- He DID deliver us already
- He IS STILL delivering us now
- He WILL deliver us in the future.

The sound of the trumpet will announce our deliverance in the future,

when the Lord comes to the clouds and catches us up into Heaven:

1 Cor 15:51-53 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

We will undergo a radical transformation then:

Phil 3:20-21 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:

21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

We need to be thankful and not complaining until that time:

2 Thess 3:5 And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ.

We've got some long-suffering to do until God takes us home:

Rom 8:23 And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

But with God's full revelation we're **FULLY EQUIPPED** to do good works:

2 Tim 3:16,17 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

17 That the man of God may be perfect, **thoroughly furnished unto all good works.**

We can actually **DEVELOP A HABIT** of doing right things:

Titus 2:7,8 In all things shewing thyself **a pattern of good works**: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity,

8 Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you.

God actually designed for us to **CONTINUE** in good works:

Titus 3:8 This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm **constantly**, that they which have believed in God might **be careful to maintain good works.** These things are good and profitable unto men.

Eph 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Many times God told us how to walk:

Walk • in the Spirit - Gal 5:16-18; 25

Walk • in good works - Eph 2:10

Walk • in love - Eph 5:2

Walk • in light - Eph 5:8

Walk • circumspectly - Eph 5:15

Walk • by the same rule, following Paul - Phil 3:16,17

Walk • in Christ, in grace - Col 2:6

Walk • in wisdom - Col 4:5,6

Walk • worthy - Eph 4:1; Col 1:10; 1 Thess 2:12

Walk • to please God - 1 Thess 4:1

Walk • honestly - 1 Thess 4:12

Some people profess to just be fruit inspectors,

based on verses in the earthly ministry of Jesus, like:

Matt 7:18-20 A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

19 Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

20 Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

One problem with saying that today - is that a tree can only produce ONE KIND of fruit

-- either COMPLETELY good or ENTIRELY bad -- which is SINLESS PERFECTION.

In the Ages to Come when the Little Flock of Israel is 'born again' and when they come into their New Testament in the Kingdom of God on Earth --

God will super-naturally ENABLE them to live WITHOUT sinning:

1 John 3:9 Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

Just like the prophecy said:

Ezek 36:27 And I will put my spirit within you, and CAUSE you to walk in my statutes, and ye SHALL KEEP my judgments, and DO them.

'But now' under GRACE -- YOU can NOT tell by LOOKING at a person OR their works

whether or not they're a believer. ONLY GOD KNOWS that.

And God wants those who claim His name to stop sinning:

2 Tim 2:19-2 Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, **The Lord knoweth them that are his.**

And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth (like wood, hay, and stubble; at the Judgment of Works we read in 1 Cor 3:8-15 in the 1st message); and some to honour, and some to dishonour.

21 If a man therefore purge himself from these (sin and the wasted and unprofitable works not built on Paul's foundation of the mystery), he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet (fit) for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.

It is our personal responsibility to honor the Lord for all He's done for us:

2 Cor 7:1 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.

Paul set the example of the conduct we should have:

1 Thess 2:10 Ye are witnesses, and God also, how **holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves** among you that believe:

How is that accomplished? How can that work?

By believing / understanding / taking in

sound doctrine through right division in God's word:

1 Thess 2:13 For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

In closing, hopefully, this study has helped you in

FIGHTING AN OLD MAN PUTTING HIM OFF
AND
WALKING A WAY VICTORIOUS:

1 Thess 4:1 Furthermore then we **beseech** you, brethren,

and **exhort** you by the Lord Jesus, that as

ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God,

so ye would abound more and more.

This is David Dowell, saying, "Think about it!"