

We Are Debtors

Wednesday, December 26, 2018

Mike Miller

Straight Paths Bible Church

Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: **Rom. 8:12-16**

- I. Therefore, brethren, we are debtors ...
 - A. This refers to the attitude we should have as Christians.
 - B. We should feel that way in our hearts because we truly are debtors to God for what He has done for us.
 - C. For what He has put up with out of us without destroying us.
 - D. For the price He has paid to redeem us.
 - E. For the fact that all that was required to redeem us was provided by God.
 - F. How could we not feel obliged to Him?

- II. ...not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.
 - A. We owe the old ways nothing.
 - B. Whatever we are after we are saved owes nothing to what we were before we were saved.
 - C. Many people seem to honor their wicked past as the means that brought them to where they are now – this is a very wrong way to think.
 - D. Our wicked past is what we were delivered from and it is what required the death of Christ for us to be saved – it deserves no honor or praise at all.
 - E. All that pertained to the flesh was working toward our eternal death, it was in no way leading us to eternal life.
 - F. God may or may not use something from our past as a help to win souls or glorify himself, but as far as our attitude – all the glory and praise and honor goes to God for delivering us from that road to destruction we were on.
 - G. You do not have to experience great depths of sin yourself to realize how wonderful salvation is.
 1. You will not get through this life without learning the awfulness of sin by experiencing the effects of the sins of others.
 2. This will be sufficient knowledge of what sin does without entering into every particular sin yourself.
 - H. We owe nothing to this world and nothing to anything that pertains to the flesh – so we have no obligation or duty to return to those things now that we are saved.

- III. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. (v. 13)
 - A. To live after the flesh is to live after the things of the old life – the unconverted life, the life the rest of the ungodly world lives after.
 - B. It we, through the Spirit, put to death the things that we have previously lived for we are promised life from God.

- C. Those things we have done, no matter how vile and wicked, are gone, dead, buried, and put away – they are no longer a part of our life or our affections.
- D. If we are still living with all those things in view and thinking of them as part of our life now we are still living after the flesh.

IV. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. (v. 14)

- A. This necessarily means that those who are not led by the Spirit of God are NOT the sons of God.
- B. There is no such thing as being saved and on your way to heaven, while your life is about living after the flesh.
 - 1. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die. (v. 13)
- C. The children of God are led by the Spirit of God.

But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice. And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers. **John 10:2-5**

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand. **John 10:27-28**