

The Power and Pardon of the Cross

*Christ did not die just to pardon your sin;
He died to empower you against sin.*

*And those who do not embrace the power of the Cross
to fight their sin
will not have the pardon of the Cross
to forgive their sin.*

-John Piper

“But you shall receive **power**
when the **Holy Spirit** has come upon you;
and you shall be witnesses to Me
in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”
Acts 1:8

A Celebration of Worship

For the Children of God in Covenant at

River City Reformed Church

March 11, 2018

So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.
For if you live according to the flesh -you will die,
but if by the **Spirit** you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.
For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear,
but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “**Abba! Father!**”

The **Spirit** Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,
and if children, then heirs—**heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ,**
provided we suffer with him
in order that we may also be glorified with Him.

HYMN

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven; To His feet thy tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, **Who, like me, His praise should sing?**
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the Everlasting King!

Praise Him for His Grace and Favor, To our fathers in distress.
Praise Him still the same as ever, Slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Glorious in His faithfulness.

Father-like He tends and spares us; Well our feeble frame He knows.
In His hands He gently bears us, Rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Widely yet His mercy flows.

Lord, With Glowing Heart I'd Praise Thee, For the bliss Thy love bestows,
For the pardoning Grace that saves me, And the peace that from it flows:
Help, O God, my weak endeavor; This dull soul to rapture raise:
Thou must light the flame, or never, Can my love be warmed to praise.

Praise, my soul, the God that sought thee, Wretched wanderer, far astray;
Found thee lost, and kindly brought thee, From the paths of death away;
Praise, with love's devoutest feeling, Him Who saw thy guilt-born fear,
And the light of hope revealing, Bade the blood-stained Cross appear.

Praise thy Savior God that drew thee, To that Cross, new life to give,
Held a blood-sealed Pardon to thee, Bade thee look to Him and live.
Praise the Grace **whose threats alarmed thee**, Roused thee from thy fatal

ease;

Praise the Grace whose promise warmed thee, Praise the Grace that whispered peace.

Lord, my heart's most ardent feeling, Vainly would my lips express.
Low before Thy Footstool kneeling, Grant Thy suppliant's prayer to bless:
Let Thy Grace, my soul's chief treasure, Love's pure flame within me raise;
And, since words can never measure, Let my life show forth Thy praise.

PRAYER

SCRIPTURE READING

HYMN

For Your Gift of God, the Spirit

Hymnal 339

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

OFFERING & DOXOLOGY

PREACHING

*The Holiness of God:
Much to Learn, Much to Fear, Much to Love, Much to Worship*

2 Samuel 6

BENEDICTION



Our Elders are eager to be of service,
to pray with you,
or answer any questions:

Bob Carter 910.520.0272
Fitz Caudle 910.520.2732
Steve Coggins 910.520.0718



*“ I glorified You on earth,
having accomplished the work
You have given Me to do.”*

If you would like more information, or would like to contact Pastor Bob, he may be reached at 910.520.0272

TEMPLE BAPTIST ACTIVITY CENTER, GEORGE ANDERSON DRIVE, WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA

HOLINESS, Fight the Good Fight, by the Power of God
J. C. Ryle

The principal fight of the Christian is with the **world, the flesh, and the devil**. These are his never-dying foes. These are the three chief enemies against whom he **must wage war**. Unless he gets the victory over these three, all other victories are useless and vain. If he had a nature like an angel, and were not a fallen creature, the warfare would not be so essential.

But with a corrupt heart, a busy devil, and an ensnaring world, **he must either “fight” or be lost**.

He must fight *the flesh*. Even after **conversion** he carries within him a **nature prone to evil**, and a heart **weak and unstable** as water. That heart will never be free from imperfection in this world, and it is a miserable delusion to expect it. To keep that heart from going astray, the Lord Jesus bids us “watch and pray.” The spirit may be ready, but the flesh is weak. There is need of a daily struggle and a daily wrestling in prayer. “I keep under my body,” cries St. Paul, “and bring it into subjection.”—“I see a law in my members warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity.”—“O wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me from the body of this death?”—“They that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.”—“Mortify your members which are upon the earth.”

(Mark 14:38; 1 Cor. 9:27; Rom. 7:23, 24; Gal. 5:24; Coloss. 3:5.)

He must fight *the world*. The subtle influence of that mighty enemy must be daily resisted, and without a daily battle can never be overcome. The love of the world’s good things—the fear of the world’s laughter or blame—the secret desire to keep in with the world—the secret wish to do as others in the world do, and not to run into extremes—all these are spiritual foes which beset the Christian continually on his way to heaven, and must be conquered. “The friendship of the world is enmity with God: whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.”—“If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”—“The world is crucified to Me, and I unto the world.”—“Whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world.”—“Be not conformed to this world.”

(James 4:4; 1 John 2:15; Gal. 6:14; 1 John 5:4; Rom. 12:2.)

He must fight *the devil*. That old enemy of mankind is not dead. Ever since the fall of Adam and Eve he has been “going to and fro in the earth, and walking up and down in it,” and striving to compass one great end—the ruin of man’s soul. Never slumbering and never sleeping, he is always “going about as a lion seeking whom he may devour.” **An unseen enemy, he is always near us, about our path and about our bed, and spying out all our ways. A “murderer and a liar” from the beginning, he labours night and day to cast us down to hell.** Sometimes by leading into superstition, sometimes by suggesting infidelity, sometimes by one kind of tactics and sometimes by another, he is always carrying on a **campaign against our souls**. “Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat.”

This mighty adversary must be daily resisted if we wish to be saved.

But “this kind goes not out” but by watching and praying, and fighting, and putting on the whole armour of God. The strong man armed will never be kept out of our hearts without a daily battle.

(Job 1:7; 1 Peter 5:8; John 8:44; Luke 22:31; Ephes. 6:11.)

We may take comfort about our souls if we know anything of an inward fight and conflict.

It is the invariable companion of genuine Christian holiness. It is not everything, I am well aware, but it is something. Do we find in our heart of hearts a spiritual struggle? Do we feel anything of the flesh lusting against the spirit and the spirit against the flesh, so that we cannot do the things we would? (Gal. 5:17.)

Are we conscious of **two principles within us**, contending for the mastery? Do we feel anything of **war** in our inward man? **Well, let us thank God for it! It is a good sign.** It is strongly probable evidence of the great work of sanctification. All true saints are soldiers. Anything is better than apathy, stagnation, deadness, and indifference. We are in a better state than many. The most part of so-called Christians have no feeling at all. We are evidently no friends of Satan. Like the kings of this world, he wars not against his own subjects. The very fact that he assaults us should fill our minds with hope. I say again, let us take comfort.

The child of God has two great marks about him, and of these two we have one.

HE MAY BE KNOWN BY HIS **INWARD WARFARE**, AS WELL AS BY HIS **INWARD PEACE**.

JEHOVAH GOD,
Creator, Upholder, Owner of all things,

I cannot escape from Your presence or control,
nor do I desire to do so.

My privilege is to be under the agency of Your omnipotence, righteousness,
wisdom, patience, mercy, grace.

You are love with more than parental affection;

I admire Your heart, adore Your wisdom,
I stand in awe of Your power, and abase myself before Your purity.
It is the discovery of Your goodness alone that can banish my fear,
allure me into Your presence,
help me to bewail and confess my sins.

When I review my past guilt and am conscious of my present unworthiness
I tremble to come to You,
I, whose foundation is in the dust,
I, who have condemned Your goodness,
defied Your power,
trampled upon Your love,
rendered myself worthy of Eternal Damnation.

But my recovery cannot spring from any cause in me,
I can destroy but cannot save myself.
Yet You have laid help on One that is mighty,
for there is mercy with You, and exceeding riches in Your kindness through Jesus.

May I always feel my need of Him.

Let Your restored joy be my strength;
May it keep me from lusting after the world,
bear up heart and mind in loss of comforts,
enliven me in the Valley of Death,
work in me the *imago dei*,
and cause me to enjoy the first fruits of **spirituality, of holiness,**
such as angels and departed saints know.

Grant me to worship You now, and at the hour of my death, for Jesus' sake, *Amen*

Sunday Evening Bible Study tonight. 4903 Oleander Drive, 5:00 pm
The Irrefutable Truth of God and of God's Word, the Bible (Luke, apologetics)

Ladies Study on Tuesday, this week, 10:00, 4903 Oleander Drive