

Why Does it Matter? Sunday April 1, 2012

by C Benjamin Dill

Romans 3:19 Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

We understand that the law the Apostle is speaking of is Old Testament law; primary of which is the Ten Commandments.

What the commandments say, they say to those who are under or subject to the law.

When you got saved; you were given the perfect righteousness of God. What an incredible gift that was!

Much occurred when you trusted Jesus to save you; most of which you learn about later as you begin to grow in the Word.

One of the most precious things that occurred when God declared you righteous is that your status in God's kingdom was changed.

You are not any longer under the law!

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

That is really good news; you are no longer subject to the law. You are now truly free!

But free to do what? Free to serve the sin that Jesus just set you free from? Free to serve your fleshly desires that destroyed your life in the first place?

Romans 7:6 But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not *in* the oldness of the letter.

Most of the time we think of freedom as no longer being a slave or a servant. This is not a realistic view. We always serve something; whether a taskmaster, either good or bad, or even our own flesh.

The freedom we receive in Christ gives us the choice of which master we will follow.

The fact of our new freedom is that we truly are not under the law! And furthermore we are free to choose who we will serve; even free to make bad choices or to serve the flesh.

Romans 8:31-39

31 What shall we then say to these things? If God *be* for us, who *can be* against us?

32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

33 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? *It is* God that justifieth.

34 Who *is* he that condemneth? *It is* Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Yes, it is true! Once you are saved there is nothing, not anything, zip, nada, zero; nothing can separate you from Jesus!

No amount of sin, no bad decisions, no poor choices, no level of ignorance, no level of stupidity; nothing can un-save you once you are truly saved!

Have I made this clear enough?

The question of the day that the Lord is laying before us is this: IF this be true (and it is,) why then does it matter what we do with our lives?

Why does it matter what choices we make?
 Why does it matter what doctrine we preach?
 Why does it matter if we are moral?
 Why does it matter if we are holy?
 Why does it matter if we sin?

Does it matter? The answer is YES, it truly does matter.

Why does it matter? The answer lies in two categories; these categories will determine virtually everything we stand for both as individuals and as a Church.

I. The first reason that it matters what choices we make is because of the consequences.

A. The Lord makes it clear that our being fireproof does not make sin ok!

1. Romans 6:1-2

- 1 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?

2. Romans 6:12-19

- 12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.

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.

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

15 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?

17 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.

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.

B. Sin in our life will adversely affect those around us.

1. **Romans 14:7** For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself.

2. **Hebrews 12:1** Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of

witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

3. When someone gets saved, their lost friends and family members immediately start watching them closely.

4. They want to see if there is anything to it or not.

5. Jesus knows if you trusted Him or not; you know if you trusted Him or not; but the only thing your lost friends and family can see is your life.

6. What is your life saying to your lost friends and family members?

C. Sin also produces rotten fruit in our lives.

1. **Galatians 6:7** Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

2. Don't you get tired of the same old failures, the same old results?

3. Let me paraphrase **Galatians 6:7** for you; "You keep doing what you have always done, you will keep getting what you have always got!"

4. God's amazing forgiveness does not remove the damage our sin can cause.

D. Sin also brings the chastening hand of our Heavenly Father.

1. **Hebrews 12:5-11**

5 And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:

6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?

8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.

9 Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected *us*, and we gave *them* reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?

10 For they verily for a few days chastened *us* after their own pleasure; but he for *our* profit, that *we* might be partakers of his holiness.

11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

2. As you can see from verse 6, there will be no exceptions; every believer will endure the very uncomfortable correction of the Lord.

3. And just like those of us whose parents chastened us when we needed it, later, we were thankful that they did.

II. The second reason that it matters what choices we make is because of honor.

A. The first side of this was about us; the consequences we endure, the affect upon others and more: this side of “why does it matter” is about the Lord!

1. There are some things we really ought to learn about the nature and character of the Lord.

2. How much the Lord loves us may well to us be the most important thing there is to learn about Him, but that is certainly not all there is we ought to know!

B. From the very beginning we are told that our God is a jealous God.

1. Exodus 20:4-5

4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:

5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God,

2. Exodus 34:12-14

12 Take heed to thyself, lest thou make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land whither thou goest, lest it be for a snare in the midst of thee:

13 But ye shall destroy their altars, break their images, and cut down their groves:

14 For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name *is* Jealous, *is* a jealous God:

C. We are told in no uncertain terms that the Lord will not share His glory.

1. **Isaiah 42:6-8**

6 I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles;

7 To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, *and* them that sit in darkness out of the prison house.

8 I *am* the LORD: that *is* my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.

2. **Isaiah 48:10-13**

10 Behold, I have refined thee, but not with silver; I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction.

11 For mine own sake, *even* for mine own sake, will I do *it*: for how should *my name* be polluted? and I will not give my glory unto another.

12 Hearken unto me, O Jacob and Israel, my called; I *am* he; I *am* the first, I also *am* the last.

13 Mine hand also hath laid the foundation of the earth, and my right hand hath spanned the heavens: *when* I call unto them, they stand up together.

3. **1 Samuel 7:3** And Samuel spoke unto all the house of Israel, saying, If ye do return unto the LORD with all your hearts, *then* put away the strange gods and Ashtaroth from among you, and prepare your hearts unto the LORD, and **serve him only**:...

4. I could literally give you scriptures in the hundreds on this subject; every one as adamant as these that God will not share His glory with anything or anyone!

D. What does this mean in practice? Many things:

1. It means we worship God in Spirit not through a bunch of statues and pictures that God commanded us not to even make, let alone bow down to.

2. It means that here, Christmas is going to be about the birth of Jesus, not about Santa! Jesus will not share His glory!

3. It means that next week on Resurrection Sunday, we will not give the greatest cause for honor and celebration the world has ever seen over to bunnies and eggs passed down from an ancient demon god called Ashtaroth by the Sidonians and called Ostara by the Norsemen

and Eastre, from which we get the word Easter, by the Saxons.

4. It means we know and teach that Jesus was crucified on Wednesday, not Friday.

5. It means that we use wine and not grape juice which is full of leaven in the Lord's Supper.

6. It means we teach a local Church not a universal church you can attend in a bass boat on the lake.

7. It means we teach the truth about the ministry of the Holy Spirit and the gift of tongues (which has ceased just like God said it would.)

8. It means we teach tithing and giving and count it a privilege to do so.

Conclusion:

Yes, I am to blame; I, the Pastor, set the course for all of these things and more; it is my area of God-given responsibility.

You see, I made the horrible mistake of studying my Bible and taking seriously what the Lord commands.

I had to choose; do I give people what they want...or do I give the Lord what He wants?

It is just like parenting; do I give my child what he wants now...or do I give him what he will thank me for later, even though he may think me harsh right now?

There is a third factor we should mention that causes Christians to make right choices which may well be the greatest factor of all.

When kittens or puppies or human babies are born, they go straight for the milk; they want it, they somehow know they need it and they even miraculously know exactly where to find it.

When I was a young man, I raised a couple of bird dogs; pointers. You can put a little pointer puppy down in the grass and watch him play for a while and as soon as he discovers something alive and moving like a grasshopper or a butterfly, his little body will freeze up and he will lift up that front paw and his little tail will stop moving and point straight away. This is something you cannot train a dog to do; it is in him by nature.

You were by nature a sinner.

Ephesians 2:1-3

1 And you *hath he quickened*, who were dead in trespasses and sins

2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince

of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; **and were by nature** the children of wrath, even as others.

When Jesus saved you, he made your dead spirit alive and he gave you a new nature.

This is why you automatically desire the milk of the Word and somehow even know where to find it.

1Peter 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

This also explains why that on the inside, every believer already desires to serve and honor the Lord; Jesus placed that desire in you when He saved you.

The lost man says, “If you can’t go to hell, what does it matter?”

The believer says, “It matters to me because that is who I am!”

It matters to us as a Church that is committed to bringing the Lord His glory because that is who we are!

Is that who we are, Lighthouse? Do we really care about Jesus receiving His glory; do we really care about truth...or do we just want to be mildly religious like everyone else?

A Church like this is obviously not for everybody; how about you?

Just keep listening, asking questions; come to a Home Team; take the Basic Bible Truths classes; God Himself will make it very clear to you.