

THE BELIEVER'S FIRST KEY TO VICTORY OVER SIN

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.

Romans 6:6

REVIEW

I. All people who have received Christ as Savior and Lord have now been delivered from the penalty of sin, are being delivered from the power of sin, and one day shall be delivered from the very presence of sin. The verse we are focusing on now helps explain those benefits. Here, in review, is what we learned last time:

- A. “our old man” – who we were in Adam. Vincent: “the old, unrenewed self.” JFB: “all that we were in our old unregenerate condition before union with Christ.” Martyn Lloyd-Jones: “It’s who a believer used to be in Adam. He is now a different man in Christ. It is what he was but is no longer, the one that was crucified.”
- B. “is crucified” – not can be, should be, will be, or is occasionally, but “is”!
- C. “that the body of sin” – the body that belonged to the power of sin, in which the members had been instruments of unrighteousness.
- D. “might be destroyed” – aorist tense. A complete, final, one-time, forever-done action whereby, in this case, something has been made inert, void, inactive, brought to naught. Paul uses the Greek word 25 times in his writings, and it is rendered “make void, destroy, loose, fail, bring to naught, vanish away, put away, put down, abolish, cease.” See, for example, II Timothy 1:10, where we are told Jesus Christ has “abolished” death.
- E. “that henceforth we should not serve sin” – “henceforth” means from now on, for the remaining time, for any longer. And “serve” means to be in bondage to. We are talking, then, about being served our papers that we are free from slavery to sin. We can walk off the plantation, as it were!
- F. Now, granted, there is an evil slave driver who wants us to continue as though in bondage, for still resident in us is the flawed nature known as the flesh. But sin need not any more have dominion over us. What is the key to victory? The Bible’s way is to start with KNOWING.

II. Our pattern is Abraham. He is the father of our faith, the role model for how it is done. We saw in Romans 4 that:

- A. He was given a promise humanly impossible to be fulfilled. He and his wife were to start a nation by having a baby though they were way past the age for such things.
- B. But he *knew* who God is. He is “God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.” (Rom. 4:17)
- C. This knowledge led him to faith. “He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God.” (Rom. 4:20)
- D. The consequence: A miracle baby and in time a miracle nation.

E. Again, the first key for faith like Abraham's: KNOWLEDGE. Abraham knew who God is, and not just kind of, but was “*fully persuaded* that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.” (Rom. 4:21) People can be utterly ignorant, partially enlightened, or deceived. See, for example:

1. “We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.” (Acts 19:2)
2. “Now I know in part.” (I Cor. 13:12)
3. “If any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know.”
(I Cor. 8:2)

F. To repeat, though, we must be fully persuaded, and that, friends, is a work of God.

1. Hence Paul's prayers in Eph. 1:17. Cf. Jer. 24:7, Matt. 11:27, Rom. 1:28, Col. 1:10, II Pet. 1:3.
2. So, you see this is not some intellectual exercise where man in his own strength learns what he needs to know.
3. It is a divine event, where God causes the blind to see! Cry out for sight! Cry out as did blind Bartimaeus – Mark 10:46-52

III. Think about what we can know about our God relevant to Romans 6, relevant, that is, to Him crucifying our old man and destroying the body of sin that henceforth we should not serve sin.

A. Can God do anything? Yes! He does remarkable, mind-boggling, otherwise-unheard-of things!

1. He created a universe out of nothing.
2. He made man out of dust!
3. He made water come out of a rock! He made it come out of a jawbone of an ass. He divided the sea, divided the river, turned bitter water sweet, stopped rain, converted water to blood, converted water to wine, calmed the seas, and walked on it like it was pavement....
4. He made fire not to consume a bush, not to consume men in a furnace, and not to consume those in hell. He made it come up out of a sacrifice, come down from heaven, and fall upon soldiers at the command of a prophet.
5. He can make stones split, melt, fall down, and cry out at His command.
6. He can bake the earth open and close at His command.
7. See His control over animals: stopping the mouths of lions, delivering tax money by a fish, neutralizing the poison of snakes, speaking through a donkey

B. But can God do anything, as applied to our winning victory over the flesh?

1. Yes! He has shown Himself able to gain the victory wholly irrespective of odds. See:
 - a. King Hezekiah and Jerusalem vs. the 185,000 Ninevites
 - b. King Jehoshaphat and Jerusalem vs. the children of Moab, Ammon, and Mt. Seir
 - c. Gideon and his band of 300 vs. the host of the Midianites

2. See also when there was but one man on the Lord's side:

- a. David against a giant
- b. Jonathan against the Philistines
- c. Elijah against 50 soldiers and again, and again if need be
- d. Samson against 1,000 and then about 3,000

C. OK, but can God deliver people who has spent a lifetime in bondage (like we)?

1. Need we review God's deliverance of His chosen people from centuries of bondage?
2. Indeed, let's review Jesus' mission statement for why He came to earth:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, **to preach deliverance to the captives**, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord.”

Luke 4:18-19

DISCUSSION

1. Abraham was given a promise humanly impossible to fulfill. Have others? Have you? List them.

2. Regarding those examples you have just given, what truths about God are relevant and should be known if a person is to be fully persuaded that what God has promised He is able to perform?

3. It is ultimately a work of God for a person to have this knowledge and be fully persuaded. Explain.