

A Changed Life
“The Truth As We Know It”
7/26/15

Last week I talked about a Godly home and the sin of Homosexuality. This week I want to talk about forgiveness and repentance. A changed life leaving our sinful life behind. Not without a struggle and continual resistance to the old man that wants to rear his head when in fact he is considered dead. All of us have sinned and come short of the glory of God. Some of us have lived very sinful lives for a long time, but the grace of God reached down to us when we thought we could never be saved because we had been so wicked. Paul tells us of his own sin in persecuting the Christians. He says in 1Co 15:9-10, "For I am the least of the apostles, that am not qualified to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me."

And in Eph 3:8 we read, "Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;" And in 1Ti 1:12-13 we read, "I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry; Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief."

Moses was a murderer, yet God used him as one of His greatest leaders of all time. David committed adultery and murder yet God forgave him and he was known as a man after God's own heart. He was the great king of Israel after whom Jesus' ministry was named. God can change the vilest sinner and turn him or her into a saint of God. St. Augustine was a womanizer. John Newton, the author of 'Amazing Grace' was a slave runner. Yet all these men and many thousands more found forgiveness, and became great men of God.

In 1Co 6:9-11 we read, "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, ..nor adulterers, nor effeminate, (homosexuals) nor abusers of themselves with mankind, ... shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God." Grace and forgiveness is available for all!

Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived, said in Pro 30:2-3, "Surely I am more brutish than any man, and have not the understanding of a man. I neither learned wisdom, nor have the knowledge of the holy."

Many of us struggle with the memories of past sins and we are tempted to return back to them, but the longer we have the victory over them, the easier it is to remain victorious. Jesus came to save us from our sins, not in our sins. One of the arguments of the homosexual crowd is that they were

born that way and they can not help it, but I seriously doubt that to be the case. I do not deny that some of us men are born with a more effeminate tendency than what is common, and that some women are born with a more masculine tendency than what is common. Just as we are different in every other way. But that does not give us the right to violate God's laws. It is a natural experience of every young red blooded American man to be tempted with every good looking girl, but that does not give us the right to act on those tendencies. In fact acting on them is an egregious sin that will bring the judgment of God on our lives. That is why it is called a victorious Christian life. Without a battle, there is no victory!

For some men and women it is better for them to remain single and find fulfillment in a celibate life. Many of the greatest men and women in history were men who were unmarried. Some by choice, others by force from their kings. Jesus addresses this subject in Mat 19:10-12 where we read, "Jesus' disciples then said to Him, If this is the case, it is better not to marry! Not everyone can accept this statement, Jesus said. Only those whom God helps. Some are born as eunuchs, some have been made eunuchs by others, and some choose not to marry for the sake of the Kingdom of Heaven. Let anyone accept this who can."

Jesus was never married, we know the Apostle Paul was single, the Prophet Daniel, the Three Hebrew Children, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, were eunuchs, or un-married. Thousands of men & women of God

through the ages have chosen to give their lives completely to God including not marrying, considering themselves married to God. Many of them have made a profound difference in the world by their stand. Mother Teresa of recent history comes to mind.

In 1Co 7:7-9 Paul tells us, "But I wish everyone were single, just as I am. Yet each person has a special gift from God, of one kind or another So I say to those who aren't married and to widows—it's better to stay unmarried, just as I am. But if they can't control themselves, they should go ahead and marry. It's better to marry than to burn with lust."

Homosexuality is as any other sin, the first time it is committed, it is horribly sinful to us, our conscience torments us and we know we have sinned a great sin. but as time goes on and we get more and more involved in it we begin to justify our actions and seek to find support from others. It is promoted by an evil spirit that is straight from the devil's hell. In 1Pe 5:8-9 we read, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walks about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world." And in 2Co 11:14-15 we read, "And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their

works."

Jesus, our high priest, understands our dilemma. In Heb 4:15 we are told, "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." Jesus as a man had the same sexual urges we have as men. He often had Mary Madeline, who we know loved Him and was a devout follower, washed his feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. The Apostle John, the youngest of the Apostles, was very close to Jesus and was called 'the Apostle whom Jesus loved', so Jesus may very well have been tempted with homosexuality, but He did not act on any of them. He was 'without sin'.

Remember, through Jesus, we can have complete victory over sin. Paul tells us in 1Ti 1:15, "This *is* a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief."

We can have complete victory, and do not have to act on our sinful temptations. Paul tells us in Rom 6:1-4, "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? 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."

Thank God for deliverance! Thank God for forgiveness and a regenerate heart! Thank God I no longer walk in the sins of my youth! Without the power of Christ in my life, I do not like the person I was. Bless the lord I am free! And you can be too! Simply turn from your sin and repent, Call on Jesus, Let Him change your life!

I say with Paul in Rom 11:33-36, "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counselor? Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever." Amen Brother Paul!

Listen again next week.

This we do know, The Bible is God's Word, God's word is true, Jesus Christ is God's son, Jesus died to save us from our sin, Without Jesus we are eternally lost. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is no other name under heaven given among men, whereby we might be saved. Atheism is a temporary condition, for every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord! Jesus stands ready to save you now, Will you call on Him today? Until next week, God bless.