

Sunday School (6/4/2017)

Mortification of Sin

Lesson 1

“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.” (Romans 8:13, NKJV)

I. Conditionality “If you...”

A. Two meanings of conditionals

1. Uncertainty=

- a. Mother, while doing 6 tasks, speaking to child, “If I had 4 arms, then I could help you.”

2. Certainty=

- a. “If you take ibuprofen, then your headache will subside.”
- b. “If you go swimming, then you will get wet.”
- c. “If you follow my directions, then you will arrive at your destination.”

B. Troubleshoot the specific relationship implied

1. How do you make sense of the conditionality of eternal life?

a. Cause and Effect?

- 1) What about Romans 6:23?
- 2) Salvation is a gift

b. Means and End?

- 1) God promises and bestows upon you freely. You must take the path that you may obtain the gift.
- 2) If you use this means, then you will obtain (not merit) that end.
- 3) What are some gifts that you have obtained through means?

- 4) "...he will lead none to heaven but whom he sanctifies on the earth. The holy God will not receive unholy persons; this living head will not admit of dead members, nor bring men into the possession of a glory which they neither love nor like."<sup>1</sup>
- 5) "The way of holiness that leads to happiness is a narrow way; there is but just room enough for a holy God and a holy soul to walk together."<sup>2</sup>
- 6) If God is so concerned about holiness, and we have such need of it, then, dear friends, you will not feel at home in a holy heaven if you did not strive for holiness on earth. As Edwards said, every true believer yearns for a "heaven of holiness."<sup>3</sup>
- 7) If you show no interest for holy living now, you will show no interest for it in the life to come.<sup>4</sup>

### C. Main Motive

## II. Persons "You"

### A. Description from Context

1. You to whom there is no condemnation (v.1).
2. You to whom are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit (v.9).
3. You to whom are quickened or vivified (vv.10,11).

### B. Error to apply to a different group of people:

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<sup>1</sup> John Owen, *An Exposition of the Epistle to the Hebrews*, ed. W. H. Goold Editor, vol. 20, Works of John Owen (Johnstone and Hunter, 1854), 416–17.

<sup>2</sup> Thomas Brooks, "The Crown and Glory of Christianity: Or Holiness, The Only Way to Happiness," in *The Works of Thomas Brooks*, vol. 4 (Banner of Truth Trust, 1980), 535.

<sup>3</sup> Jonathan Edwards, "Personal Narrative," in *The Works of Jonathan Edwards, Vol. 16, Letters and Personal Writings*, ed. George S. Claghorn Editor (Yale University Press, 1998), 795.

<sup>4</sup> Joel R. Beeke and Mark Jones, *A Puritan Theology: Doctrine for Life* (Grand Rapids, Mich: Reformation Heritage Books, 2012), 535.

1. Romans 10:3,4
2. John 15:5

### III. Cause “If you...by the Spirit”

- A. The same Spirit as verses 9,11,14,15,26
- B. Notice his titles and work in the above verses
  1. The Spirit of Christ and of God that dwells in us (v.9).
  2. The Spirit that quickens us (v.11).
  3. The Spirit of adoption (v.15).
  4. The Spirit that makes intercession for us (v.26).
- C. All other ways of mortification are vain, all helps leave us helpless; it must be done by the Spirit.<sup>5</sup>
  1. Colossians 2:20

### IV. Duty “Put to death the deeds of the body.”

- A. The body what?
  1. Metonymy: the substitution of the name of an attribute or adjunct for that of the thing meant, for example suit for business executive, or the track for horse racing.
    - a. Romans 6:6,19
  2. Synecdoche: a figure of speech in which a part is made to represent the whole or vice versa, as in Cleveland won by six runs (meaning “Cleveland's baseball team”).
    - a. Body (part) stands for the will, affections, and intellect (whole).
- B. The deeds of the body what?
  1. Galatians 5:19
  2. Includes the causes of these manifestations
    - a. “A diet full of sugar can damage your inner ecology. The more sugar that you binge on, the more you feed Candida overgrowth.

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<sup>5</sup> John Owen, *The Works of John Owen*, ed. William H. Goold, vol. 6 (Edinburgh: T&T Clark, n.d.), 7

The more Candida overgrowth you have, the more you crave sugar.  
It's a vicious cycle.”

- b. Romans 6:19
- c. Deeds are the sent arrows of your energizing lusts
- d. Deeds are the blossom and fruit of your desires

C. Putting to death, what?

- 1. How do you kill...
  - a. A singer as singer
  - b. An artist as artist
  - c. A photographer as photographer
  - d. A wrestler or boxer as fighters
  - e. A scientist as scientist
- 2. Take the power, life, craft, strength, vigor, away.
- 3. Story of My dog Blue

V. Promise “You will live.”

- A. Juxtaposition with beginning of verse
- B. Applied to grace and glory
  - 4. 1 Thess. 3:8