

July 16, 2017

Set Free for Life and Peace

Wengine wanaweza kusema kinyume cha maisha ya dhambi ni dhambi. (Kuwa safi) Lakini kinyume cha dhambi ni Roho wa Mungu. Tumeunda sheria mpya ya kiroho- "... kama sikifanya hivyo, nina haki" - lakini tunaitwa kuishi na kutenda kulingana na sauti ya Roho " (D. Fraley, 2017).

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Katika sura ya 7, Paulo amesema kuwa Sini kama nguvu ya kudumu katika ubinadamu wetu (mwili) ni ya kuamua zaidi kuliko nia yetu ya kutii. Hali mbaya sana ni kwamba Paulo anaweza kuwa na sifa ya kibinadamu kama mtumwa wa Sini (vs 14), kama mfungwa wa vita anaohitaji kuokolewa kutoka kifungoni (Warumi 7:24).

Katika chanzo cha 8, ukombozi kutoka kwa dhambi "kupitia Yesu Kristo Bwana wetu ni wa kwanza, kwa kutangaza kuwa ni kazi ya Mungu kupitia Kristo, basi, kwa kutambua nafasi ya Roho kama uwezo wa Mungu ndani yake, na kuifanya kutembea (kuishi) Si kulingana na mwili, bali kulingana na Roho (8: 4).

Kristo alitoa maisha yake kamilifu "kwa ajili ya dhambi" (Warumi 8: 3). Kwa kuwa "mtiifu mpaka kifo-hata kifo msalabani!" (Wafilipi 2: 8), Aliangamiza dhambi katika mwili (8: 4). Aliiweka Sini kutoka kwa nguvu zake za kisiasa za kisiasa. Kwa maisha yake ya utii kamilifu, na kifo chake cha kushinda na ufufuo, alivunja dhambi ya udhalimu iliyotumiwa juu ya ubinadamu wa utumwa. Aliharibu madai ya Sini na nguvu kwa wote walio ndani Yake, na kufanya hali ya kibinadamu ya kidunia hali ya kushindwa kwa Sini (Greathouse, Lyons, 2008).

Wiki ijayo: Mfululizo kwenye Kitabu cha Warumi. Warumi 8:12-25

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Some would say the opposite of a sinful life is a sinless one. (Being pure.) But the opposite of sin is the Spirit of God. We've created a new law of spirituality—"... if I don't do this, I'm in the right"—but we're called to live and act in harmony with the Spirit's voice" (D. Fraley, 2017).

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In ch 7, Paul has argued that Sin as an occupying power in our humanity (flesh) is more decisive than our willingness to obey. So dire is the situation that Paul can characterize the human self as Sin's slave (vs 14), as a prisoner of war needing rescue from captivity (Romans 7:24).

In ch 8, the liberation from Sin "through Jesus Christ our Lord is first, by declaring it to be God's work through Christ, then, by identifying the role of the Spirit as God's power indwelling the self, enabling it to walk (live) not according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit (8:4).

Christ offered up His perfect life "for sin" (Romans 8:3). By becoming "obedient to death—even death on a cross!" (Philippians 2:8), He destroyed sin in the flesh (8:4). He deposed Sin from its usurped autocratic power. By His life of perfect obedience, and His victorious death and resurrection, He broke the tyranny Sin exercised over enslaved humanity. He destroyed Sin's claim and power for all who are in Him, making humanity's earthly condition the scene of Sin's defeat (Greathouse, Lyons, 2008).

Next week: Series on the Book of Romans. Romans 8:12-25

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Mwili kwa Mtume Paulo sio tu tamaa ya kimwili, lakini kuikeshwa, ni mapenzi yangu ya ubinafsi (asili ya dhambi). Nini nataka na kile ninachotaka sasa! Neno 'mwili' mara moja linajumuisha tamaa zangu za kimwili.

Ni mambo gani unayohitaji '? Je, ni kutoka kwa Mwokozi?

Au je, ni matukio ya kujisifu kwa nafsi?

Sheria mbili zinafanya kazi katika maisha yetu. Gongwa kwenye moja na hapo ndio tunapoongoza. Sheria itachukua sisi. "Ninachotaka, wakati ninapotaka" ... kufanya uchaguzi mdogo kwa wenyewe utaondoa uchaguzi wetu wa mwisho. Hiyo ndiyo sheria ya kulevya.

Lakini gongwa ndani ya mwingine-Roho wa Mungu aliye hai-na mimi "niko huru". Huru kutokana na sheria ya dhambi, kifo, na kulevya kwa ubinafsi. Kuungana na Kristo, kupokea Roho Wake (uzinzi wake), sisi ni kweli huru!

Isipokuwa tunatambua utumwa wetu wa dhambi na kutokuwa na uwezo wa kuacha huru, hatuwezi kutafuta suluhisho pekee, Yesu.

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Flesh for the Apostle Paul is not just physical desire, but to boil it down, it is my selfish will (sinful nature). What I want and what I want right now! The term 'flesh' immediately includes my physical desires.

What things do you 'have to have'? Are they from the Savior?

Or are they the trappings of paying homage to self?

Two laws are at work in our lives. Tap into one and that is where we are heading. Law will catch up to us. "What I want, when I want it" ... making small choices for self will remove our ultimate choice. That is the law of addiction.

But tap into the other—the Spirit of the living God—and I am "set free". Free from the law of sin, death, and addiction to self. United to Christ, receiving His Spirit (His wholeness), we are truly set free!

Unless we recognize our slavery to sin and our inability to break free from it, we will not seek the only solution, Jesus.