Adult Sunday School

June 26, 2011

**Delivered from the Body of this Death**

Romans 7:24—O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?

This chapter and verse is the expression of Paul’s personal frustration in his experience as a zealously religious person concerning the law of God, but still unregenerate.

Paul’s testimony is that of one trained in the best of Jewish education. One of the greatest Jewish lawyers and teachers discipled Saul and taught him the law of God. Saul’s life from a young age was devoted to understanding and defending God’s law.

Saul finds that even he who worshipped, breathed and lived so that the law of God would be kept, could not consistently live without breaking the law of God. Even this man bound to zealously policing the law of God, was a guilty law breaker.

The body of this death is the mass of sin that was built up against him inside his soul and left him wretched, bound, frustrated and dead inside.

Saul of Tarsus was bound with unbroken chains of sin to a body of death without deliverance.

This awful ungodly unrighteous growing body of death is the sad remains of ongoing, indwelling, unsubdued corruption of sin.

7:24—O wretched man that I am! **who shall deliver** me from the body of this death?

All sixteen chapters of the book of Romans are showing that the Law Could not save anyone but the Hope of Deliverance was through Jesus Christ

The Apostle Paul believed that deliverance from sin was only through Jesus Christ.

I.              O Wretched Man that I am!

No matter how hard Saul tried and how much he wanted to do good or not to do evil, he discovers another LAW present in his body. This law was apart from the law of his mind and definitely in conflict with the law of God—it was the law of sin.

He finds an influence or a LAW apart from even his own will influencing him. The law of sin working in his body influenced him to sin even when with his own mind he desired to do the will of God. Saul was not just crying for relief from sin’s guilt, but he was crying for a power that would enable him to DO right.

II.         Who Shall deliver me from the body of this death?

Saul uses a very practical illustration in his cry for help: “the body of death.” He recognizes that he is a wretched man, but because of an influence (the law of sin) apart from himself. As a condemned murderer could be bound to the corpse of his victim, so Saul as a sinner carries the influence and fruit of sin in his body. Saul is greatly frustrated as his actions are taken hostage and driven by an influence he cannot seem to resist.

Saul is crying for a DELIVERANCE! “Who shall deliver me…?” His frustration hasn’t led him to an acceptance of his continual sinning, but on the contrary has led him to cry for a power apart from his own will. (His own will was not even able to conquer the law of sin.) Who is that one that can deliver from such a body of death—a body bound to corruption and condemned?

Saul was not content with ‘willing’ to do right, but Saul desired the power that he might DO right. Saul’s cry for help is not merely for his sinful record to be erased, but his cry for help is that he might never again add to that list. Romans chapter eight talks of this power in great detail—the law of the Spirit of Life.

CONCLUSION:

The great hope of the Gospel to the sin bound and sin cursed world is not just so God will turn his eye from your sinful past, but that the grace of God is a sufficient power to cause us to live above the law of sin. God can redeem this humanity which is fallen in sin. God can restore his creation to glory and fellowship with His Holiness.

When subject to sin you become wretched miserable, poor, blind and naked and don’t always know it.

You don’t acknowledge that it is sin doing this to you and you try to work around it until it destroys you.

Re 3:17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: 18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. 19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

James 1:15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

Ro 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Ro 6:6 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.

Ga 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

5:24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

Col 2:11 In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: 3:8 But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. 9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; 10 And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: 11 Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.

Before salvation men try to justify themselves, after salvation men try to sanctify themselves without emphasizing faith in Jesus Christ. Have faith in God for justification, sanctification and glorification.

Ro 8:30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

2Pe 1:5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; 6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; 7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

Saul of Tarsus was a wicked character with sinful habits that dominated him; yet to be crucified with Christ. Therefore, he served sin.

He cried in frustration and desperation wanting better,

“Who shall deliver me from this body of death?”

The “body of death” is synonymous with the “old man” and the "body of sin" mentioned in Romans 6.

Who shall deliver me from sin's dominion?

Who shall give me victory in this war?

Who shall save me from this cruel slave master?

Who shall cause me to triumph over my evil self?

Who shall bring me up out of this horrible pit?

Who shall quicken me from this gruesome death?

Who shall love the chief of sinners?

Who shall remove this flesh from the thicket?

While he breathed out slaughter and threatenings the answer to his cry came to him “Jesus Christ our Lord!” (7:25)

Christ is able to do what the law could not do!

When Saul of Tarsus turned to Christ and was born again and became Paul, the sinful man died with Christ, was buried, and the new man resurrected to walk in newness of life.

He stepped above the penalty of the broken laws of God, above the law of sin that was pulling him down and into the life of the Spirit where there is now no condemnation.