

**THE WAY OF LIFE  
VICTORY OVER THE LAW OF SIN  
(The Life of Jesus Christ)**

**Message Three**

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Galatians 2:20

1. In Romans 7:14-25 Paul wrote about the “law of sin” which works in our members. (focus: verses 21-23)
  - ◆ The law of sin can bind and imprison us and prevent us from fulfilling the law of God even when we agree that the law of God is good.
2. Last week we saw that the way of victory was the way of death.
  - a. Jesus Christ died for sins and to sin. Romans 6:9-10
  - b. Every believer has been baptized into this death of Jesus Christ to sin. Romans 6:3
  - c. As believers we are to reckon or consider ourselves dead to sin through Jesus Christ. Romans 6:11
  - d. The command to reckon ourselves dead to sin does not mean that sin is dead in us.
    - ◆ What it does mean is that the dominion of sin as master has been broken?
3. Many slaves remained in bondage to their masters after Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation because they lacked the desire, ability and resources to live as free men and women.
  - ◆ Suppose that the spirit, power, and resources of a free man indwelt every slave the moment he knew and believed the good news that he was free.
4. That is precisely what happens when a person believes on the Lord Jesus Christ.
  - a. Galatians 4:1-7:

Now I say, as long as the heir is a child, he does not differ at all from a slave although he is owner of everything, 2 but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by the father. 3 So also we, while we were children, were held in bondage under the elemental things of the world. 4 But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, 5 so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. 6 **Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"** 7 **Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God.**
  - b. Galatians 5:16:

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.
5. This truth does not mean that the law of sin is no longer in effect, but we have within us One who is more powerful than the law of sin. Romans 8:1-4

Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. 3 For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, 4 so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

  - ◆ Illustration: The laws of aerodynamics versus the law of gravity.

## II. Christ lives (is living His life) in me. Galatians 2:20

A. Paul identified with Jesus Christ in His death and resurrection.

B. The life Jesus Christ lives He lives to God. Romans 6:10

For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.

C. He is living that life in you and me.

1. Romans 6:4-7

Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, 6 knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; 7 for he who has died is freed from sin.

2. 2 Corinthians 4:7-12

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves; 8 we are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; 9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; 10 always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, **so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.** 11 For we who live are constantly being delivered over to death for Jesus' sake, **so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.**

D. Note:

1. John 8:28-29

So Jesus said, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and I do nothing on My own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me. 29 "And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him."

(These statements were true of Jesus when He walked on the earth, and they are true of Him as He lives in you and me.)

2. Philippians 2:12-13

So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; 13 for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

3. 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.

◆ Illustration: Boy's heart desire is to be a professional baseball player.

## II. I live by faith in the Son of God (and in His ability to reproduce and live His life in me).

A. The faith that believes.

1. The faith that believes is the faith that takes God at His word.

2. God's Word says that Christ is resident in the life of every believer.

a. John 17:22-23

"The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; 23 **I in them and You in Me**, that they may be

perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.

b. 2 Corinthians 13:5

Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! **Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you** — unless indeed you fail the test?

c. Ephesians 3:14-19 (focus verse 17)

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, 16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, **17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith;** and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.

d. Colossians 1:24-29 (focus verse 29)

Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I do my share on behalf of His body, which is the church, in filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions. 25 Of this church I was made a minister according to the stewardship from God bestowed on me for your benefit, so that I might fully carry out the preaching of the word of God, 26 that is, the mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints, 27 to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. 28 We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ. 29 **For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me.**

3. By faith practice the presence and power of God.

B. The faith that draws.

1. "If any man is thirsty, let him come to Me, and drink." John 7:37

2. Step by step, day by day, need by need, Paul's faith drew upon the Son of God.

C. The faith that yields.

1. "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, from his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water." John 7:38

2. If rivers of living water are not flowing it is because we are not believing in Jesus and His indwelling presence.

D. The faith that abides. John 15:5John 15:5

"I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing."

## APPLICATION

1. We need to believe not only for ourselves but also for others.

2. If I believe that a person is a genuine believer than I must also accept the fact that Christ dwells in him or her.

3. That belief will be reflected in our prayer lives.

4. That belief will be reflected in the way we relate to one another.

5. Our ability to pray with confidence is directly related to what has happened and is happening in our own lives.