

Simply Christ
Gospel Newsletter
Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ

April 7, 2019

Without Fear of Our Enemies

“That’s it!” the man said with tears in his eyes. “I live my life in fear that the things in my heart are going to take control of me. I have never before heard anyone say that I could be free from sin.” The man who was speaking had been in church for most of his life and was seeking to serve God with all the strength he could muster. Yet he lived his life in fear, continually struggling with the darkness that plagued his own heart. Would today be the day that he succumbed to the powers of darkness and sin?

I had just preached a message on how the blood of Christ purges our inner man from sin. Hebrews 10:2, 22. The minister in the prior service had brought a tremendous message, but speaking of the epidemic of pornography involving people in the church, she said, “These people are in the church. These are the blood-bought!” As I took the pulpit later, I said, “It can be rightfully said that every person upon this earth is **blood-bought** because of the fact that Jesus Christ died for all, but not a single one of those caught up in pornography are “**blood-washed**” because those who are blood-washed are clean!

After the service I was questioned by some people about the things I had spoken about being made free from sin. I referred to the prophecy spoken by Zachariah, the father of John the Baptist. He said, “*Blessed be the Lord God of*

*Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people, And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us ...That he would grant unto us, **that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear**, In holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life."*

Luke 1:68-75. It was this promise of being able to serve God without fear that so took hold of the man standing before me.

To serve God without fear of our enemies is to know that the things which once possessed us, controlled us, tormented us, and destroyed us, are now destroyed through the blood of Christ. This is the fulfillment of Jesus' promise that *"you shall find rest unto your souls."* Matthew 11:29. If we abide in Christ where there *"is no sin"* 1 John 3:5, we have no need to fear that sin will *"rise up and take control of us."* If we know that Christ destroyed the devil and his works, then we know as we abide in Christ that sin has no place or power in our heart or life. Paul confirms these things, saying, *"For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace."*

Romans 6:14.

Years ago I visited a revival and listened to a preacher tell the people a dozen times, "The devil is going get you!" "You are going to fail! You are going to sin! It doesn't matter how long you walk this walk, the devil is going to get you!" No one who believes such a thing can serve God without fear of their enemies. Religious teachers so often fill our minds with the inevitability of being overcome by sin and Satan that you would think Christ was the one who was defeated at Calvary. Until you see and believe the absolute victory of Christ over sin and Satan, THE DEVIL WILL GET YOU! But if you can see Christ in all his victory, you

will understand that you never again have to fear that sin or Satan “is going to get you” because you know that CHRIST IS GOING TO KEEP YOU! Jude 24.

It is strange that the modern church has taught us to fear Satan, but has cast away the fear of God. If you believe the way the gospel is often presented, you might come to the conclusion that Christ died so that we would no longer need to fear God. They say we cannot be touched by his wrath. He cannot see our sins us or judge us because of them, and we have a heavenly home assured that he cannot take away. It seems God is stuck with us, so why should we fear him? This ignores the words of the apostle who said, *“It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”* Hebrews 10:31. The children of God are not “afraid of God” as they abide in Christ, but they understand that to neglect their walk with Christ is to bring themselves under the severity of God. Paul confirms this saying, *“For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee. Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.”* Romans 11:21-22. You can live in the goodness of God, but have no doubt, if you neglect your walk with Christ, you can find yourself living under the severity of God ...and cut off!

Our complete redemption in Christ is such that you can abide in his goodness and victory all the days of your life. There is nothing Satan can do about it as long as you simply abide in Christ. You need not fear the devil, and you need not fear sin. These things have no place in the children of God, and these have no power to take you by force. O

child of God, you need to know and believe this truth of Christ, so that ***you being delivered out of the hand of your enemies might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of your life.***