

QUIET TIME

Theme: Sanctification

- Try to make a specific time every day to meet Jesus Christ through reading and meditating his Word.
- Pray, talk with Jesus Christ and make a few short notes about this Bible passage in your notebook.
- Record what you discover, what speaks to your mind and heart, what you find difficult or what you understood.

Day 1 Romans 12:1-3
Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed

Day 2 Romans 13:11-14
Clothe yourself with the Lord Jesus Christ

Day 3 Luke 6:41-45
First take the plank out of your own eye

Day 4^{BS} Ephesians 4:17-32
Give up your old life-style

Day 5 Matthew 15:7-20
Human religious traditions do not lead to sanctification

Day 6 Philippians 3:7-16
Press on to take hold of sanctification!
Christ Jesus has taken hold of you

Day 7 1 Peter 1:13-19
Be holy in all you do

Day 8 1 Peter 2:11-12
Lead a holy life amidst unbelievers and non-Christians (cf. 1 Peter 4:12-16)

Day 9 2 Peter 1:3-11
Make your calling and election sure by living a holy life

Day 10 Leviticus 19:2 and 19:11-18
Be holy, because I, the LORD your God, am holy

- Think about Colossians 1:10.
Live a life worthy of the Lord. Please him in every way. Bear fruit in every good work. Grow in the knowledge of God.
- Pray every day for someone or something specific and wait in expectation for what God is going to do (Psalm 5:3).

STUDY

Theme: Justification and sanctification

Read study 49 carefully before the next meeting. If you have questions, write them down and mail them to one of your group leaders. We will seek an answer together.

BIBLE STUDY

Theme: Why am I here?

If you like, you may already prepare the Bible Study for the coming meeting by reading through the Bible passage. Make use of the 5-step Bible Study method. The Bible passage is: **Ephesians 4:17-5:21**

MEMORISATION

1. Motivation

Jesus memorised Bible verses (Luke 4:4-13). Are you doing that?

2. Memorisation

Memorise this verse in the Bible version of your choice.

SANCTIFICATION

Hebrews 12:14

Make every effort to live in peace with all men and be holy;
without holiness no one will see the Lord.

Hebrews 12:14 (NIV)

3. Review and back-review

Review the last 5 memorised verses once every day and back-review all other memorised verses once every three weeks.

49. Justification and sanctification

In the Bible justification and sanctification are inseparable! We will study these two concepts from Paul's letter to the Romans.

A. GOD IS PERFECTLY RIGHTEOUS AND HOLY

1. God's law is God's righteous requirement

God is perfectly (100%) righteous and holy. In order to remain perfectly righteous and holy, God demands that all people must live perfectly righteous and holy lives and that all transgressions of his law (all unrighteousness and unholiness) must be punished. This is the primary sense of the word 'law': The law is God's righteous and holy requirement for salvation and judgment.

In human history only Adam had a choice to live a completely righteous and holy life (and thus maintain his righteousness before God), but he failed. The failure of the one man, Adam, dragged all men into the state of sin. All human beings, as descendants of Adam, are bound to Adam's sinful state.

Romans 5:12 in the Greek says, "Therefore it is just like sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin and in this way death came to all men, because they (all men) *once for all sinned*"¹. Romans 5:12 does not refer to the sins committed by the people themselves throughout history, but to the one sin Adam committed. *All people sinned once for all in solidarity with Adam, their representative!* When the representative of all human beings fell into the state of sin, all human beings fell into the state of sin in solidarity with him! As a consequence of this fall into the state of sin (cf. Job 14:4; 15:14; Psalm 51:5), all human beings throughout history also commit sins during their own lives (Romans 3:23).

That is why no one is without sin and no one can out of himself live a completely righteous and holy life. No one can keep God's law in the sense of God's requirement to live a perfect holy and righteous life! By nature all human beings stand in the unrighteous and unholy state before God and fall under God's holy wrath and righteous condemnation (Romans 5:17-19).

2. The fulfilment of God's law by Jesus Christ

God is also perfectly (100%) merciful and love. He knows that no one is able to fulfil God's righteous requirement. And yet he wants to save very many people from his eternal condemnation and doom (eternal death).

That is why God himself, besides his divine nature, took on the human nature in Jesus Christ and lived a perfectly righteous and holy human life *in our place!* That is why Jesus Christ was crucified *in our place* in order to make complete atonement for all our sins. He died on the cross in order to take the problem (our sins) away from us onto himself (1 Peter 2:24) and in order to remove the consequence of the problem (our separation from God) from us (1 Peter 3:18a). Jesus Christ exchanged places with us: he took our sins upon himself and gave us his perfect righteousness (2 Corinthians 5:21)! Jesus Christ reconciled us to God. That is why Jesus Christ is called 'the Mediator' (1 Timothy 2:5-6).

It is in this way that Jesus Christ became the Representative of all people who believe in him. It is also in this way that Jesus Christ fulfilled the law for all those people who believe in him (Matthew 5:17). By faith in Jesus Christ every believer is no longer 'under law' (God's righteous requirement that dooms), but 'under grace' (God's undeserved love that saves). Paul explains what a life 'under grace' means in Romans 6:1-23.

3. Romans 6:1-23

Romans chapter 6 has three parts. Romans 6:1-10 is *a teaching* about what Christians must believe. Romans 6:11-16 is *an exhortation* about how Christians should live. Romans 6:17-23 is *an encouragement* about the progress Christians have already made.

The order is a good example how to build up other people: first *teach* people the truth in the Bible; then *exhort* them to act and apply the teaching; and finally *encourage* them as they make progress.

1. THE TEACHING

B. WHAT IS JUSTIFICATION?

1. You receive a new state through Christ's death

Verse 6: Through faith in Jesus Christ you are united to Jesus Christ and his completed work of salvation. This means that when you begin to believe in Jesus Christ, your old life is nailed together with Christ onto the cross. All your sins of the past, present and future have been piled onto the body of Christ and nailed to the cross. In this way your old existence of living in self-sufficiency and independence from God is terminated. This brings your old life in service of sin to an end (cf. Galatians 2:20).

Through faith in Jesus Christ his physical death 2000 years ago has become your spiritual death in the present time! Thus Jesus Christ becomes the Representative of all people in history who believe in him. When your Representative died as a sacrificial sacrifice for your sins, your old unregenerate nature ('the old man') was crucified with him and your physical body in the unregenerate state

¹The aorist tense denotes a single action or event in the past

(‘the body of sin’) was destroyed (rendered powerless) so that you are no longer a slave that serves sin!

Verse 7: From the moment you believe in Jesus Christ you receive a new state (position in Christ): i.e. you have been acquitted or justified from all sin in God’s court of justice. God, the Judge, has justified you, i.e. he has forgiven you all your sins and has *declared* you free from sin (He declared you: ‘Not guilty!’) From now on God *regards* and *treats* you as perfectly righteous (forgiven) in his eyes! When God looks at you (your state in Christ), he sees only the righteousness of Jesus Christ. This is your new judicial state (position) in Christ.

Verse 3-4a: The death of Jesus Christ is therefore of great importance to Christians. The death of Jesus Christ gives Christians a new state (position) and a new life (existence)! “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come” (2 Corinthians 5:17). The goal of Jesus’ death is your justification! The baptism with the Spirit (regeneration) brings this unity with Christ (his death and his resurrection) into real existence (1 Corinthians 12:13). The baptism with water only symbolises this unity with Christ (Acts 10:47-48).

Although as a Christian you possess a new state in Christ, you nevertheless still commit sins during your life on earth. While your justification is already perfect, your sanctification is still in progress. The difference between before and after you became a Christian is that you no longer want to sin and no longer am a slave of sin. Relying on your state of justification you *want to, can* and *shall* fight against sin in your life (sanctification) and you want to, can and shall conquer (glorification)!

This struggle against sin which you experience in your life (cf. Galatians 5:17) proves that you have been born again and are justified. It shows that you are no longer a slave of sin, but free (to grow in sanctification)! A person who is not yet born-again does not experience this struggle between the Holy Spirit and the sinful nature (Galatians 5:17; cf. Romans 7:14-26). He does not have the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:9) and therefore does not experience the conflict of the Spirit against his old sinful nature.

C. WHAT IS SANCTIFICATION?

1. You receive a new life style through Christ’s resurrection

Verse 4b-5: When you begin to believe in Jesus Christ, you not only die in solidarity with Jesus Christ, but also are resurrected in solidarity with Jesus Christ. You are first resurrected from spiritual death and will in the future also be resurrected from physical death! Through faith in Jesus Christ his physical resurrection becomes your spiritual (and eventually your physical) resurrection!

Your spiritual resurrection

Your spiritual resurrection is the resurrection of your spirit (soul). This happens when the Spirit of Christ (the Holy Spirit) comes to dwell in your still mortal (perishable) body and gives you abilities you never had before! You stand up out of the darkness in which you dwelt before (Ephesians 5:14). Before you could not really forgive someone, but now you receive the love and power to forgive those who wrong you. Before you could not control your outburst of anger, but now you have received self-control as a fruit of the Spirit. Before you could not let go of pornography, but now you are repulsed by such impurity. Before your life was boring and meaningless, but now you are involved in very meaningful relationships and activities. By your unity with Jesus Christ God gives you a new power to fight against the power and pollution of sin. And he enables you to resist temptations (1 Corinthians 10:13; James 4:7). You receive power to really live the new life style! Through the Holy Spirit Jesus Christ lives his new life in and through you! Through his Spirit he applies his completed work of salvation to your life and enables you to have a new life style! This is called sanctification.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ has great importance for Christians. His resurrection gives you a new way of living, a new life style. The goal of the resurrection of Jesus Christ is your sanctification!

Your physical resurrection

Your physical resurrection takes place at the second coming of Christ. Through your faith in Jesus Christ he will transform your lowly (mortal) body so that it will become like his glorious (immortal) body (Philippians 3:21): strong, imperishable and spiritual (i.e. completely controlled by the Holy Spirit) (1 Corinthians 15:42-44)!

D. JUSTIFICATION AND SANCTIFICATION ARE INSEPARABLE

1. Your state of justification is inseparable from your (life)style of sanctification!

Verse 1: If a person has come to faith in Jesus Christ, can he simply continue his old sinful life style? In Paul’s time there were false teachers who taught that this was possible. They maintained that “the more you sinned, the more grace you would receive from God. They maintained that your sin magnified God’s grace and thus God’s glory. So, they said that you should sin as much as you like!”

But this is not what Paul is teaching. Precisely because you as a Christian have been set free from the power of sin, you no longer live as a slave of sin! The more you get to know God and his moral law, the more you desire to receive God’s forgiving grace and live a holy life!

Verse 2: Paul explains that the teaching of the false teachers is contradictory: “How can you continue to live

in sin when you died to sin?” “How can anyone maintain that someone is set free from his sins (through his faith in Jesus Christ) in order to continue to live in sins!” It is absolutely impossible for a saved Christian to continue to dwell in sin (1 John 3:6-10)².

The death and resurrection of Jesus can never be separated from each other! Your spiritual unity with Jesus Christ is such that also your spiritual death cannot be separated from your spiritual resurrection! The death of Jesus Christ makes an end to your old existence. The resurrection of Jesus will certainly grant you a new existence! Paul maintains that this is absolutely sure! You share in the death of Christ in order to share in his resurrection. Likewise, your new state (or position) of being a child of God (your justification) cannot be separated from your new life style of living as a child of God (your sanctification). They go hand in hand with each other. You cannot be justified (forgiven) without living the sanctified life! And you cannot live the sanctified life without being justified (forgiven)! In the Bible justification and sanctification are inseparable!

Religions which deny or reject the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ are excluded from justification, sanctification and final glorification! This is the main reason why Christians proclaim the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is a historical fact and a spiritual necessity!

2. You are already now dead for sin and alive for God

Verse 8: The historical death and resurrection of Jesus Christ were inseparable! Likewise the spiritual death of your old unregenerate nature and the spiritual resurrection of your regenerate nature are inseparable! Through your faith in Jesus Christ you already died with Christ and this terminated your old life style. Through your faith in Jesus Christ you are certain that you already are resurrected with Christ and this began your new life style. And Jesus Christ will complete the good work he began in you (Philippians 1:6)! You are certain that you can, want to and shall live the new life— now and forever!

Verse 9: Jesus Christ has already been resurrected and can never die again! Likewise, you as a Christian have already been resurrected from your old and dead life (as a non-Christian) and can never return to living that old and dead life! Before you became a Christian you could not live the new life. Now you can live the new life with Christ!

Verse 10. The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is a one-time event and will never be repeated! Likewise,

²The present continuous tense of the verbs demand the following translation: “No one who continues to live in him (i.e. Jesus Christ) keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him. ... No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God’s seed remains in him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God.”

Christ once for all made an end to your sinful life style in the past, in the present and in the future. All your sins in the past, present and future have already been forgiven (Psalm 103:3; Hebrews 10:17-18)! Through your unity with Jesus Christ you have once for all been separated from the guilt, shame, power, slavery, condemnation and punishment of sin! No one and nothing is able to separate you from God’s love in Christ Jesus for you (John 10:28; Romans 8:39)! No one and nothing can separate you from living for God!

Verse 11. ‘Faith’ means to reckon your spiritual death to sin and your spiritual resurrection (i.e. being made alive) to live for God as a single event in your history! Your ‘death to sin’ is now a permanent state (position)! This state can never be taken from you again (Colossians 3:1-4)! You are now in a position in which you do not want to live for sin, cannot live for sin and shall not live for sin. You are in a position in which you want to live the new life for God, are able to live the new life and shall live the new life!

Even when you do fall into a particular sin (i.e. something that misses God’s purpose), you will not remain lying in that sin (cf. 1 John 3:6-9)! You will stand up again and continue to live the new life. “Though a righteous man falls seven times, he rises again” (Proverbs 24:16).

When you do this, you will not let sin reign in your mortal bodies to obey its sinful desires.

2. THE EXHORTATION

E. SANCTIFICATION: YOU MUST LIVE THE NEW LIFE STYLE!

1. Living for God means fighting against sin

Verse 12: Because Jesus Christ has already set you free from the power and slavery to sin, you no longer allow sin to reign in your life. You can now live the new life God intends you to live and so you commit yourself to live that new life.

But this does not mean that the power of sin has been removed from your body. As long as you live in the present weak and mortal physical body, you will experience the powerful opposition and onslaughts of sin against you. As long as you live in your present body, you must fight against the desires of the indwelling sinful nature (Romans 8:12-14; Galatians 5:16-18; 1 Peter 2:11) (*Read Romans 7:14-26*).

Although you sometimes allow a particular sin to overpower you (1 John 1:8-2:2), you must fight against sin and gain victory over sin (Romans 8:13). As you grow older as a Christian, you will experience that you gain more and more victories over sin. You will become more and more sanctified.

3. THE ENCOURAGEMENT

F. SANCTIFICATION: LIVE TO SERVE GOD

Only at the second coming of Jesus Christ will you be completely and perfectly sanctified and perfectly saved (1 John 3:1-3; Philippians 3:21; 1 Corinthians 15:26).

2. Living for God means being an instrument of righteousness

Verse 13: Offer your body (your eyes, ears, mouth, hands and feet) and your spirit (your ability to fellowship with God, your conscience, intuition, mind, will, emotions and creativity) to him as instruments of righteousness that leads to holiness (verse 13,19).

3. Living for God means living under grace

Verse 14-15: Judicially you are no longer under God's law (God's righteous requirement). You are no longer under God's curse. You are under God's undeserved grace that results in receiving God's blessing. You have received the Holy Spirit (Galatians 3:10-14) and he reigns in your heart and life to produce the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23).

In order to encourage you in your struggle against sin, you may know for sure that sin no longer lords it over you. The power of sin is no longer a master (a lord) that makes you a slave. You can conquer sinful thoughts, words and habits. You can resist temptations (1 Corinthians 10:13) and you can resist the devil (James 4:7-8).

The words 'not under law' do not mean that you are free to transgress the moral law (i.e. the Ten Commandments). You may also not continue to sin because you think that God's grace would continue to forgive all your sins (cf. verse 1). If you deliberately continue to sin, it may prove that you have not been born-again (Hebrews 10:26-31). A born-again Christian wants to, can and shall live the new and holy life.

3. Living for God means obeying God

Verse 16: The situation of man is pictured in terms of the relationship between a master and his slave. Every human being on earth has a master and is a slave. Not a single person is 'independent' or 'free' (to do what he wants)! Remember, when Israel had no king, everyone did as he saw fit (Judges 21:25). Every human being has either sin or God in Christ as his master (lord). The non-Christian (unbeliever) obeys his master, called 'sin'. He is unable to do anything else! But the Christian (believer) obeys his Master, Jesus Christ. He does not want to do anything else! He cannot do anything else!

Slavery (obedience) to sin leads to eternal death, but slavery (obedience) to Jesus Christ leads to eternal life. Real 'slavery' is the condition of being separate from Jesus Christ and real 'freedom' is the condition of being bound to Jesus Christ (John 8:31-36). Therefore, ask yourself the question: "Is sin or Jesus Christ my master (lord)?"

1. You have been transferred from under one lord (sin) to another Lord (Christ)

Verse 17-18: The best translation of verse 17 is: "But you wholeheartedly obeyed the model (as to contents and form or pattern) of teaching (or doctrine) to which you have been entrusted (transferred)."

Paul does not say that the Christians entrusted (transferred) themselves to this teaching (doctrine), as if they had a free choice to do so or not. Paul says that God has entrusted (transferred) them (the Christians) to this teaching (doctrine) and therefore they have no choice but to obey!

God has transferred you from the old condition of being 'a slave to sin' to the new condition of being 'a slave to God'. 'Slavery to God' means that you are really free from 'slavery to sin'. Real freedom from the power of sin and its hold on you has set you free to be and do what God wants you to be and do. You show that you live in real freedom when you are and do what you want to be and do and what you should be and do, namely, to obey God!

2. Your service to Christ leads to sanctification

Verse 19: Jesus used parables to explain difficult spiritual truths. Likewise Paul uses the picture of a master and a slave to explain genuine Christian freedom. The Christians in Rome were still young Christians who struggled to grasp the Christian truths.

When you were still a slave of sin, you and the members of your body and spirit were instruments of impurity and ever increasing wickedness. But now that you are a slave of Jesus Christ, you and the members of your body and spirit are instruments of righteousness that lead to increasing holiness. You do what is right in God's eyes: you separate yourself and the members of your body from impurity and wickedness, and you devote yourself and the members of your body to what is right and holy in God's eyes. Doing what is right leads to increased sanctification.

3. You cannot serve two lords at the same time

Verse 20-23: 'To be a slave of sin' means that you are an enemy of righteousness. And 'to be an enemy of sin' means that you have become a friend to righteousness. It is impossible to be dedicated to sin and righteousness at the same time! Jesus says that no one can serve two lords (Matthew 6:24).

The deeds of your old slavery to sin are things of which you are now ashamed (verse 21; cf. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 1 Peter 4:3-4). By God's grace you now live the new life with confidence. The wages of slavery to sin is eternal death, but the reward of slavery to Jesus Christ is eternal life!