

The Holy Spirit's ministry of growth in the believer's life

In the previous study we looked at the problem of sin after the believer is justified, and the need for ongoing cleansing in the believer's life.

The foundation for life

I. Jesus illustrates the importance of a solid foundation for the believer's life

A.

Luke 6:46-49 (NKJV)

46 "But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say?"

47 **Whoever comes to Me and hears My sayings and does them** I will show you whom he is like:

Illustrates the man who makes preparation for how he's going to construct his life

Philosophy for life:

This is the one who digs deep, he plans and thinks about truth, and sees its eternal value. He constructs every area of his life on that eternal unchanging rock, with certainty and confidence. So when the storms of life come he can rest assured of the best possible outcome.

Our day-to-day decision-making is based on the sure foundation of truth

48 He is like a man **building a house**, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the **flood** arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock.

The limited resources of human philosophy:

This is the man who puts more confidence in his own human reason than **God's methods**, to answer life's questions and solve its difficulties.

49 But he who heard and did nothing is like a man who built a house **on the earth** without a foundation, against which the stream beat vehemently, and immediately it fell. And the ruin of that house was great."

John 10:10 (NKJV)

10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

This man defines reality on his own terms. He is an earth dweller, and so he builds his house on the earth

1. This foundation further illustrated by James:

a)

James 1:21-25 (NKJV)

21 Therefore **lay aside** all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and **receive with meekness** the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror;

24 for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was.

25 But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

1 John 1:9 (NKJV)

9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

It must be more than acquiring a lot of knowledge of doctrine for the sake of knowledge, but letting the truth become full knowledge, or epignosis in your soul, that **transforms the way we think and live**.

James 1:26-27 (NKJV)

26 If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless.

27 Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

James is not giving a technical definition of how the Spirit, the flesh and the regenerate man interact;

as Paul is, in Romans chapters 6, 7 and 8

II. Biblical definition for flesh:

A.

Man using his own methods to solve the problems and answer the questions of life.

1. Romans 8:1-8 (NKJV)

1 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not **walk according to the flesh**, but according to the Spirit.

2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

3 For what **the law** could not do in that it was weak through the **flesh**, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful **flesh**, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the **flesh**.

4 that **the righteous requirement of the law** might be fulfilled in us who do not **walk according to the flesh** but **according to the Spirit**.

Defining reality on their own terms they

determine to satisfy God through their own **opinion**, of satisfactory moral activity and religious duty.

5 For those who live according to the **flesh** set their minds on the things of the **flesh**, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.

6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.

8 So then, those who are in the **flesh** cannot please God.

III. God's promise is built upon his unchangeable character, his perfect righteous justice

If we do X God will do Y

A.

1 John 1:9 (NKJV)

9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1.

Confession only puts us back in fellowship, so that growth can now occur. There is no forward momentum in confession