

Module 2 Section 3: Biblical Doctrine – Lessons of Life

Presentation Outline – Bro Dele Popoola

Part 2: Spoil of Man by Satan

Satan's Game

- Uses a step-by-step trickery of the mind
 - *Gen 3:1-4*
- Stirred up the human emotion to dislike God by poisoning the mind to doubt God's word and the will to choose the tree of knowledge
 - *Gen 1:5-6*
- The entire soul of man (mind, emotion and will) was contaminated
- Satan became one with man and alienated man from God

Alienation of man from God's purpose

Man's Fall

- Transgress against God's Commandment
 - Adam transgressed against God's commandment (*Romans 5:14*)
- Fall under God's condemnation
 - Adam's one offence caused man to fall under God's condemnation (*Romans 5:16*)
- Estranged man from God
 - Man in his fallen state is alienated from the life of God (*Eph 4:17-18*)
- Prevent man from fulfilling God's purpose
 - God's purpose is for man to express God in His image (*Gen 1:26-27*)
- Man received Satan's evil thought, feeling, and will into the inward parts of his soul
 - *Genesis 3:1,4,5*

The consequences of Man's fall

- Man's body defiled and transmuted in nature to become flesh
 - Man's body, by being corrupted in man's fall, became flesh
 - The flesh is the corrupted body (*Romans 7:18*)
- Satan became sin within man
 - After Satan rebelled against God, he injected his nature of sin into humanity, corrupting the body, and thus residing in the flesh of mankind as sin itself (*Roman 7:14b, 17, 20*)

- Satan is not merely an external force but also the inherent nature of sin that dwells within a person's flesh (*1 John 3:8*)
- Sin acting as evil in man
 - *Romans 7:21*
 - Evil is not merely the existence of sin but its active indwelling presence and operation within a person, leading to negative consequences in their relationship with God, themselves and society
 - *Ephesians 2:1, 5a; Romans 5:12*
 - Man takes in the poison of sin and death

Part 3 - The Salvation of Life and Regeneration

Accomplishments of Christ on the Cross

- To accomplish God's plan, Christ had to deal with three problems:
 - Man's sin
 - Man's fallen humanity
 - Satan
- Christ also accomplished God's purpose of releasing His life

Christ Dealing with Man's Sins

- God's love and God's righteousness (*Ps 89:14; Ezek. 18:4; Rom. 6:23*)
- God caused the iniquity of mankind to fall on Christ
- We were judged by God in Him
 - Christ bore our sins - We were justified by God
 - Christ was made sin - We become God's righteousness and are acceptable to God

Christ Dealing with Man

- In His incarnation, Christ put on humanity
- Our human nature was therefore crucified with Him
- We are included in Christ when he was crucified
- We were delivered from the bondage of sin
- All creation died with Him and in Him

Christ Dealing with Satan

- Christ dealt with the Satan who was in man
- God judged and destroyed Satan in man
- The God-opposing world was also judged and destroyed (*Gal. 6:14*)

Accomplishments of Christ on the Cross

- Christ also accomplished God's purpose of releasing His life

The Salvation of Life and Regeneration

The Salvation of Life

- Man's state before salvation
 - The devil has the power of death (*Hebrews 2:14b*)
 - Death is the ultimate result of Satan's plot concerning man (*Genesis 2:17*)
 - Through sin, death came into man (*Romans 5:12b*)
 - Man is dead in sins (*Ephesians 2:1*)
 - Since man's body is of such a present killing death, it prevails against man's mind (*Romans 7:24*)

The achievements of the coming of Christ

- To save man from both sin and death, the Son of God came as life (*John 1:4a; 10:10b*)
- Christ nullified death (*2 Timothy 1:10*)
- Christ destroyed the devil who has the power of death (*Hebrews 2:14b*)
- Christ as the one grain of wheat who died to release His life to produce us as the many grains (*John 12:24*)
- Life was released through His death (*John 19:34b*)
- He released life and manifested life (*2 Timothy 1:10*)
- Christ released the life within Him through His death; He imparted His life in resurrection to God's chosen people (*1 Peter 1:3b*)
 - With the resurrection of Christ, we are
 - Raised up with Him
 - Justified
 - Regenerated
 - Made New Creation
 - Made Christ's brother
- Christ Himself became the life-giving Spirit (*1 Cor. 15:45*)
- The Spirit gives life, and the Lord is the Spirit (*2 Corinthians 3:6;17*)

God's salvation is not only by the death of Christ but also by His life to save us from both sin and death

Appropriation of God's Redemption (Faith)

- Christ resurrected, ascended and entered into glory with His humanity
- Christ is the prototype
- He became the Spirit to be received
- Man must **BELIEVE** and **RECEIVE** God's redemption by **FAITH**
- **FAITH** is not merely understanding the doctrine of God's redemption
- This is **ONLY** by receiving the Son of God
- The Spirit follows the word of the gospel
- The ultimate result is that we are in union with God

Our position in Christ

- We were saved at the time we believed by being made alive by God; He enlivened us by the resurrection life of Christ (*Ephesians 2:5*)
- God is still saving us by the life of Christ. This is our daily salvation (*Romans 5:10*)
- Christ is now our life (*Colossians 3:4*)
- Christ is now living in us to save us throughout the day (*Galatians 2:20*)

Our Enjoyment

- Spontaneous function of Christ's resurrection life
- The law of the Spirit of Life frees us from the law of sin and of death (*Romans 8:2*)
- To fully enjoy and experience the Salvation of life, we need to -
 - Eat the bread of life
 - Drink the water of life
 - Live by Christ as our life
 - *John 6:35, 57b; John 7:37 – 39; Revelation 21:6b; 22:17b*

The Definition of Life

- Life is not a devotion
 - Devotion is our exercise of piety; an exercise by our own effort
 - *Galatians 2:20*
 - Life is Christ living within us
- Life is not about good behaviour
 - Although man was corrupted, the natural, good virtues created by God within man can be developed into good behaviour

- Life is not our doing; life is Christ lived out from within us
- Phil 1:21 For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain
- Life is Christ expressed from within us

- Life is not power
 - While power is for work (Acts 1:8), life is for living (John 6:57)

- Life is not a gift
 - Gift is the ability to function
 - Life is the Divine Being in our being
 - Romans 12:6 vs John 1:13

- Life is not the growth in knowledge
 - The growth in knowledge is the increase in knowledge
 - Life is the increase of God within us
 - Colossians 2:19

- Life is not our human life
 - Our human life (bios - physical and psuche - soul) is mortal
 - The real life (Zoe) is immortal and eternal 1 John 1:2; Psa. 90:2b

- Life is God's content and God's flowing out
 - Life is God Himself, His being and His content being imparted to believers, forming a continuous stream or flow of His divine presence and essence into and through believers. Ephesians 4:18a, Revelation 22:1

- Life is Christ
 - Christ is the embodiment of God, who is life (Colossians 2:9)
 - John 14:6; Col. 3:4; 1 John 5:12
 - Hebrews 1:3 - Christ is the expression of God, who is life

- Life is the Holy Spirit
 - The Holy Spirit is the reality of Christ
 - John 14:16-17; 1 Cor. 15:45
 - The Holy Spirit today is the Spirit of life who gives life to us

Regeneration

The Need for Regeneration

- The kingdom of God is the realm where God rules

- The earthly cannot understand what occurs in this realm
- Every kind of life is a sphere with its own boundaries
- Just as human life qualifies us for the human kingdom, divine life is essential to enter and live in the kingdom of God
- Our life is of the flesh and comes from the flesh
 - Flesh profits nothing;
 - cannot please God
 - alienated from the life of God
- Flesh is the flesh and will never become the spirit
- Only what is born of the Spirit is spirit
- To be born of the Spirit, there is a need for regeneration

The Meaning of Regeneration

- The literal meaning of regeneration is “to be born again.”
- Regeneration involves receiving the Spirit
- It is a second birth, a spiritual birth from God (*John 1:13*)
- Regeneration enables one to gain heavenly life
- Born of water and the Spirit
 - Natural being needs to be buried in the Water of Baptism
 - John 3:5: “*Unless one is born of water and the Spirit..*”, Jesus uses familiar and plain words to Nicodemus to explain the spiritual rebirth
 - Matthew 3:11: “*I baptize you in water unto repentance..*”. Water baptism is linked to the ministry of repentance
- Two Ministries Represented:
 - Water: Symbolizes burial and termination of the natural life
 - Spirit: Symbolizes resurrection and germination into divine life
- Water and Spirit together signify the full process of regeneration: death to the old and birth into the kingdom of God
- Regeneration is to be born of God’s Spirit
- It does not improve our old man; instead, it gives us a new spirit

How Regeneration is accomplished

A - Through the “Finished” Redemption of Christ

- Lord Jesus was lifted up on the cross to be judged by God
- He released the life of God making us the many grains
- 1 Peter 1:3b; Ephesians 2:5a: When Christ was resurrected, we were also resurrected with Him

- This resurrection is realized experientially and applied to us when we are regenerated in time

B - Through the Ongoing Work of the Holy Spirit

- Holy Spirit causes us to experience regeneration
- 1 Peter 1:23; James 1:18; 1 Corinthians 4:15, This spiritual birth happens through the word of God in the gospel

C - Through Man's Believing (Regeneration Occurring as Soon as One Believes)

- John 1:12 - Because God has put His life into us, we have the authority to become children of God
- This authority is the life that God put into us
- Everyone who believes
 - has been begotten of God
 - has eternal life

The Results of Regeneration

- Our deadened spirit has been made alive
- Regeneration causes us to become children of God, and to partake of the divine nature
- Regeneration also causes us to obtain a new heart and a new spirit
- God puts His Spirit within us to strengthen the new life within and the function of our new nature
- Regeneration also causes us to have Jesus Christ in us
- Regeneration makes us a new creation
- Regeneration enables us to enter the kingdom of God
- Regeneration also gives us a living hope and an inheritance in the heavens

The Proof of Regeneration

1. The Holy Spirit

- Rom. 8:16
- We can know the fact of our regeneration now
- The Spirit Himself witnesses with our spirit

2. The Word of God

- We have the outward proof of the Bible
- 1 John 5:9-13

3. The love we have for our brothers

- 1 John 3:14
- We love those who have been begotten of God as we are

The Security of Regeneration

- John 10:28
- Eternal life is the eternal life of God
- The Lord's powerful hand keeping us outwardly
- John 10:29
- The Father's powerful hand keeping us

The washing of regeneration

- Titus 3:5 (NKJV)

"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit."

- Regeneration marks the beginning of a transformation, from an old state to a new one.
- When a person is born again, the divine life enters them, initiating a change of position and a new spiritual reality
- This rebirth is not based on human effort but on God's mercy and the renewing work of the Holy Spirit.
- Washing is the Laver to purge away the old things of our natural life
 - Compare Titus 3:5 with Ephesians 5:26 "Washing of regeneration" and "the washing of water by the word"
 - The washing of regeneration functions as a spiritual laver, cleansing away the old elements of our natural life.
 - This washing is organic, not merely doctrinal or external—it involves the infusion of a new life into our being
 - It is also metabolic, meaning it replaces the old with the new by imparting divine life
 - The process is inward and life-based, not outward correction or regulation

- This transformation is both a cleansing and a renewing, preparing us for a life that reflects God's nature and purpose

The Renewing of the Holy Spirit

To Reconstitute Our Being on the Positive Side

- The Holy Spirit brings something new, real, and solid of the divine life into our being to renew our old life
- John 1:13b — To be born of God, to be born of the Spirit, is to have the divine life imparted into our being
- 2 Peter 1:4 - The Holy Spirit renews us not only with the divine life but also with the divine nature.
- Ezekiel 36:26 - The Holy Spirit renews us by renewing our heart and our spirit.
 - The heart is a loving organ, and the spirit is a receiving organ
 - Both our spirit and heart were old and not fulfilling their proper functions
 - In our new birth, the Spirit of God renewed our hearts to love God and our spirits to receive God

To Transform Us

- 2 Corinthians 3:18 - The Holy Spirit transforms us first by dwelling in us
- Ezekiel 36:27a - God also put His own Spirit into our being.
- Romans 8:9,11 - The Holy Spirit dwells in us to transform us by renewing our soul
- Romans 12:2a; Colossians 3:10 - The Holy Spirit transforms us by renewing the new man unto full knowledge according to the image of God, the One who created him.
- The renewing work of the Holy Spirit is making all of us part of the renewed new man so that the new man may resemble God in full.

Conclusion

- The washing of regeneration is to purge away the old things of our natural life
- The renewing of the Holy Spirit is to reconstitute us and transform us with the divine life and the divine nature into the image of God
- This makes us the same as God is, not in an individual way but in a corporate way