

Studies in Romans

Chapter 8:1-12:5 Review

Chapter 8:12-17 Mortification of Sin (third lesson in this passage)

Review:

Romans 1-3:20 defines fully our sinfulness and need of a Saviour.

3:21-31 states the glorious gospel of our Lord Jesus and the humility that should come to those so blessed.

4:1-25 amplifies and defines further the doctrine of justification by faith using the faith and justification of David and Abraham as an examples.

5:1-11 declares the benefits of our justification.

5:12-21 teaches that through Adam's disobedience, we all died. Through the obedience of Christ, all His people are made righteous. This passage reviews the surpassing blessings of Christ.

6:1-23 states the theology of why sin does not have dominion over us and strong exhortations for us to give our whole selves to righteousness living.

7:1-25 We are dead to the law and married to Christ; the law clearly shows us our sin; Paul declares warring of flesh and spirit in himself.

8:1-11 Provision to walk in the Spirit

This Lesson:

- I. What is a summary of Martin Lloyd Jones four sermons on v. 12, 13 on mortification of sin?
- II. Who are the sons of God? What is characteristic of their lives?
- III. In what manner does the Spirit of God bear witness with our spirits?
- IV. What is it to suffer together with Him?

Reference	Notations
<p>Rom 8:5-12 NKJV (12) Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. (13) For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. (14) For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. (15) For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." (16) The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, (17) and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with <i>Him</i>, that we may also be glorified together.</p>	

The following are broad outlines of Martin Lloyd-Jones four sermons on vs 12, 13 on mortification of sin taken from *Romans: The Sons of God*, an exposition of Chapter 8:5-17, (Banner of Truth Trust: Edinburgh, 1974), pp 91-147

Sermon 1:

This sermon reveals two errors that can cloud our mortifying of sin.

1. Perfectionism – we can come to a place where we do not sin any more. Lloyd-Jones quickly and accurately shows that though it is God’s commanded will that we not sin, we will wrestle with sin until the Lord takes us home.
2. “The principle of counteraction” better known as the higher life or “let go and let God.” This doctrine teaches that through a sudden encounter with the Lord, you are lifted above the trials of this earth. This teaching says that we can be delivered immediately with a crucial, critical experience. “The erroneous teaching always addresses man’s will, and tries to persuade him to surrender... But here the Apostle addresses his argument to the understanding, to our reason, saying in effect: “If you see this truth, put it into practice; having seen it, act upon it.” p98

P. 98 It is important to notice that Paul uses the present tense here, of which a well-known dictionary remarks: “It denotes that which is now going on, and indicates a continuous, repeated, or habitual action.” We have to go on mortifying the deeds of the body. We have to do it, and we have to go on and on doing so. That other teaching emphasizes the element of crisis.

Sermon 2:

Lloyd-Jones first states a number of reasons why it is ridiculous for us to “live after the flesh.”

1. We are no longer “in the flesh.”
2. The “flesh” no longer has any right over us.
3. Sin is a residual problem and only temporary.
4. To revert to sin is to revert to the realm of death.
5. To sin is to grieve the Spirit that dwells within us.
He then turns to the positive side of the truth.
1. We are to mortify our sins because it is the only consistent thing to do with all that has been said before in this epistle. “The Christian believes what Paul has said in the first three chapters of Romans; that though man has sinned against God, though he had rebelled and deserved nothing but perdition, yet God, in His infinite love and grace and mercy and compassion, not only sent His only Son into this world in the likeness of man, but even sent Him to the Cross, and ‘set Him forth as the propitiation for our sins’.
2. “If you are honest and really believe and mean what you say, you will certainly tell me, ‘I want to have nothing more to do with that old life, and therefore I will mortify the deeds of the body which still tend to lead me to live after the flesh. I am going to kill the sin that remains in me, I am going to throttle it, I am going to put it to death.’
3. Consider that your mortal body is going to be quickened by the Spirit at the coming of the Lord Jesus so why would you want to continue any longer in a path of sin. “There is nothing at all here about a second, a further experience. It is a reasoned argument addressed to my understanding, and it calls for action. I have ‘through the Spirit’ to ‘mortify the deeds of the body’ for the reasons given. That is the Apostle’s teaching with regard to sanctification; that is how the Christian becomes sanctified.
4. Our mortification does not secure our salvation as a cause is to an effect because that would be “justification by works” and not by faith as Paul has taught through out this and all his epistles. It is as “ways and means” to an end that God has ordained for all his children.
5. Lloyd-Jones teaches this doctrine of mortification from other places in the New Testament: I Cor 9:24-27; II Cor 6:14-7:1; Gal 5:16; 5:24; Eph 4:1; 4:17ff; Phil 2:12,13; 3:16ff, Col 3:1-10; I Thess 4:1-5; I Tim 6:11-16; II Tim 2:19ff; Titus 2:11; Heb 12; James 1:22-27; 4:7,8; I Pet 1:13; 2:11; 2:21ff; 3:10,11; 4:1; 5:8,9; 2:3-6; Rev 22:12-15. He stresses that Paul is not commanding that we turn over all these sins to the Lord (as if then we do nothing), but he gives us these things to do, things that we should do as we seek to be like the Lord Jesus.

Sermon Three;

1. He reviews the errors of perfectionism and counteraction and states that if either of these were true, we could have to do nothing more than hand the struggle with sin over to the Lord instead of having to deal with it.
2. He states that these theories are inconsistent with the New Testament view of man, that he has the ability, by the Spirit, to seek to keep these commandments.
3. He says that these theories are inconsistent with regeneration and that we are now no longer slaves of sin, but we are slaves of righteousness (Romans 6:17).
4. He stresses that we are now alive unto God and we are not hopeless and helpless. We are “in Christ” and we are under grace; grace that teaches and helps up to deny ungodliness.
5. He uses many Scriptures to teach that we are enabled by God to obey Him: Romans 6:11 – we are alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord; Romans 8:2 – we have the law of the Spirit of life; 2 Pet 1:4 – we are made partakes of the divine nature; 1 John 3:9 – His seed remains in him and he cannot (*continue in*) sin; Eph 4:16 – we are all

'members of the body of Christ' and we are edified by other believers; 2 Cor 5:17 – 'old things are passed away, behold, all things become new' (2 Cor 5:17); 1 John 5:3 – the commandments are no longer grievous to us; Romans 8:4, 5, 6, 9, 11; 1 Cor 6:19; 1 - The Spirit of God dwells in us to aid us; John 4:4 – 'Greater is He that is in you'; 1 John 5:4 – 'this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.'; Eph 2:10 – we can walk in the good works that the Lord has ordained; Eph 4:24 – we can put on the new man; Eph 1:18-20 – the eyes of our understanding can be enlightened to know what is the exceeding greatness of His mighty power; Eph 3:20 – His power works within us.

6. Lloyd-Jones shows that these false theories deny that Christians do grow and change. 1 John talks about 'little children', 'young men', and 'old men'; we are like branches that can grow; we are like a body which grows, be what God has made you to be – His children, lights in the world. Matt 5:16 – 'Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven'.

Sermon Four:

1. The body spoken of here is not the "flesh" as he speaks of in other verses, but our physical body as he mentions in 6:12, 8:11,12. The body is not inherently sinful but can give itself to sin when its natural use is misused.
2. "The term 'mortify' really explains itself. 'To mortify' is to deaden, to put to death, to render inoperative, to make extinct... This is the great New Testament exhortation in connection with sanctification from the practical standpoint, and it is addressed to all Christian people.
3. Two false ways of mortification: 1) monasticism – the denial to the body of food and other necessities thinking that this will diminish sinfulness; 2) legalism – (*monasticism is a form of legalism*), but another type would be "false puritanism" – codes of ethics imposed in a false way.
4. We do mortify the deeds of the body through the Spirit who indwells us. He does not keep on living in sin because the Lord Jesus Christ is living in him. How are we to do this in general? 1) We have all that we need in our Lord Jesus to obey Him. We need to quit complaining and start using the strength the Lord provides to keep His commandments. 2) We need to remember that our sins grieve the Holy Spirit of God. 3) We must also keep our eyes on the goal of entering His kingdom forever. "And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure" (1 John 3:2-3). 4) 2 Pet 1: 5-11 – "If you do these things, you will never fall.

What are we to do concerning mortification in particular? The negative: 1) The Christian must 'abstain from sin.' 1 Pet 2:11 , "I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul.;" Eph 4 – "Let him that stole steal no more." "Let no filthy communication proceed out of your mouth." 2) You must not only abstain from sin, you must not have fellowship with those who would seek to drag you into sin. Eph 5:11,12. We are to shy away from evil. We are to keep under our bodies and not encourage and indulge the fleshly part of us. Ps 1 – stay away from bad influences in your life. Be careful what you do with your eyes. Watch what you read and look upon. 3) Deal with the first motions of sin and temptation within you. James 1:13-15 4) Do not just repress the sin or temptation, expose it for what it is and say 'this is evil. I must not do this evil thing and sin against God.'" Having exposed it, "denounce it for what it is until you hate it." 5) "Do not heal yourself too quickly (Jer 6:14). Turn to 2 Corinthians 7 and read what Paul says about 'godly sorrow that worketh repentance.'" We must do this without plunging ourselves into despair and gloom. The positive: 1) 1 Cor 16:13 "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit ye like men." 2) "Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh." Eph 5:16 3) Be about adding "to your faith, virtue, and to virtue, knowledge, and to knowledge, temperance, and to temperance, patience, and to patience, godliness, and to godliness, brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness, charity." – 2 Peter 1:5-8 You must read your Bible, pray, read good books that give you understanding and discipline yourself. Give all diligence to this task. 4) Seek to "adorn the gospel" by wholly following the Lord, being a light in this world of darkness. Do not seek to be like the world, but to be like the Lord Jesus Christ. We are to be positive about this task and know that it is not so much that I am dealing with this particular sin or that, but that I am to live for the glory and honor of God. Sin dishonors the Lord more than it makes me miserable. Glorify Him in showing "forth the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light.'

Summary of Pastor Fred's Malone's sermon on the inward witness of the Spirit.

Romans 8:11-17

1. The Lord adopted Israel and teaches of His saving grace by adopting us as children Eph 1:5
2. The witness of the Spirit is a sense of knowing that God is your Father, and you are His child and that He will not forsake you (David said that if my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will take me up).
3. It is to have joy in worship. It comes from reading passages in the Word and having it applied to your heart by the Holy Spirit.
4. It is being sure that God is your Father and you want to live for Him and keep His commandments.

5. Pastor Malone seeks to answer some questions: 1) “What is it to be an adopted child of God?” 2) “How can you tell if you have the witness of the Spirit?” 3) “What are the benefits of being an adopted child of God?”
- 1) What is it to be an adopted child of God? Every adopted child of God has the Spirit of God dwelling in them. Romans 8:9 The Spirit keeps our faith alive to pray. The Spirit convicts us of sin. The only reason you are thinking of Jesus Christ crucified is because the Spirit is bringing Him to your mind. The new birth is the work of the Holy Spirit in our hearts. There are several errors being taught. 1. That you have to have a second work of grace where you are put on a higher plane, but see 1 Cor 12:13. 2. The seal of the Holy Spirit. Some puritans taught falsely that when you were saved, you were safe, but that you needed a sealing of the Holy Spirit, but 2 Cor 1:21,22 says that we were sealed at our conversion (see also Eph 1:13). 3) Some have said that when you sin, the Holy Spirit leaves you. This is heresy. You are in union with Christ and the Spirit eternally dwells in you. What then is the witness of the Spirit with or to our Spirit? **The Spirit is a witness to us that we are an adopted child of God. It is that spiritual sense that God is no longer your condemning judge because of Christ’s atoning work for you on the cross. You now stand in the kingdom of grace. It is a sense that God is your Father.** We sense that we live in the presence of a great Father who cares for us even in discipline and trials. When you read your Bible, the Spirit testifies that His Word is special and that God is speaking to you in the promises and the commandments. Another false teaching is that you can believe in the Lord, but your heart is not changed. You then need to “fully surrender” to God and God will then do it all for you. The Scripture tells us that by the Spirit, we seek to put to death the deeds of the body to bring glory and honor to the One who shed His blood for your soul. Weak faith can take hold of a strong Christ and then He will seal you with His Holy Spirit.
- 2) How can you tell if you have the witness of the Spirit? You have a love for God and His truth. Second, that you have a working faith – not a Sunday faith, but a faith that goes into all aspects of your life. It is more important that you honor God than anything that you would accomplish in a day. Thirdly, you really want to overcome all sin in your life and it grieves you when you do not. You go back to Him and say, “Daddy, I did not honor you today and I want to please You.”
- 3) What are the benefits of being an adopted child of God? The witness of the Spirit leads you to want to suffer with the Lord Jesus. The witness of the Spirit gives you grace to set your mind on the Lord through trials. You know that you have everything that you need. You learn to be content in every circumstance. You have a sense that the Lord has saved you and that He delights in you. The Spirit testifies to you that God is for you and will never forsake you. He who has delivered up the Lord Jesus, will also provide for you all things. You find everything you need in Him by the witness of the Spirit. You also will continue to grow in assurance that you are a child of God. Your worship becomes more joyful. Your love for you enemies becomes more sincere.
- 4) There is good news for the one who does not know the Father. Go to the Lord Jesus Christ. At His feet you will find a relationship that is loving and faithful.

Questions:

1. In mortification, we turn away from the sin. But for each sin that we turn away from, there is a commandment to show us we should be doing. In each of these passages, state the sin we are to mortify and state the positive injunction related to it.

Eph 4:22-24

Eph 4:25

Eph 4:28

Eph 4:29

Eph 4:31,32

1 Thess 4:3,4

2. Name five aspects of our sonship that should aid us in mortifying our sins according to Romans 8:14-17.