

MUCH MORE

Sunday Morning: May 13, 2001

Text: Romans 5:8-14

We have been studying in Hebrews chapter two about Jesus Christ experiencing a death, called *thanatos* with the definite article *the* before it. That death was for the little children. The little children are those who are seeking to enter into the kingdom of heaven and they will be the one who will be great in the coming kingdom if they are not offended and quit.

We need to relate to the blessing provided the little children when Jesus experience *the thanatos*, the death.

An interesting thing in considering *the thanatos* is that Adam sinned, he sinned in the Garden of Eden. When Jesus dealt with Adam's falling away, he dealt with it in the Garden of Gethsemane. When Jesus Christ died on the cross he died for the sin of the whole world. There is a distinction of what transpired in the garden when he bruised the head of Satan and Satan bruised his heal. The bruising of the heal of Christ caused Christ to experience demotion within the God Head. Jesus is still deity but his roll in the God Head has changed. He is at the right hand of the Father. The Holy Spirit has a different roll in the God Head than God the Father. The Holy Spirit prays to God the Father. The Holy Spirit teaches us what God the Father tells him to teach us. It was not easy for Jesus Christ to be placed under God the Father for eternity. The chain of command changed, I believe, in the Garden of Gethsemane. 1 Corinthians 11:3 "But I would have you know, that the **head of every man is Christ**; and the head of the woman *is* the man; and **the head of Christ is God**." The permanent move of God the Father to be head over Christ was for the purpose of making it possible for us to not be demoted.

Keep in mind that when Jesus became a man he was less than the angel and was under the authority of his heavenly Father. I believe that in the garden Jesus submitted to being under the authority of the Father permanently. This was not easy for him to do.

I believe that if we have been chosen to be placed in a position of a Son we have the potential to enter into the kingdom of the heavens and reign. Even though we have been chosen to reign with him there is a possibility for us to be offended. Little children can be offended according to Matthew 18:6 "But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and *that* he were drowned in the depth of the sea." We are further challenged to make our calling and election sure in 2 Peter 1:10-11 "Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: *11*. For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." If we do not make our calling and election steadfast we will not have an abundant entrance in to the kingdom of our Lord. If we do not enter into the abundance of the coming kingdom, we will have experienced a demotion in rank. We will become servants rather than sovereigns in the coming kingdom of heaven.

Now Satan is going to do everything in his power to cause us to fail to enter into that kingdom and glory. Before Gethsemane, Satan had more power than he has today to accomplish this.

THE CROSS

Romans 5:8 "But **God commendeth his love** toward us, in that, **while** we were yet **sinners**, **Christ died for us**."

I take this verse to be dealing with those who are dead in trespasses and sins. While we were dead in sin, Christ died for us. We see that in the following verse.

GOD LOVED

John 3:16 "For **God** so **loved** the world, that he gave his only begotten Son,. . ."

God so loved Israel and the World that he have his only begotten Son for sinners. God's gift to the world made it possible for all of mankind to be saved.

THE LAMB DIED

John 1:29 "The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold **the Lamb of God**, which **taketh away the sin of the world.**"

The crowd that was present at the baptism of Jesus and the nation of Israel could relate to the statement of John.

In Hebrews 2:9 "But we see Jesus, . . .that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man." we are told that Jesus tasted death for every man. This is thanatos death without the definite article. In contrast to dieing for the sins of the whole world we see that Jesus suffered *the death* for the little children in Hebrews 2:14 "Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;" It was through this death that Jesus made it possible to limit the power of the devil to cause us to fail or be demoted.

Distinction: The cross took care of the world where the garden took care of the little children.

What was Jesus Christ doing in the garden? He was dealing with Satan. Satan was not the issue on the cross. Sin was being deal with on the cross.

The death of the lamb of God was sufficient to take away the sin of the world. No resurrection in the picture, jus the death of Jesus Christ.

MUCH MORE

Romans 5:9 "**Much more** then, being now **justified** by his **blood**, we shall be **saved from wrath** through him."

The phrase, *much more*, is taking us beyond the cross and the common salvation.

What does it mean to be justified by his blood? To be justified means that you will not be chargeable. When you stand before the judge and the officer is flipping through his ticket book, the officer will not be able to find your name. You are not chargeable and therefore you will not be sentenced by the judge. This justification is on the basis of the shed blood of Jesus Christ.

THE BLOOD CLEANSETH

1 John 1:7-9 "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. **8.** If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. **9.** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

When does the blood of Jesus Christ cleans us from sin? When we are walking in the light of his Word with him. When we are having fellowship with him. If you are not having fellowship with Jesus Christ, the blood of Christ is not effective for you. You have to maintain your fellowship. We maintain our fellowship through confession of our sins.

If we confess our sins and maintain our fellowship with the Lord in His Word we will not be chargeable. Confession of sins removes the charges. The Lord allows us to judge ourselves that we be not chargeable. Even though the Lord died on the cross for your sins, you still have to confess your sins or you will have to give an answer for those sins not confessed. 1 Corinthians 11:31 "For if we would **judge ourselves**, we should not be judged."

NOT CHARGEABLE

Romans 8:33-34 "Who shall lay any thing to the **charge** of God's elect? *It is God that justifieth.* 34. *Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.*"

These verse shows that those who are justified will not be charged.

Christ died for the sins of the whole world. The next two words are very significant! "Yea rather." He did die for the sins of the whole world. When you receive Jesus Christ as your personal savior your plate of sin is clean. Past sins are gone. You do not have to try to remember all your past sin, I believe. When you receive Jesus Christ as your savior your sins are gone. After salvation, then you maintain a daily life with Him by confessing un-confessed sins and feeding upon His Word. You are not in the Word of God and you are not confessing your sins, then you have sin on your slate. You are out of balance.

I will never forget a little bank in Decherd TN that I did some work on their accounting system. Back behind the teller's cages was a slate. The slate was mounted in a wooden frame and it had chalk and a eraser to go with it. On the slate was a figure. By the end of the days work the figure had to be zero or the slate could not be erased clean. An old fashion way of doing banking and it was a old fashion country bank. They were trying to modernize their bank with NCR equipment and that was the reason that I was their to help them.

When we sin our fellowship with the Lord is broken. It is essential for us to be reconciled. When are separated from the Lord we have departed from Him and we need to be brought back into fellowship and that take reconciliation. Jesus Christ is at the right had of God the Father so we can be cleansed because *Christ maketh intercession for us.*

CHARGEABLE ACTS

Ephesians 5:3-6 "But **fornication**, and all **uncleanness**, or **covetousness**, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; 4. Neither **filthiness**, nor foolish **talking**, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks. 5. For this ye know, that no **whoremonger**, nor **unclean** person, nor **covetous** man, who is an **idolater**, hath any **inheritance** in the **kingdom** of Christ and of God. 6. Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the **wrath of God** upon the children of disobedience."

This passage in Ephesians 5:3-6 disclose sins that are chargeable. This list is not an exhaustive list, but it is one that will help us to see that we can not live any way that we want to. Sexual sins, uncleanness and covetousness should not be named among us. Sin is not a becoming behavior of saints. Verse 5 just uses different words for the sins listed in verses three and four. If we are guilt of these sins we will be denied entrance into the kingdom of Christ and of God. Those who practice these sins are known as sons of disobedience. To be a son of disobedience one must practice these sins. The context makes reference to saints, this can happen to those who walk close to the Lord at one time and then stop.

The sons of disobedience are mature sinners and they will suffer the wrath or judgment of God. They will not lose their salvation but their inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. The saints who continue to be obedient and please God by faith will flee these sins and reign with Christ in his Kingdom.

THEY ALWAYS ERR

Hebrews 3:10-11 "Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway **err** in *their* heart; and they have not known my ways. 11. So I swear in my **wrath**, **They**

shall not enter into my rest.)"

The rest in the Old Testament is a type of the kingdom of heaven. Those who were 20 years old and older who left Egypt always err in their heart. They were stiff necked. They were hard hearted. They were rebellious. They murmured and complained about anything that God allowed to come their way. God allowed them to be thirsty, they complained. God allowed them to be hungry they complained. It was hot, it was dusty, it was grubby and no air conditioning or indoor plumbing. It was tough but God was not being mean, but he was proving them and he did a good job. He knew what they were made of and they found out what they were made of by the way they reacted to conditions they did not like.

The one who were disobedient and erred in their hearts were chargeable and they did not enter into the land flowing with milk and honey.

The same thing happens to a brother who errs from the truth.

LOSS OF KINGDOM LIFE

James 5:19-20 "Brethren, if any of you do **err** from the truth, and one convert him; *20*. Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner (brother) from the **error** of his way shall save a **soul** [or life] from **death** [θανάτος. (loss of preferred kingdom life, inheritance)], and shall hide a multitude of sins."

This is a brother in Christ who needs to be converted. Being converted is not being saved but coming back to the truth. The word *soul* can and is translated life and the life that is saved is a life of honor and glory in the coming kingdom. The opposite of life in the coming kingdom is thanatos death which the lose of life in the coming kingdom.

All of the saved will be living during the Millennium, the 1,000 year reign of Christ. Some will have the preferred life in the kingdom and others will not have that privilege. They will be demoted to a live that is not preferred.

Esau is an example of one who sacrifices his future on the altar of the immediate. He despised his birth right for a mess of chili or potage. Esau wanted to satisfy the flesh.

If you help a brother come back to the knowledge of the truth you are going to saved that brother from perishing and losing a preferred life in the coming kingdom.

How is a multitude of sins hidden? A brother who is converted is going to confess his sins repenting of the err. Returning to fellowship with the Lord will allow him not to be chargeable.

ENEMIES

Romans 5:10 "For if, when we were **enemies**, we were reconciled to God by **the death** of his Son, **much more**, being **reconciled**, we shall be **saved** (from the wrath, v. 9) by **his life** (as our high priest, 1 John 1:9)."

Where does reconciliation come from? I believe it comes from *the death of his Son* in the garden. This death is *the thanatos* death of the God's Son. I believe the names that are used are significant and play a major roll in interpreting the Word of God. Jesus tasted death [thanatos], without the definite article, for every man on the cross. Hebrews 2:9 "But we see Jesus, . . . by the grace of God should taste death for every man." It was the Son of God that experienced death the garden of Gethsemane. In Romans 5:10 the word *death* has the definite article before it, therefore it is speaking of a particular death and I believe it was the death in Gethsemane.

Much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. The words *much more* indicate that there is more after reconciliation and that is to be saved or delivered by his life. What will we be saved from? I believe it is from the wrath referred to in verse 9. I believe it is the wrath that will

be awarded at the judgment seat of Christ. That wrath is referred to in 1 Thessalonians 1:10 "And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, *even* Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come." The word *delivered* is a present middle participle and Jesus is the one delivering us from that wrath by giving us the means to live a victorious life for him. It is his life as our high priest that enables us to have the power to live a life that would not bring judgment and the loss of rewards. If we are not reconciled we are not in fellowship with the Lord and He is limited in what he can do for us while we resist is grace.

Reference is made to a time when we were enemies of God in verse 10. This is not referring to the time when we were lost and therefore the enemies of God, but when we were saved and became a friend of the world.

UNFAITHFUL

James 4:4 "Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."

Who are the enemies of God? The use of the words adulterers and adulteresses is used in the sense of those who are unfaithful. If you are unfaithful to God you are his enemy. When you are unfaithful to God you are not under His authority. If we are a friend of the world, we are the enemies of God. As a friend of the world we try to please the World and when we are trying to please the world we are not pleasing God. Luke 16:15 ". . . for that which is **highly esteemed** among men (the world) is **abomination** in the sight of God."

SELF WILLED

Luke 19:27 "But those **mine enemies**, which would **not** that I should **reign over them**, bring hither, and slay *them* before me."

An enemy of God is one who will not allow God to reign over them. With the use of the word *slay* indicates the wrath of God on his enemies. These are saved who would not allow the Lord rule their lives. The servant that did not gain any pounds is counted as the enemy of God and not being rewarded any cities comes under the category of being slain.

We need to let the Lord be in charge of our lives.

RECONCILIATION

Romans 5:11 "And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have **now** received the **atonement** [reconciliation]."

The word *atonement* should be translated *reconciliation*. The Lord Jesus Christ has made possible for us to be reconciled. We need to rejoice in that fact. This something to rejoice over. When our fellowship is broken it does not have to be permanent, it is temporary, if we want it to be temporary. Notice the word *now*. We do not have to wait till Sunday to be reconciled. We can apply 1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." and reconciled NOW.

HUSBAND AND WIFE

1 Corinthians 7:11 "But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be **reconciled** to *her* **husband**: and let not the husband put away *his* wife."

I have included this verse so that we can see what reconciliation means. Here we have a man and woman that have been joined in marriage and they have become one flesh. Because of some differences one of them departs, as in this case, the woman departs. If she does depart she is not to marry another so that reconciliation can be accomplished at some later date.

For a husband and wife to be reconciled they need to come back together in fellowship.

THROUGH THANATOS

Colossians 1:21-23 "And you, that were sometime alienated and **enemies** in *your* mind by **wicked works**, yet **now** hath he **reconciled**

Reference is made to those at Colossi that were alienated and enemies in the past by their wicked works. These, I believe, were in the family of God and alienated themselves from God by wicked works. This is not those who were dead in sins, but those who became enemies of God by wicked works. Paul tells them that NOW hath Christ reconciled them.

NOT CHARGEABLE

22. In the body of his flesh through [the] **death**, to present you **holy** and **unblameable** and **unreproveable** in his sight:

This reconciliation was made possible through **the death** [θανάτος]. This death took place in his body of flesh and I believe it happened in the Garden of Gethsemane. When Jesus accepted the will of the Father to suffer **the death**, He was making it possible for us to be holy, unblameable and unreproveable in his presence. Through *the* death, his demotion, he accepted the consequences of our wicked works, which would be *the death*, that would mean demotion to a place of servitude in Christ coming kingdom.

If we are holy, unblameable, and unreproveable will we be chargeable? No! We do not want to get to the judgment seat of Christ with a list of charges against our account. He made that possible when he accepted the will of the Father, thanatos, in the Garden of Gethsemane.

By way of review. Before Christ accepted thanatos, Satan had greater power and authority to cause us to be defeated and suffer thanatos ourselves. A good example of that is the nation of Israel who rebelled again the Lord and lived evil and wicked lives. Ezekiel saw a vision of the glory of the Lord departing the Temple. The sins of the priesthood very wicked. The priest had idols set up in the Temple that the people on the outside could not see.

Another example of how Satan was able to defeat God's people is found in the ten northern tribes of Israel. These ten tribes went under the heading of Ephraim. Ephraim had been place before Manasseh the first born. That meant that Ephraim had the blessing and birthright of the firstborn but was rejected because of their sin.

Because of the rebellion of the nation of Israel they were denied position of honor and glory in the coming kingdom of the heavens. You see this in the Gospels. When the word of the kingdom was taught, Satan was able to take that word away from most of them. He was able through persecution to cause many to stop believing the word of the kingdom and depart from the faith. Satan was able to distract many that had heard the word of the kingdom and resist the persecution, but the cares of this world and money choked the word and they stopped producing fruit that allow them to enter into the kingdom of the heavens.

I would remind all of us that Satan does have power to cause us to stumble, but not the same power he had before Christ's thanatos in Gethsemane. Hebrews 2:14 "Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through [the] **death** [thanatos] he **might** destroy [render his power idle] him that had the power of [the] **death** [thanatos], that is, the devil;"

CONDITIONAL

23. **If ye continue** in the faith grounded and settled, and **be not moved** away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, *and* which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;"

We will not be chargeable if we continue pleasing God. How do we please God? By continuing in the faith. If we continue in the faith we will be holy, unblameable, and unproveable. If we do not continue in the faith we will be chargeable. What will help us to be grounded and settle so that we do not depart from the faith? It is the hope of the gospel of the glory of Christ kingdom.

When we move away from the hope and do not continue in the faith, Jesus Christ has made it possible for us to be reconciled to Him.

ADAM'S THANATOS

Romans 5:12 "Wherefore, as by one man [the] sin (lawlessness) entered into the world, and [the] death [thanatos] by sin; and so [the] death [thanatos] passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:"

The sin of Adam was the sin of lawlessness. The sin of lawlessness causes the thanatos and thanatos was passed on to all men for all have sinned the sin of lawlessness.

The sin of Adam caused him to be demoted and that demotion was passed on to all men. We will look at that in the following verses.

The following verse defines **the sin** as lawlessness.

LAWLESSNESS

1 John 3:4 "Everyone who practices [the] sin also practices [the] lawlessness; and [the] sin is [the] lawlessness." (NASB)

When we practice lawlessness we are saying that we have the right to practice certain sins. When we practice sin, we do not confess that sin because we contend that we have the right to do that sin. The sin we will not confess is the willful sin and there is no sacrifice provided for the willful sin and we will have to bear the consequences for that sin. We will not lose our salvation, but we will suffer the wrath of God at the judgment seat of Christ.

THANATOS IN THE GARDEN

Genesis 2:17 "But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die [thanatos, LXX]."

Here in Genesis 2:17 we see God warning Adam about the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and not to eat of it. The Septuagint uses the word thanatos is telling him what he will experience if he eats of that tree.

What happen when Adam ate of the tree? Adam lost dominion over the earth and the animal kingdom. He was expelled from the blessing of the Garden of Eden and placed under of the earth brought about because of their sin.

IN THE GARDEN

Mark 14:34 "And saith unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful unto [thanatos] death: . . ."

It is no accident that what Adam suffered in the garden of Eden Jesus Christ also suffered in the garden of Gethsemane. Adam was demoted in the Eden and Jesus was demoted in Gethsemane. Jesus soul was exceeding sorrowful unto thanatos. As Adam's demotion was passed down to all men the acceptance of demotion by Christ was so that all of those who have been called unto his kingdom and glory may be promoted to dominion over the earth.

Jesus Christ was not deceived but willingly accepted the will of the Father so that the little children will would be able to enter into the kingdom of the heavens.

NOT DECEIVED

1 Timothy 2:14 "And Adam was **not deceived**, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression."

Neither was Adam deceived. Eve had been deceived by the power of Satan and she experienced thanatos. By experiencing thanatos, she was demoted from dominion over the earth and the animal kingdom. Adam willingly took upon himself her sin and the consequences of her sin that she might be brought back into the blessing of having dominion over the earth. In other word, to rule and reign with her husband as the bride will reign with Christ over the earth during the millennium.

SIN NOT IMPUTED

Romans 5:13 "(For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law."

The only law that Adam and Eve had was not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The Lord also have them a charge to dress and keep the garden. There is no law with regards to the offering of animal sacrifices other than what is found in Genesis 4:3 "And in process of time it came to pass, . . ." *In the process of time* or *at the end of days* may be indicate that offerings were made at a special time.

THANATOS REIGNED

Romans 5:14 "Nevertheless [the] **death reigned** from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come."

Verse 14 picks up with the word *nevertheless*, which means, even though there was no law given by God to control the behavior of man, sin was in the world and death reigned because of the sin of lawlessness. Before Moses, the fathers were afraid of thanatos death. Hebrews 2:15 "And **deliver** them who through **fear of death** [thanatos] were **all their** lifetime subject to bondage."

I wondered for a long time why **the death** [thanatos] reigned from Adam to Moses. It dawned on me that through out the book of Genesis that there is no mention in the scriptures of the blood of the animals sacrificed. This changed in Exodus 12 with the sprinkling of the blood of the pass-over lamb. The offering of Able was with out the shedding of blood, but in type the Lord introduced the shedding of blood with Moses.

BLOOD OF SPRINKLING

Hebrews 12:24 "And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than *that of Abel* (no blood shed)."

Hebrews 9:22 "And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission." The word *remission* is translated in other passages will helps us to understand that word means. A prime example of that is in Luke 4:18 "The Spirit of the Lord *is* upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach **deliverance** [remission] to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at **liberty** [remission] them that are bruised," It is the shed blood that will provide us deliverance from the bondage of sin and Satan.

We have already study about the death of thanatos in Hebrews 2 for the sanctified brethren and the little children who are seeking to enter into the kingdom of the heavens. Associated with his agony with thanatos is Luke 22:44 "And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great **drops of blood falling down** to the ground." I believe we are delivered from the bondage and power of Satan through the shed blood of the Jesus Christ.

WHAT REIGNS?

Romans 5:21 "That as [the] sin hath **reigned** unto death [thanatos], even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord."

If we have been called unto his kingdom and glory we need to ask ourselves what reigns in our lives. What is in charge of our lives. Is the sin of lawlessness in charge or is grace in charge. If grace reigns through righteousness it will lead to an everlasting life. This is not being born from above. An everlasting life is the heavenly inheritance that has been offered to those who have been called unto His kingdom and glory want to enjoy during the millennium. Matthew 22:14 "For **many** are **called**, but few are **chosen**." Grace will reign if Jesus Christ has his place of prominence in our lives. He is the one that provides us with grace at the throne of grace if we obtain mercy. If we are living in unrighteousness grace will not be provided and therefore reign. It is by the righteousness through obedience that grace can reign. You can't live in sin and expect grace to reign.

If we allow the sin of lawlessness to reign we will lose what we would have gained if grace reigned. Thanatos is the loss of an everlasting life. This everlasting life is a life of honor and glory in the kingdom age when Christ reigns for 1,000 years.

Christ has made it possible for us to overcome the sin of lawlessness. Christ has made it possible for us to overcome Satan and his power to cause us to enter into thanatos. Satan can not remove us from the family of God, but he still has some power to cause us to fail the grace of God and lose our glorious inheritance in Christ coming kingdom.