

Mortify the Deeds of the Body

(Rom 8:12-13)

- I. **Mortify**- Paul enters upon sanctification here in the context for the 1st time
 - A) **Therefore**- Paul gives reasons why we are to live as Christians:
 1. Because we are not “in the flesh” (v.9)
 - i. It is ridiculous and foolish to try to be something you are not
 - ii. Imagine a person striving for US citizenship only to continue to pay taxes to their original country
 2. Because the flesh has no right to us or claim over us
 - i. Paul has stated this many times: Rom 5:21, 6:14, 7:5
 - ii. Compare slaves that were freed in Civil War only to remain slaves because they did not know they were freed
 - a) They didn’t need a “2nd act,” they needed to hear the truth and believe it, then act accordingly
 3. Because sin is now only a temporary remainder or residual, on its way out
 - i. Rom 8:11- Spirit is alive, body is dead
 - a) Thus to live for the body is foolish and unreasonable, poor investment
 - b) We have been resurrected, but still have the grave clothes like Lazarus
 - c) Col 3:1-4- We need to set our affections above, not below
 4. Because the body will be changed and made new
 - i. All that belongs to it now is death and loss
 - a) The fact of the new body tells me the old body has no eternal value and is to be written off completely, like bad debt
 5. Because the Spirit dwells in us and to do otherwise grieves the Holy Spirit
 - i. Gal 5:17- Spirit and flesh at war
 - B) **Debtors**- The Christian realizes certain truths about himself
 1. **What I was**
 - i. We were born slaves to sin and are totally unworthy of God’s mercy
 - a) Paul has proven this point in Rom ch 1-3, and the Christian doesn’t argue with this assessment
 - b) Sin and the flesh have caused me all my misery all my life
 - 1) I should want nothing more to do with that old life
 2. **What I am**
 - i. We are saved by grace alone through the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ
 - a) Paul has proven this point in Rom ch 3b-5

- b) My sins cost my Savior such incredible pain and suffering and death
 - 1) How can I make light of that by continuing “in the flesh”
- c) 2 Cor 5:14-17- Realizes these truths, the logical conclusion is indebtedness to Christ and righteousness
 - 1) In the context Paul is showing us debtors to the Holy Spirit Who dwells in us

3. What I will be

- i. Rom 8:11- Christ is going to quicken/change my body to be like His
 - a) It is utter foolishness to allow my dying fleeting body to rule me in the short time it has left
 - b) Therefore I should seek to kill (mortify) what’s left of sin in me

II. Means of sanctification

A) God’s process is by the changing of the will through means of the mind

- 1. Rom 6:17- Doctrine 1st, not will
 - i. Sanctification is not by a 2nd experience or a victory in moment of crisis/surrender
 - ii. John 17:17- Sanctify them through Thy truth
 - iii. Eph 5:26-27- Washing of water by the word
- 2. Sanctification is by a “therefore”
 - i. God gave man his mind and ability to reason, and it is through this gift that God addresses us
 - a) The understanding must be changed before the behavior ever can be
 - b) Sanctification is never about the sheer will power of man
 - 1) Man in his own will will only serve self, never God
 - 2) Matt 12:43-45- The uselessness of self-reformation

B) The whole of scripture attests to the fact of our obligation to act:

- 1. Rom 12:1-2- Made willing by the changing of the mind
- 2. 1 Cor 6:13-16- Our action prompted by right thinking (as in Rom 8:11)
- 3. 1 Cor 9:24-27- Run to obtain
- 4. 2 Cor 6:14-7:1- Action based upon promises believed
- 5. Gal 5:16 & 24- Walking in crucified affections
- 6. Eph 4:1- Walk worthy of the vocation
- 7. Eph 4:17-30- Do not walk in a darkened mind, put off the old man
 - i. V.23- “Be renewed in the spirit of your mind”
- 8. Phil 2:12-13- “Work out”
- 9. Phil 3:16-21- “Follow, walk, mark” right up to the new body
- 10. Col 3:1-10- “Set affection” (desires, ambitions, lusts)
- 11.1 Thess 4:1-5- “Possess your vessel in sanctification and honor”
- 12.1 Tim 6:11-16- Man of God, act!
- 13.2 Tim 2:19-22- Depart, flee, purge

- 14. Tit 2:11-13- Denying, looking for the hope (resurrection)
- 15. Heb 12:1-3- Look to Christ's example and act
- 16. James 1:22-27- Be doers!
- 17. James 4:7-8- Submit, resist, cleanse
- 18. 1 Pet 1:13- Gird up, be sober, hope
- 19. 1 Pet 2:11- Abstain from flesh that harms soul
- 20. 1 Pet 3:10-11- Refrain, eschew
- 21. 1 Pet 4:1-5- Arm yourselves with promises of God
- 22. 1 Pet 5:8-9- Be sober and vigilant
- 23. 1 John 2:3-6- Keep commandments
- 24. 1 John 3:1-3- Purify based on hope of new body