

Victorious Living (Rom 7:6)

- Paul in this section is addressing the 2 main accusations against his preaching:
¹“This leads to antinomianism”, and ²“you’re making the Law of no affect”
- Both of these are accusations against the gospel, claiming it ruins holy living
- Paul goes on to show that it is actually only the gospel that can produce holy living

I. Letter -vs- Spirit

A) Terms

1. “Letter”- writing, that which is put down externally
 - i. All are born “slaves to writing” (Saul)
2. “Spirit”- Holy Spirit
 - i. All born again become “slaves to Spirit” (Paul)

B) Dispensational error

1. They make “letter” refer to the time before the cross and the Old Covenant, whereas “Spirit” they make at some point after the cross
2. This cannot be true as no Old testament saint could be saved
3. Paul proves Abraham’s salvation the same as ours, thus Abraham was “in newness of Spirit”
 - i. 2 Cor 3- Proper understanding of this passage clears up the disp. error

C) Contrast of “life under the letter” and “life in the Spirit”

1. Difference between external and internal relationship to God and His Law
 - i. Ink -vs- Spirit (2 Cor 3:3-6)
 - ii. Stone heart-vs- Fleshly heart (Jer 31:31-34)
 - iii. Outward -vs- inward working (Phil 2:12-13)
2. True understanding of the purpose of the Law
 - i. 2 Cor 3:7-16- Law “veiled” to the lost
 - ii. Rom 10:1-4- Jews thought/think Law is method of salvation
 - iii. Gal 3:24- Truth is the Law is a schoolmaster to lead to Christ
 - iv. Rom 3:19-20- The Law can only condemn, not save (Rom 8:3)
3. True understanding of the “Spirit” and the “letter” of the Law
 - i. Pharisees saw only the letter
 - a) Rom 7:8-9- like Paul once was
 - b) Phil 3:4-8- Truth reveals our righteousness as dung
 - c) Once we see the truth concerning sin and our heart, our former “works of righteousness” become our shame and our “filthy rags”
 - 1) Only the person “in the Spirit” can see this

- ii. Matt 5:17-31- Jesus teaches true meaning of Law is “Spirit”
 - a) It’s not enough that I do not “do it”, but do I “desire” to do it?
 - b) Luke 16:15- The Lord looks on the heart, the true problem
 - c) Rom 13:10- Love is fulfilling of Law
- iii. Phil 3:4-8- Paul made to understand the difference
- 4. True motive for righteous living
 - i. The old motive was:
 - a) Fear of God/hell- This is self preservation and self-interest
 - b) Morality- self-perception or concern for public perception
 - ii. The new motive is:
 - a) Love of Christ and others
 - b) Desire to please God and serve Him
 - c) Desire to show thanksgiving and praise to God
 - d) Desire for others to have the same gift
 - 1) 2 Cor 5:14-15- Love now constraining us
 - 2) The Christian is not simply seeking help with his problems, but is desiring to be done with “self”
- 5. Victorious living in the Spirit -vs- defeated life under letter
 - i. Rom 8:15- No longer under spirit of bondage
 - ii. 2 Tim 1:7- Not received spirit of fear
 - a) No longer hopeless and in despair at failure, but now hungering for righteousness
 - b) Acts 15:7-11- No longer under yoke of bondage
 - c) Matt 11:28-30- “Take my yoke upon you”
 - iii. 1 John 5:3- “His commandments are not grievous”
 - iv. 2 Cor 3:17- “Liberty”
 - v. Assurance:
 - a) Our sins are forgiven (Luke 7:36-50)
 - b) Victory over sin
 - c) Victory over death
 - d) God is our Father (Rom 8:15-17)
 - e) Certainty of sanctification (Phil 1:6, Rom 5:10)
 - f) Hope of glory (1 John 3:3)
 - g) Peace with God (Rom 5:1)
- 6. Real power present for righteous living
 - i. Rom 8:3 -vs- Rom 10:5
 - ii. 2 Pet 1:3-4- Partakers of the divine nature
 - iii. Rom 8:13- “Through the Spirit”
 - iv. 2 Tim 1:7- “Spirit of power”
 - v. 1 John 4:4- “Greater is He that is in you” (John ch 14-16)

7. New results (failure -vs- fruit)
 - i. Rom 7:4- Fruit unto God -vs- death, loss (2 Cor 3:6- “letter killeth)
 - ii. 2 Cor 3:18- “Being changed into glory”
 - iii. Rom 8:29- “Conformed to His image”
 - iv. Eph 5:27- Perfected in His presence