

A Call To Battle

(Rom 8:12-13)

I. “Therefore”

A) Paul now comes to the 1st practical application in ch 8

1. These verses are the exhortation following the doctrine of v.5-11
 - i. The exhortation is always a good way to confirm your interpretation of the doctrine
 - ii. This exhortation prevents Antinomianism: failure to put into practice what you profess to believe
 - a) “Understanding and believing the correct doctrines are all that matters”- Antinomian mantra
2. We must have a “therefore” in our Christianity
 - i. James 1:22-25- Be a doer and not a hearer only

B) This exhortation teaches the New Testament method of sanctification

1. Negative

- i. This is not “Perfectionism”
 - a) This teaching says that the Christian may come into a state sinless perfection, where sin is totally eradicated
 - 1) This is normally said to occur in a moment, at once, by some 2nd experience, such as the baptism of the Holy Spirit, or the “2nd work of grace”
- ii. This is not “Surrender-ism”
 - a) This teaching also says that certain Christians rise to the next level in a moment by full surrender of the will to God
 - 1) “Let go and let God”
 - 2) “Give up the struggle, simply hand it over to God”
 - 3) “Just abide in Him and He does it all”
 - b) This teaching addresses man by his will, which is not the method of God
 - 1) “Are you willing to be made willing”
 - 2) “Have you achieved full surrender?”
- iii. Both of these teaching would mean that Paul was introducing new doctrine here at this point
 - a) But Paul is simply applying the doctrine just laid down
- iv. It is interesting to note that the men who promote these teachings generally do so by way of “secondary passages”
 - a) For instance, the most popular proponent of this uses Luke 13:10-13 (the woman bent over)

- b) Another bases his upon the story of Balaam via allegory
- c) One popular writer based his claim upon Acts 15:7-11 and 26:16-18
 - 1) But in the context surely it is the setting aside of justification that is meant, not the ongoing sanctification of the believer

2. Positive

- i. Sanctification is not an event, it is a lifelong process
 - a) Paul doesn't say "surrender", but instead he says "mortify"
 - 1) Mortify= present – indicative- active (you do it and go on doing it)
 - (a) Means "to put to death," or "to render extinct", "to subdue"
- ii. Sanctification is a call to action on the part of the believer, knowing he is indwelt by the Spirit
 - a) As in Rom 6:11-13
 - b) Paul is basically saying "those are the facts, now apply them"
 - c) Eph 6:10-18- Christianity is warfare
 - 1) 1 Cor 16:13- "Quit you like men"
 - 2) Eph 4:22-24- "Put off the old man"
- iii. Nowhere in the New Testament are we ever given instructions for "full surrender" or obtaining some instant experience
 - a) In Rom 8:12 Paul does not say "Having handed it all over" or "having reached full surrender"
 - 1) Instead, he is saying "if you have understood these things (especially v.5-11) now put them into practice each day in your Christian walk
 - 2) Or "Therefore, realizing what is true of you in Spirit as well as in body, now act accordingly"
 - (a) Thus notice the word "debtor"
 - (1) The Christian is a debtor to God and His grace and nothing else
 - (2) The Christian is under no obligation to his flesh whatsoever, all the flesh has ever done is to cause him harm