

## Change What? ...Knowing Yourself

Change (Pt. 2)

June 30, 2024

**INTRO** ...Remember, Rom 8 begins by introducing us to a New Day and a New Deal! ...the Post-Pentecost Day that emphasizes the Ministry of the Spirit—

... "Something Changed, So That We Could Change!"

### What HAS Changed? ...What CAN Now Change?

**Rom 8:1-4** ...*What Has Changed HERE?* ...Justification/Rightness with God has changed! ...the meeting of the requirement of righteousness! ...the satisfying of God's Righteousness

v. 1 ...judgment & condemnation has changed

v. 2 ...**Freedom from being bound to the Law has changed— Rom 7:1-6**

...There is an abiding sense of "moral rightness" in our world! ...Something in us feels OBLIGATED or ACCOUNTABLE to Righteousness (which is revealed in the Law).

**Rom 3:21-24** *But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— <sup>22</sup> the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus*

— There is a connection between righteousness and the glory of God (the image of God)

Our "RIGHTEOUSNESS" has CHANGED!! ...That is a change in STATUS ...a change in God's ACCEPTANCE of Us ...there's been an "IMPUTATION" of Righteousness!

### What CAN Change? ...as a Result of What HAS Changed

**Rom 8:3-4** *"God has done ...By sending his own son... <sup>4</sup> in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit."*

— The Full Gospel Story Includes the Expression of God's Life in RIGHTEOUSNESS! ...Thus it is not complete to only tell of the Justifying Dimension of the Gospel

" 'Christians aren't perfect,' the old saying goes, 'just forgiven.' But that's only partially true. ...Yes, there's unfathomable encouragement in knowing our sins have been completely paid for. But we're forgiven so that we might be different. We're justified so that we might be sanctified. Although we'll never be perfect in this life, God is committed to making us like Jesus. ...As we behold the Lord's glory, the Spirit of God is at work to transform us into the image of God's Son. This is one of the primary reasons we gather—to behold and be changed." **Bob Kauflin**, "Worship Matters", p. 143

"One catalyst for this book was the prevalence of 'Just remember the cross' teachings about sanctification. ...Here are some of the catchphrases that claim to describe the essential dynamic of sanctification: 'meditate on your justification'; 'remember the gospel'; 'contemplate the cross'; 'preach the gospel to yourself'; 'realize you are accepted by Christ's performance, not yours.' Each of these exhortations can be applied in a way that is very helpful. ...these phrases can become misleading both pastorally and personally. Other helpful, needful things get drowned out. Standing alone, these statements lead to the following generalizations: 'Sanctification essentially involves the activity of remembering, believing, and resting on justification.' ...'The attempt at self-justification through performance is the deepest, most persistent, and most significant problem hindering and necessitating sanctification.' ... 'When the Bible says to "make every effort", the struggle of the Christian life is about the work of remembering that we are justified and accepted by what Christ has done. Sanctification is not about our behavior, but about clinging to Christ's mercy.' ...These generalizations are simply not true. The Bible explicitly shows and tells something different." **David Powlison**, "How Does Sanctification Work?", p. 53-54

**So... This "Change" (in Our Justification/Righteous Status) has opened the door to "Another Change"!!** ...Imputing Righteousness to Us creates a "Dwelling Place" for the Presence of God—Thus WE are Now the TEMPLE of God. He dwells in us by the Spirit.

— **This means our "Daily-Real-Life Attitudes & Actions" Can Also Change!**

**...BUT!!— In the "Here" of the "Now-and-not-yet" of God's purpose—We are CONFLICTED Creatures!** ...We ARE the Righteousness of God in Christ AND We Have the Heavenly Promises of God Fully Set in a TRUST ACCOUNT!! ...YET, we are Not Yet Free of Humanity's Fallen Corruption— THIS is where the Language of "THE FLESH" informs life's conversation.

## **"The FLESH"**

**Rom 7:14** "...I am of the flesh, sold under sin" ...**Rom 7:18** "nothing good dwells in my flesh" ...**1Cor 3:3** for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way?

- **"Weak"** (**Rom 8:3** "For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do.")
- **"Corrupt"** ...**Gal 6:8** For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.
- **"A Mindset"** ... **Rom 8:5-6** For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. 6 For to set the mind on the flesh is death
- **"A HOSTILE Force"** ...**Rom 8:7** "For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed it cannot." ...**1Pet 2:11** Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.
- **It has "Desires" of Its Own** ... **Gal 5:16-17** But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit
- **It's Corruption is Multi-Faceted...** **Gal 5:19-21** Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, <sup>20</sup> idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, <sup>21</sup> envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these.
- **It is "Opportunistic"** ...**Gal 5:13** For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another."
- The Flesh seems to be "Programmable" and Can Develop Its Own Sense of "MUSCLE MEMORY" or REFLEXES!!

**...Why Does This Understanding Matter?**

— Because when we go to do life —We are Going to Encounter FORCES! (Forces of Righteousness and Forces of Unrighteousness). ...the 3 Primary Unrighteous Forces are: **“The WORLD” ... “The FLESH” ... “The DEVIL”**

## **“YOUR FLESH”**

(...not generic, human flesh—but YOUR Particular Flesh!)

...Our “Flesh” is also UNIQUE! ...it has a Particular “BENT” or “Tendencies” or “Impulses” or “Hesitancies” or “Habits” or “Reflexes” ...the biblical descriptors of “weak, hostile, corrupt, mindset, etc.” has variations and uniqueness! — MY Flesh has it’s own categories of ‘weakness’ that may not be like yours! ... “corruption” is in my flesh in ways that you don’t experience ... my flesh’s “default mindset” tunes into certain pre-programmed radio stations—Do I have Mine Memorized?

### **Are You Appropriately Studying Your Own “SELF” ...or just Concepts ABOUT the Self?**

**Psalms 139:23-24** <sup>23</sup> *Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts!*

<sup>24</sup> *And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!*

**Ps 26:2** *Prove me, O LORD, and try me; test my heart and my mind.*

**Jer 17:10** *“I the LORD search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds.”*

**Do We Know Ourselves?** ...Our Flesh Leaves a Unique Fingerprint on Whatever it Touches!

**How do I get to know ME??? ...Prayer & the Word! ...Spirit & Truth!**

“...prayer is not simply the solitary exploration of your own subjectivity. You are with Another, and he is unique. God is the only person from whom you can hide nothing. Before him you will unavoidably come to see yourself in a new, unique light. Prayer, therefore, leads to a self-knowledge that is impossible to achieve any other way.” **Tim Keller**, “Prayer,” p. 12

**Heb 4:12-13** <sup>12</sup> *For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.* <sup>13</sup> *And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.*

**The Story of One Who Came to Know Himself...** King David was a Complicated Man!...

**Psalms 131** *[I Have Calmed and Quieted My Soul - A SONG OF ASCENTS. OF DAVID]*

<sup>1</sup> *O LORD, my heart is not lifted up; my eyes are not raised too high; I do not occupy myself with things too great and too marvelous for me.*

<sup>2</sup> *But I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with its mother; like a weaned child is my soul within me.*

<sup>3</sup> *O Israel, hope in the LORD from this time forth and forevermore.*

“Psalm 131 is show-and-tell for how to become peaceful inside. ...This person is quiet on the inside because he has learned the only true and lasting composure. He shares the details of what the peace that passes understanding is like (Phil. 4:7). ...Amazingly, this man isn’t noisy inside. He isn’t busy-busy-busy. Not obsessed. Not on edge. The to-do list and pressures to achieve don’t consume him. Ambition doesn’t churn inside. Failure and despair don’t haunt him. Anxiety isn’t spinning him into free fall. He isn’t preoccupied with thinking up the next thing he wants to say. Regrets don’t corrode his inner experience. Irritation and dissatisfaction don’t devour him. He’s not stumbling through the mine field of blind longings and fears. ...He’s quiet. ...Are you quiet inside? Is Psalm 131 your experience, too? When your answer is No, it naturally invites follow-up questions. What is the ‘noise’ going on inside you? Where does it come from? How do you get busy and preoccupied? Why? Why do you lose your composure? When do you get worried, irritable, wearied, or hopeless? How can you regain composure? Do you need to learn it for the first time?” **David Powlison**, “Peace, be still: Learning Psalm 131 by Heart”