

Notes for: Empowerment for Obedience

Introduction

Expectations: What God does expect from us?/What we can expect from God?

(1) Our Identity In Christ (Romans 6:1-11)

- **The conversion experience: judicial transaction/spiritual transformation**
 - >> results in an inner transformation of the individual believer (2 Corinthians 5:17)
 - >> a past event with present impact (Romans 6:8-14)
- **The first imperative of the epistle**
 - >> none issued by Paul until Romans 6:11
 - >> importance of emphasizing doctrine before practice
- **The all-important daily reckoning: “logizomai”**
 - >> establishing the consciousness of a new identity by faith (Romans 6:11)
 - >> not sinless perfection: old nature/new nature struggle (Romans 7:14-25)
- **The failed alternative of legalism (Romans 7:10-13)**
 - >> trying to obey a series of do’s and don’ts out of a sense of guilt
 - >> no different than secular self-improvement
- **Perfection versus Process (2 Peter 1:2-11)**
 - >> Christian life never portrayed as achieving a state of perfection here and now
 - >> Christian life always portrayed as a process of spiritual growth here and now

(2) Our Walk in the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18; Galatians 5:16-26)

- **The provision of power in the form of a Person (John 14:16-17; Romans 8:9)**
 - >> new identity involves a new nature and the indwelling Holy Spirit
 - >> the purpose of His indwelling: our empowerment
- **The prerequisite for our empowerment (“be filled”)**
 - >> God’s mandate to us for surrendering “control” of our lives to the Spirit
 - >> present tense, moment by moment, continuing, conscious submission
- **The parallel relationship**
 - >> hand in glove; electrical cord plugged into the outlet: daily walk
 - >> “fruit of the Spirit” versus “deeds of the flesh” (Galatians 5:19-23)

(3) The Apostle Paul’s Greatest Personal Victory (Philippians 4:13)

- **Breaking Free From The Bondage of Greed (Romans 7:7-13)**
- **Learning To Be Content In Whatever Circumstance (Philippians 4:10-12)**