

"WEEKLY WISDOM"
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For The Week of 02.08.10

"WHAT IS RULING YOUR LIFE?"

Rom. 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life [which is] in Christ Jesus [the law of our new being] has freed me from the law of sin and of death.
AMP

Years ago when I was about 17 years old I was pursuing to become the very best bull rider I could be. For the first four years of my bull riding career I was really bad. To make a qualified ride and get a score you had to stay on the back of your bull for eight seconds. I had only made one qualified ride in those first four years of riding bulls. My dad had even suggested that maybe it was time to try something else. But I was so determined to become a good bull rider I just wouldn't quit.

Part of the problem was the fact that the only people around me during those four years that were trying to help me were as bad as I was. Finally the day came when I had someone who was very good at riding bulls take me under his wing and began to help me. We went to a bull riding school in Colorado and things began to turn around. The first really good successful ride I made was a big break through for me on the second day of our school. Unfortunately after I heard the whistle blow I was so excited I lost my focus, got jerked down under my bull and he stepped on my leg and broke it.

For the next six months of my life I was in bondage to a cast on my leg. It controlled much of what I could or could not do. Not only that but my leg at the same time lost much of it's muscle mass and became very weak. One of the most exciting days of my life back then was the day my doctor cut off that cast. I had been liberated and I was finally free to use my leg once again for what it was created for. I hope I haven't bored you with my story, but it is very similar to what has happened to man. When Adam sinned he put humans through that sin in bondage. We were in bondage to sin, death, and all that resulted from sin. But praise God when Jesus Christ came and paid the price for our sin and we accept that payment the cast is cut off. Every born again believer now has the ability to walk in the type of life that God desired from the beginning. We can now draw near to God and walk in the abundant life Jesus brought to us.

As a believer in Jesus Christ we have now been placed under the law or rule of the Spirit of life which is in Christ Jesus. This very Spirit of life has set us free from the law of sin and death. The rule of sin and death also includes all that came as a result of sin. This has already been done, yet many believers are still being ruled by sin, the effects of sin such as sickness, disease, poverty, etc., and by the fear of death. Why?

To help answer that question I want to share a story with you about a great man of God by the name of John G. Lake. He was born in the 1800's. He received Christ at the age of 16. In 1908 he answered a call to go to South Africa. During his time there they had a terrible outbreak of cholera which was so bad that Lake and others were burying at times up to five people per grave. God had been using Lake to do many healing miracles. During the cholera outbreak some missionary doctors had come to the region with a vaccine. After they had found out that Lake had been there for some time and had not contracted the disease they told him they needed to give him the vaccine.

Brother Lake told these doctors that he did not need the vaccine. He went on to tell them that if they wanted too they could get some of the disease which was easily found in the bloody froth that came from people's mouths when they died and put it on his hand. They could then look at it under their microscope and they would see the disease die. They took him up on his offer. They put some of the disease on his hand and looked at it under a microscope. It died as they examined it. Brother Lake told them it would do so because the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus had set him free from the law of sin and death. You see he had such a revelation of who he was now in Christ that the effects of sin itself could not rule over him.

Gal. 3:13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "*Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree*"),

Everyone who has surrendered their life to Jesus Christ have been redeemed. That means you were purchased with a price. This has a two-fold application. Here in Galatians we clearly see that we have been purchased from the curse of the law because Jesus took that curse upon Himself. You can study out the curse of the law and it has three basic categories. They are: spiritual death, sickness and disease, and poverty. Jesus faced spiritual death by going into hell for us and being separated from the Father. He bore our sickness and disease as many scriptures reveal. He also became poor so that we could become rich. Many want to explain this away as spiritual poverty, but the context is talking about money and it is found in 2 Corinthians 8:9. The payment has been made for us to experience this life just like John G. Lake did who knew that who we are in Christ must become more real to us than who we are in the natural.

Gal. 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

It is verses like these in Galatians that must become a part of our consciousness. To many Christians when thinking of themselves or

talking about themselves they refer to who they are based on the natural senses, not who is actually living on the inside. As Paul states above if you are born again it is no longer you who live it is Christ, the very presence of the Anointed One, who now lives in you. The life you now live you are suppose to be living by faith in the Son of God who loves you and gave Himself for you. This means we are to say what God's Word says about us. We are not to have our thoughts, words, and actions coming from the old fleshly nature. We are to be thinking, speaking, and acting in line with who we are in Christ.

Two primary reasons we don't do this. One is that we have not taken the time to renew our minds to what scripture says about us. If we don't want to be conformed to the world we cannot be transformed from it unless we renew our mind continually. This is what John G. Lake had done. He was more aware of the new nature that resided in him than the old nature on the outside. He was a man who was faced with many adversities and yet he persevered through them all like the apostle Paul because of the revelation of who he was in Christ. For many this lack of understanding who they now are is keeping them under bondage to the rule of sin and death.

1 Cor. 6:20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

The other reason why some do not walk under the rule of life has to do with the other side of what it means to be purchased by the blood of Jesus. If you go to a car dealer and purchase a vehicle they no longer have any say so as to how that vehicle is used. It is now yours and you are the one that makes this decision. Jesus Christ purchased everyone who has accepted Him as the Lord of their life, and yet they are still calling the shots over their life. That would be like the car dealer showing up whenever he wanted to use your vehicle for whatever he wanted. That wouldn't be right, and in fact he would be considered a thief.

This is what many who are born again and saying they are Christians are doing. They are still choosing to do what they want even though they have been purchased by Jesus Christ. To be a Christian biblically means we walk in Christ's example. Choosing to do so helps us to have a better understanding of who we are. Yet those who say they do don't do a lot of what was customary to Jesus' lifestyle. Such as going to God's house, forgiving those who had done Him harm, giving to God's work including tithing, preaching the good news to sinners, etc., all of which can be backed up from the Bible. If we have been purchased by Christ why do so many believers think they now have the right to do whatever they want? It is not helping them to walk in the law of the Spirit of life which is "IN CHRIST JESUS". We have been purchased, time to fully surrender and follow Christ's example which will benefit our life greatly.

Thank God we can now walk under the rule of the Spirit of life and walk free from the rule of sin and death. If we acknowledge that Jesus

purchased our life and therefore continue to walk like Him more and more following His example, and if we will take the scriptures that refer to who we are in Christ and become more consciously aware of who we now are in Him, we will walk under the rulership of the Spirit of life and walk in victory over the works of sin and death.