



www.clctx.org

Purity By The Cross

Introduction

Last week we looked at the purpose of the cross or rather the pardon purchased for us by the Cross.

The redemption that was brought for us by Jesus Christ.

Here is a thought: Pardon itself serves no purpose.

That is not to undervalue the pardon, that is to say that the pardon just leaves me lacking something. Lacking the consequence, lacking a sentence, all of this valuable, but not complete. I have lost something, but I have not regained.

You see the cross does more than just take from me, it adds to me – and here in lies the wonder of it all.

Sins as trespasses are pardoned by the way of the Cross,
But all such sins are the outward manifestations of an inward disease
—a moral disease, of course—the disease of sin.

You can call it original sin, it is part of our fallen nature, and we know we are living below who we are called to be and what we were created to be.

I am not attempting to enter into a discussion on the fall of man this evening- we are dealing with that on Wednesday evenings. I simply recognize the fact that there is present in human life this sense that there is something more, there is another way to live than how we are currently living.

Often people will talk to me of getting saved but of not living free. They are free from their sin but they never feel they are free from their conscience.

That is not the experience of lonely individuals. But of the majority of Christian folks. The fullness of this salvation is never truly realized.

You see it is not just enough for us to be pardoned from the effect of sin- that is only the starting point of the redemptive work of the Cross.

I need to be free from the Power of Sin and cleansed from the pollution of sin as well as the consequences of sin.

Every one fails
Every one falls
Everyone makes mistakes

But there is a place that we are called to live in that is purchased by the same Christ on the same Cross-that purchased our salvation. A place where we can live free of dead works.

Hebrews 9:14

(14) How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

The aim of Salvation is not heaven but service.

You can only serve a holy God with a pure conscience.
You cannot serve God, worship God, sit and read with God with a mind and heart full of defilement and bitterness and envy and strife.

That is how Christians can live, act and behave in ways that do not bring glory to God because they have handed some and not all to Him.

They have surrendered their souls, but not their consciences. Their spirits but not their flesh.

Friend I don't want to stand at the gates, I want to come in and sup at His table.

I don't want to sip of His goodness; I want to drink of His greatness.

I want to feast on the bread of life and drink of the living water and I cannot do that if I am defiled and full of dead works.

I want to define a couple of words before we move on here:

Conscience

According to popular usage, conscience is a faculty enabling people to distinguish right from wrong.

So if you read this scripture with this definition it doesn't make sense so much.

Maybe a better translation as suggested by G. Campbell Morgan is consciousness.

He says: "The Apostle was not referring to the faculty that discerns between good and evil, but rather to the facts discerned. When he speaks of a good conscience he does not mean an excellent capacity for the discernment of good and evil. When he speaks of an evil conscience he does not mean a conscience unequal to the discernment of good and evil. Conscience is consciousness."

A good conscience" is man's whole consciousness, the whole sweep of his good mind. "An evil conscience" is man's whole consciousness, the whole content of the mind evil."

A conscience was given, as a guide, to light, not condemns us to death.

In other words Consciousness lies at the back of conduct, is influenced by conduct subsequently, but is first the inspiration of conduct.

There is perpetually a reflex action between a man's consciousness and his conduct.

My consciousness of anything creates my conduct toward it, and my conduct toward it reflects on my consciousness, and changes it, in that it either defiles it, or lifts it into higher reaches of purity.

Or put simpler still – what is in you, affects all that comes out of you.

Now what is this term dead works?

Both in Leviticus and in Numbers we find clear revelation of how particular God is about small things. To touch the dead was to be defiled, and cleansing was needed. To enter the house where the dead were, and, though they were wandering through the wilderness, and the tabernacle was not erected, and they could not come to sacrifice, they must be sprinkled in water in which were the ashes of a red heifer.

So when we read this passage and it mentions dead works, it is not just a quaint saying, I need to read it in a sense that there are dead things, little things that are spoiling the great thing that God is trying to do in and through my life.

This is where the importance of a consciousness comes in.

So here I stand
A Christian, saved
Yet my consciousness that lies behind my conduct is defiled.

It is spoiled.

Polluted by abuse, addiction, perversion, bitterness, religion, and disappointment.

How will that affect my life? It may not affect my salvation, but it will certainly taint my walk with Christ and within the church.

You see the Corinthian church had a similar problem, they were saved, but their conscience had not been purified, they were engaged in practices that even the heathen would not consider doing.

You see a conscience that has not been purified from dead works will be a lazy life, a dispassionate life, and a slothful and self-indulgent life.

It will be a life that lives for itself and not as an offering to God without blemish.

Then because of this defiled conscience, this defiled spirit, sin will abide, dead works will remain and they will pollute.

Is there no hope then?

Now I know that a great number of people have received salvation yet still battle this issue to some degree or another.

So is there hope?

Is there a possibility that we can be cleansed and able to serve God with all that we have and all that we are?

How can I have, instead of an evil conscience, a good conscience; instead of a conscience seared as with a hot iron, a consciousness which is void of offense? How?

Hundreds and thousands of us are wanting it, but not possessing it; and consequently I am driven to ask this question, if that indeed is declared to be a possibility, on what ground can I have that cleansing of my nature which shall change my view of everything, and give me

a new outlook on everything, and so remake my attitude toward everything.

A couple of thoughts:

1. You cant move ahead with old baggage

Friend you have to let go of the past to get hold of your future

2. Dead works leads to dead living

We serve a living savior, a living Lord

3. Your consciences is something that can be clean, it is suppose to bring freedom, not condemnation

Purify is an action you do, not a prayer that you get.

The first thing is that you have to stop trying to do it.

You could not save your soul; you cannot cleanse yourself from impurity and from dead works.

You have tried it before and it has not worked.

I will not be a drunk.

I will not lust.

I will not get angry.

And it never changed, you never changed, it never worked before on your own, it will never work now on your own. You must understand that it is a work of God.

The second thing you must do, is you have to keep trying

That is not meant to sound contradictory.

You can't do it on your own, you have to surrender and do it as he leads.

You have to put yourself as far as you can away from sin,
Away from temptation,
Aware from impure thoughts.

Burn magazines, cancel the cable TV, pour out the booze, get rid of
the snuff, you can abstain.

But you must do these things with God, not separate from God.

It an attempt to draw closer to Him, not cleanse yourself by yourself.

Admit honestly where you are up to and the problems and issues that
you have.

Don't run from your sin, admit your sin.

The reason most people don't deal with issues is because they don't
want to give up their issues.

The third thing is remember your first love.

Go back and do the former things.

Read your bible

Set aside time for worship and prayer

Set aside time to share your faith

Dead works cannot survive in the midst of a living faith.