

PRECEPTS FOR LIFE

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SERIES: Resurrection

TITLE: Program 5 - Resurrection Peace That Delivers You From The Pain of Past Sins

FRIDAY

OPEN

O Beloved, does your past torment you? Does what you were and what you have done plague you? Is it constantly before you? Does it bring grief to your heart because you think, "I was so awful"? "How could I have done that? Why did I do that?" I understand. I've been there. Unfortunately I've done that. And yet you know what, I'm freed from it because I understand resurrection peace.

PART ONE

Easter is about the death of Jesus Christ for your sins so that, listen Precious One, your sins have been paid for in full. They're taken care of. They are under the blood of Jesus Christ as we have seen. Not only have your sins been taken care of, but you've been taken care of. You have been given the Holy Spirit of God when you come to believe in Jesus Christ. It's the death of Jesus Christ, the burial of Jesus Christ, the resurrection of Jesus Christ



that gives you the gift of the Holy Spirit who enables you to live a brand new life in Christ. It takes care of your past and it enables you to live with power in your present and it guarantees you a future with God. This is what the resurrection is all about. And so often we miss what the resurrection is about. We just think, okay, Jesus Christ was raised from the dead. That's great for Him but what does it mean to me? Well you're going to see what it means to you today as we open the Word of God. And what I want us to do is I want us to begin in 2 Corinthians, chapter 5. In 2 Corinthians, chapter 5 he's talking about what happens to us when we die. He's talking about this mortal putting on immortality. Now he uses that phrase in 1 Corinthians, chapter 15 where he describes the gospel "...that [Jesus] Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised [again] on the third day according to the Scriptures." (1 Corinthians 15: 3b-4) So there we have the death and the burial and the resurrection of Jesus Christ. But in 2 Corinthians, chapter 5 he's saying this, "...We know that if the earthly tent [of] our house is torn down, we have a building from God...." (2 Corinthians 5:1a) In other words if we die we're not left without a body. It says, "...a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For indeed in this house...," in this physical body, "...we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven." (5:1b-2) In other words longing to put on this immortality. And he says, "[Indeed] as we, having put it on, will not be found naked." (5:3) In other words we're not going to be without a body. We're not going to be a vapor, a spirit floating around. And you know I used to think that. I didn't have a very good theological basis for my thinking. But I somehow thought that heaven was sitting on a cloud and being a vapor or something like that. But it's not true. We're going to have a new body and this is what he's talking about. And he goes on to tell us that "...He [that has] prepared us for this very purpose is God, who gave ... us [His] Spirit as a pledge." (2 Corinthians 5:5) When you and I believe in Jesus Christ then we receive



the Holy Spirit. And when we receive the Holy Spirit the Holy Spirit comes and indwells us. He becomes our resident tutor. He becomes the power to live righteously. He's the one that enables us to overcome the flesh and to not walk according to the desires of the flesh, but to live a life of love and joy and peace etc., which is the fruit of the Spirit. So the Spirit is given to us and is given to us as a pledge. He said it in Ephesians, chapter 1 (verse 14) and he says it in Ephesians, chapter 3 that the Holy Spirit inside of us is our guarantee. Now listen carefully, that this body is going to be changed into an eternal body. Now when he says that he goes on to tell us in 2 Corinthians chapter 5, verse 6, "Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord—for we walk by faith, [and] not by sight." (2 Corinthians 5:6-7) He says, "We are of good courage, [and] I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord." (5:8) What he's letting you know, Beloved, is that He is going to resurrect us. He is going to take this earthly body and it is going to put on immortality. It is going to put on incorruptibility and we are going to be absent from this body, but we are going to be present with the Lord. Now in the light of that and in the light of the fact that he goes on to say that ["someday we're going to stand at the judgment seat of Christ and we're going to give an account for the deeds done in this body"] (PARAPHRASE, 5:10) he goes on to tell us how ["He's made us a new creature."] (PARAPHRASE, 5:17) And this is what I want you to understand you and I are able to become a new creation because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Let's see how that works. Well in 2 Corinthians, chapter 5 in verse 14 it says, "For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died." (2 Corinthians 5:14) I don't want you to miss this. Jesus died for all of us. And when Jesus died for all of us because we were united with Christ in His death, in His burial, and in His resurrection then what you and I can know is when Christ died for all all died. Now this is so important for you to



understand if you're going to deal with your past. You have to understand that when you come to know Jesus Christ your past is truly past. Your past does not define you. And your past does not define you because if you're aligned with Him in His death, in His burial and then in His resurrection then as He is raised and Romans 6 says this, ["as He is raised to walk in newness of life you are raised to walk in newness of life also."] (PARAPHRASE, Romans 6:4) So let's see what he says. Ah, in ah verse 15 it says, "And He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf." (2 Corinthians 5:15) What is he pointing us to? He's pointing us to the death, the burial and the resurrection of Jesus Christ and this is where your peace comes from. Your peace comes from understanding what it means to die with Him and to be raised with Him to walk in newness of life. If you want to be able to conquer your past, if you want to be able to live as more than a conqueror you have to understand what Jesus did in His death, His burial and His resurrection and then you'll have resurrection peace. So watch what it says. It says, "Therefore from now on we recognize no one according to the flesh; even though we['ve] known Christ according to the flesh, vet... we know Him...this way no longer." (2 Corinthians 5:16) What is he saying? He's saying, okay, when you think of Jesus do you think of a baby? No, He grew up. When you think of Jesus do you think of a man walking around doing miracles? No because He died. Okay, then when you think of Jesus do you think of Him on a cross? Do you think of a crucifix? No because He was buried and because He rose again from the dead. Okay so when you think of Jesus you don't think of Him just as He was but you see Him as He really and truly is. So we don't know Christ after the flesh anymore. And we don't know ourselves after the flesh anymore and that's why you come up with this resurrection peace. Watch what he says, "... Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him in this way no longer. Therefore if anyone is in Christ,



he['s] a new creature...old things passed away; behold, [all] things have [be]come [new]." (2 Corinthians 5:16b-17) In other words when you are united with Christ then you become a brand new creature. As we knew Christ no longer we don't know you any longer because you're a brand new creation. You are that resurrection life, not resurrection death in your trespasses and sins, but you're that resurrection life. So watch what he goes on to say. He says, "Therefore if any [man] is in Christ, he['s] a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation." (2 Corinthians 5:17-18) In other words because you were in sin you were at enmity with God. You were separated from God. You were an enemy of God. That's what Romans 5 says, "...While we were [enemies], Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8b) And because He died for us if you'll think of God up here and in the heavens and you down on earth what bridges earth and heaven? It is the cross of Jesus Christ. And so it's the death of Jesus Christ. But not just the death of Jesus, it's the burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ that enables you and me to unite earth and heaven so that you and I who were enemies with God are now reconciled. And we're able to be reconciled because we're no longer a sinner, but now we are saved. Now we've become a saint a set apart one for God. "Therefore if any [man] is in Christ he['s] a new creature...old things have passed away...[all] things have [be]come [new]." (2 Corinthians 5:17) So therefore, when you look at me what do you think? When I look at you what do I think? Do I think about you according to your past or do I think of you according to the resurrection? We'll talk about that in just a minute.

PART TWO

The ministry of reconciliation. What is the ministry of reconciliation? I think it's proclaiming all that the resurrection has won for us which tells us that I



no longer am the same person once I come to know Jesus Christ. Listen to what he says, 2 Corinthians 5, verse 18, "Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ...." (2 Corinthians **5:18a**) and you can just think of you down here on earth and God in heaven and the cross bridging earth and heaven and that being reconciling us to God through Christ. And it says, "...and [He] gave us the ministry of **reconciliation.**" (5:18b) Now namely what is the ministry of reconciliation? "...that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself...," Now this is the next phrase I want you to see, "...not counting their trespasses against them..." (5:19a) not remembering our past. So if He doesn't remember our sins because Jesus paid for them all then what are you and I doing remembering our sins? Isn't it in essence like a slap in the face of God to say, I've got to remember them. You don't remember them but I'm going to remember them. Isn't it kind of saying, "Was Your death really sufficient? I mean did You really mean it God when You said that Jesus who knew no sin was made to be sin for me? Did You really mean that? Did You really mean that I'm a new creature in Christ Jesus? Did you really mean as You say that from now on we recognize no one according to the flesh?" Yes He means it. If He didn't mean it He wouldn't say it. This is truth. And the way that you live is to live according to every word that comes out of the mouth of God. That's faith to believe it. "And without faith it['s] impossible to please [God]...." (Hebrews 11:6a) Hebrews 11:6 says, ["If you're not going to believe God you can't make God happy."] (PARAPHRASE, Hebrews 11:6a) And listen if God ain't happy nobody's happy. I mean forget momma. Forget papa and just know if God ain't happy nobody's happy. So it goes on to say this, "...Not counting their trespasses against [us], and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation." (2 **Corinthians 5:19b)** He's given you and I a ministry and that ministry is to tell people that through the death of Jesus Christ, the burial of Jesus Christ and the resurrection of Jesus Christ Jesus paid for our sins. ["He paid the



wages of sin which was death."] (PARAPHRASE, Romans 6:23a) He was separated from God. But because His blood was sufficient and His blood took care of all our sins and "...where sin [did] abound...grace did much more abound." (Romans 5:20b, KJV) therefore God raised Him from the dead. He was raised as I taught you earlier. "He... was raised because of our justification." (Romans 4:25b) God's righteousness was satisfied. And therefore He has given you and me the ministry of reconciliation. Now listen to what he says. He says in verse 20, "Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God [was] making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, [to] be reconciled to God. He...," God, "...made Him...," Jesus, "...who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God [through] Him." (2 Corinthians **5:20-21**) So that you and I, Precious One, might become the righteousness of God through Jesus, through His death, His burial and His resurrection, so that you and I then can give this message to others. Well if we are burdened about our past, if we are carrying the weight of our past and our sin on our back all that we were the old man before Christ, then we don't have a message for others. We don't have a message of total forgiveness. We don't have a message that we're a brand new creature in Christ Jesus. We don't have that message. We don't have that message that we've been made the righteousness of God in Him if we confidently remember and carry on the burden of our sins. And see that's what you're doing. I want you to go to Romans, chapter 6. In Romans, chapter 6, we have this awesome account of our identification with Jesus. And this is what he says in verse 5. He says, "...if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old self...," our old man, what we were before Christ, "...was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with...," or rendered inoperative is what it means in the Greek, "...might be done away with, so that we [should] no longer be slaves to sin."



(Romans 6:5-6) You and I are set free from sin's power. It's the gift of the Holy Spirit in us that sets us free from sins power. It is our death; our uniting in His death that sets us free from sins power. It says, "For he who has died is free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death [is] no longer master [of] Him. For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, [and] alive to God in Christ Jesus." (Romans 6:7-11) What is God saying? God is saving, "Listen, the resurrection, the death and your identification in Jesus' death and His burial and His resurrection, your uniting with Him has set you free from the past, from remembering who you were. It has made you a brand new creature. You are now raised with Christ to walk in newness of life and listen; you are able to do that because you are no longer a slave to sin." Not only does He take care of your past, not only does He take care of the penalty of sin which is death, but He takes care of the power of sin. He puts His Spirit inside of you and He enables you to live righteously. So you say, "I'm not going to yield my members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin anymore. I'm going to yield them to God." And when you yield them to God this is that resurrection peace that is yours. It is a resurrection peace that delivers you from the pain of the past of your sin and from the power of sin in your life. O Beloved, the question is, have you believed in Jesus Christ? ["Because when you believe in Jesus when you receive Him you become a new creature. Old things are passed away. All things are new. You've been given reconciliation with God, the ministry of reconciliation"] (PARAPHRASE, 2 Corinthians 5:17-18) and the Holy Spirit who enables you now to live and walk by the Spirit and not by the flesh. In Romans, chapter 8 it summarizes it so well and this is our precept for life today. It says, "We are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh...," He says, "...[But] if you are living according



to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live." (Romans 8:12-13)Walk in that resurrection life. Put to death the deeds of the body by walking in the Spirit and you'll have that resurrection peace.