

Good News of Grace & Truth

Every new year we say, "This year will be different, I am going to do this and that", but what happens is, by our own strength, we do *this* and *that* for a couple of months and that's it. What happened? In our mind, we have good planned, but in our body instead we do the evil we did not plan to do. Is it because we are weak? As the Truth says, "**The spirit is indeed willing, but the flesh is weak (Matt 26)**". If we had sufficient strength to do the good we want, then as time goes on, we would become more & more perfect; but instead, as time goes on, we store up more & more sin into our account & we get weaker & weaker until we die. As the Wisdom of Paul says, "**For I do not understand what I am doing; for I am not practicing what I want to do, but I do the very thing I hate. However, if I do the very thing I do not want to do, I agree with the law, that the law is good. But now, no longer am I the one doing it, but sin that dwells in me. For I know that good does not dwell in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not. For the good that i want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want. But if I do the very thing I do not want, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin that dwells in me. I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wants to do good. For I joyfully agree with the law of God in the inner person, but I see a different law in the parts of my body waging war against the law of my mind, and making me a prisoner of the law of sin, the law which is in my body's parts. Wretched man that I am (Rom 7)" All humanity is subject to the power of sin: no-one is exempt. Yes, all have fallen short; all have been led astray by their own desires; all curse and lie to one another; there is none that does good, no not one; no-one seeks God; no-one fears Him; all are offspring of vipers; snake venom drips from their lips. And the Judge is standing at the door, ready to judge this ungodly world because of all its ungodliness it has committed. In whom is there hope for life? If there is no hope, let us eat & drink because tomorrow we die.**

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“Who will set me free from the body of this death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! (Rom 7)” & ”The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; but thanks be to God who gives us victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Cor 15)” Jesus fulfilled the law and the prophets, living a life full of mercy, but not mercy only, also sacrifice; He became the sacrifice for sin, not His own sin, but our sin; He knew no sin, but became sin so that we might become the righteousness of God; and this righteousness is through faith, not by works so that no-one can boast. The only work that matters is the work of Christ and our receiving of Him through the work of faith; and by His work of grace and through our faith in Him, we are in right standing with God. Jesus died for our sins so that the righteous judgement of the law would be fulfilled, for it is written “I will discipline you, but with justice; I cannot let you go unpunished. (Jer 30)“, but Jesus took the punishment for us. He was buried in a tomb for three days, burying our sin there, and He rose from the grave on the third day, defeating death, His body did not see decay; now, forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to us and deliverance from the power of sin through faith in His name. Pay attention so that the thing spoken of in the prophets is not proven in you: “Behold, you scoffers, and marvel, and perish; for I am accomplishing a work in your days, a work which you will never believe, even if someone told you. (Hab 1)” & “Go to this people and say, ‘You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving.’ For this people’s heart has grown callous; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts, and turn, and I would heal them. (Isa 6)”. God has shone His great Light amongst us, therefore if we now see we can all exclaim, “But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. (Rom 6)”

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