

TOPIC: NO CONDEMNATION – I AM THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS

SPEAKER: SP Daniel Foo

Date: 4 April 2010

SUMMARY OF MESSAGE

No condemnation. We are the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. Jesus is no longer on the cross and no longer in the grave; He has arisen. We serve and worship a living God. Jesus died that we may live in victory. This is called the divine exchange.

1 John 5:18

We know that whoever is born of God does not sin but he who has been born of God keeps himself and the wicked one does not touch/cannot harm him.

The devil can never touch the believer (1 John 5:18). The evil one cannot harm him. For the baptismal candidates, the first question was, "Have they placed their faith in Jesus?" If they have, the evil one cannot touch them unless by volition, they step out of His covering. The victorious life is a life of faith. It is relying on God's word and that's victory.

The devil cannot touch us yet many believers are not living in **victory**. They lack confidence to enter into the **presence** of God; lack confidence to **share** Christ and be **impacting** others. Why is this so?

One reason for this is **guilt** and **condemnation**. Condemnation is worse than guilt. The devil adds salt to the wound. Hence many Christians lack boldness and unashamed confidence which is translated as persistence in Luke 11.

Here in Luke 11, a friend went to another, persistently knocking on the door and asking for bread. The Greek word for persistence is unashamed confidence. It is like the widow who approached the judge unashamedly. (Luke 18) This is the position that we are to go before God. Calvary makes all the difference in the positioning of Satan and the child of God. Can the premise of what happened to Job happen to you today? God wants us to live in victory.

I. Know why there is guilt and condemnation.

This comes from the faculty called conscience.

Two areas:

(A) The **consciousness** of our own **sins, mistakes, foibles, blind spots, weaknesses, fallen-ness**.

There is a moral law at work in our heart. Whatever is known about what is right or wrong is placed inside man. The first sense of guilt comes from our conscience. It can become more conscious of sin or dulled to it. We should guard it from going the other way.

Romans 2:15

*... the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their **consciences** also bearing witness, their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them.*

(B) The 24-7-365 **accusation** of the evil one.

Revelation 12:10

*Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the **accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.***

Guilt and condemnation comes from the evil one. He will never fail to accuse you of what you have done wrong. We are told that we all stumble in many ways. (James 3:2) There is none perfect. Because we stumble, the devil is given the opportunity to accuse.

(A) **Guilt** and **Condemnation** come from our own sins.

Psalms 51:3, 5

3 For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. 5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me.

Iniquity is the bent towards certain behavioral traits. Some people grow up with low self esteem because they have been thumbed down. The devil will not fail to remind us of our inadequacy. For some, we might not have been diligent to watch over our children when they fell ill. The child might have suffered a brain damage and we feel guilty for that. Yet for others, they might have gone into depression because of poor parenting, leaving kids obese. Some might have been hurt for dabbling stocks with no financial cushion. Some might regret not spending more time with family and parents. Some might be feeling the consequences of pre-marital sex. With the choices we made, there are consequences. When the consequences are bad, our conscience will hit us and the devil will join in the assault. However with God, there is mercy and forgiveness. Psalm 103. With Him, all our sins and consequences of wrongdoing can be washed by the Blood of the Lamb.

II. How do we deal with **guilt** and **condemnation**?

(A) **Agree** with the accusation

Matthew 5:25

Agree with your adversary quickly, while you are on the way with him, lest your adversary deliver you to the judge, the judge hand you over to the officer, and you be thrown into prison.

Romans 3:23

*for all have **sinned** and **fall short** of the glory of God.*

We all have prejudices and have a limited worldview. We may be 99% right about a matter and think that we are in charge. The devil might know 1% but to him that is enough to send his arrow. He is a legalist. Whenever there is an accusation, agree with our adversary. There is a possibility that we might have judged someone wrongly and have made a mistake about him. Don't be quick to judge. When the devil accuses us of that, agree.

(B) **Confess** our sins in order to:

1. Do so to establish **peace** with God. How? Have faith in Jesus.

Romans 5:1

*Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have **peace with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ*

John 1:12

*But as many as **received** Him, to them He gave the right to become **children of God**, to those who believe in His name*

Whatever our sins may be, be it stealing or having pride; be it big or small, past, present or future sins, they have been paid. Jesus laid down his life for us and paid the penalty. What must we do? There must be a connection with God. We need to appropriate His forgiveness by confessing our sins.

Romans 10:9-10

*9that if you **confess** with your mouth the Lord Jesus and **believe** in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

When we sin, fellowship with God is broken. When we say sorry, we are confessing and fellowship is re-established.

2. Re-establish **fellowship** with God.

1 John 1:3

*that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have **fellowship** with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.*

God is faithful to forgive because Jesus has paid the price. A sin cannot be punished twice. In the context of 1 John, it is about fellowship with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We confess to establish fellowship with God. In our relationship with God, we need to ensure fellowship is current, on-going.

(C) **Know** our position in Christ that we are the **Righteousness** of God in Christ Jesus.

We need to know our **standing** with God, i.e. our position in Christ and that we have **peace** with God in Christ. Without appreciating this, we will struggle with guilt and condemnation. Our relationship with God cannot be broken though fellowship is. We have been justified by faith in God.

Romans 5:1

*Therefore, having been **justified** by faith, we have **peace with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ*

2 Corinthians 5:21

For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Jesus doesn't deserve death. Here is the divine exchange. He gave us the righteousness of God. We are given the same holiness as God's. The righteousness cannot be earned; not by our works or service. It is a gift, paid, costly and has to be appropriated. Every day, we can declare we are the righteousness of God. We might have said something wrong, done something wrong or failed to do something. We are forgiven when we confess. We are still the righteousness of God. That doesn't change. We have to sink this in.

Hebrews 10:17

then He adds, "Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."

1 John 1:3

that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

On **God's** part, **ALL** our sins - past, present, future are **forgiven**.

On **man's** part, the issue is that of our conscience. The conscience troubles us and the devil will make us feel miserable about it. We begin to tell ourselves not to go to church or not to join a cell. If that is what we do, we have fallen into the devil's trap. What we ought to do is to confess our sins and re-establish our **fellowship** with God.

Hebrews 10:1-4

*1For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach **perfect**. 2For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more **consciousness of sins**. 3But in those sacrifices there is a **reminder of sins** every year. 4For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.*

Hebrews 9:9

*It was symbolic for the present time in which both gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make him who performed the service **perfect in regard to the conscience**—*

Hebrews 9:14

*how much more shall the **blood of Christ**, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, **cleanse your conscience** from dead works to serve the living God?*

To have perfect conscience is to come under the Blood. Hebrews tells us that the offerings of the old covenant cannot perfect the conscience but the Blood of Christ is able to cleanse our conscience from dead works to serve God. So come under the Blood and by faith believe in God's cleansing and forgiveness and walk on in victory.

III. Walking in Victory

(A) On **God's** part, the price has been paid by the Blood of our Lord Jesus for all our sins - past, present and future.

1 John 2:1-2

*1My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an **advocate** with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. 2And **He Himself is the propitiation for our sins**, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.*

Let's try not to sin intentionally. Nevertheless if anyone sins, don't run away from God or from His people. We have the best lawyer here. V2 says He is the propitiation for our sins. The Blood of Jesus washes us white as snow. The more sins abound, the more grace abounds so long as he continues to press on in Christian living. The power of the cross brings about changed lives.

(B) On the **believer's** part, the key to have a good conscience is to **know, believe** and **confess** our standing with God.

1 Timothy 1:19

*having **faith** and a **good conscience**, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck*

We need to hold on to faith and a good conscience. These are two sides of the same coin. If our conscience is troubled, our faith will leak.

Hebrews 10:19-22

*19Therefore, brethren, having **boldness** to enter the Holiest **by the blood of Jesus**, 20by a **new and living way** which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, 21and having a High Priest over the house of God, 22let us **draw near** with a true heart in **full assurance of faith**, having our **hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience** and our bodies washed with pure water.*

We are no longer going to God through the old covenant. Calvary makes all the difference. In the old covenant, only the high priest could enter the Holy of Holies and did so once a year. In the new covenant, the veil is torn apart. It is finished. We draw near in full assurance of faith. That's why we can be very bold, bold in God, to be priests and kings. All that we learn about the 3-fold offices of king, prophets and priests.

Philippians 3:9

*and be found in Him, **not having my own righteousness**, which is **from the law, but that** which is through **faith in Christ**, the **righteousness which is from God by faith**.*

We don't read the Bible just to score points. We don't pray just to tell others so. Otherwise, it is a religion, a ritual. Rather, it's about a relationship with God. We need to work that around. We have the Holy Spirit in us to provide the inward witness. When we have questions, we clarify. Truth is truth. Knowledge puffs up but we can only reproduce by what we are. We do so by our lives, producing what we are – strong marriages, strong believers. We follow Christ in triumphant victory. We are here to hear the Word to be encouraged and to result in life change. If we are closed to God, we are wasting our time. Do not seek our own righteousness.

The evil one **always** attacks us with the **law** i.e. what we must **do** or **fail to do**; **condemn** us and give us **guilt** whenever he **accuses** us.

1 John 1:9 (NIV) *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*

Righteousness is through **faith** in Christ. We have to see ourselves as the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus.

In the Old Covenant

Obedience = **Blessings**; Disobedience = **Curses**

James 2:10

For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.

As in Isaiah 64:6. no one can **fully** obey the law except Jesus, the Son of God, the Son of Man.

In the New Covenant, the Lord Jesus as Son of Man **perfectly** obeyed the Law.

Matthew 5:17

*Do not think that I came to destroy **the Law** or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to **fulfill**.*

Jesus fulfilled every iota of the law. Our only work in the New Covenant is to **have faith** and to **believe and receive** Christ because **He has obeyed and fulfilled** the entire law.

Romans 10:4

*For **Christ** is the **end** of the **law for righteousness to everyone who believes**.*

If we do not know that we have right standing, we will have guilt and condemnation. In the first instance, God does not call us to works but to believe in God.

John 6:28-29

28Then they said to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the **works of God**?" **29**Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the **work of God**, that **you believe in Him whom He sent**."

It is as simple as that and yet we are struggling to believe, to appropriate all that Jesus has done for us. We need to go back to the basics of 1 John 1:7.

1 John 1:7

*But if we **walk in the light** as He is in the light, we have **fellowship** with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.*

(C) We must live our lives **not** self-conscious or sin conscious but **God** conscious.

Romans 8:1-2

1There is therefore now **no condemnation** to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not **walk** according to the flesh, but **according to the Spirit**. **2**For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me **free** from the law of sin and death.

The devil wants us to be self conscious and sin conscious. The devil will never fail to do that but we need to bring it under the Blood. However it is conditional:

- (1) We have to be in Christ.
- (2) Don't walk according to the flesh. There is no condemnation for those who walk in the Spirit and then we will be set free from the law of sin and death.

Acts 24:16

*This being so, I myself always strive to have a **conscience without offense toward God and men.***

As in Heb 8:10, God guides us by writing His law in our heart, putting thoughts in our mind and inclining us towards a response. There is no need to throw the urim and thummim. The Holy Spirit is there to enable and empower us to walk in victory and to overcome the evil one and temptations. We overcome as we develop God consciousness and learn to walk in dependence on the Holy Spirit.

This is the key to walking in victory, to overcome:

- (i) The accusations of the **Evil One**.
- (ii) The temptations coming through the **World**.
- (iii) Dying to the self by being **God conscious** and **led by the Holy Spirit**.

Isaiah 54:14

In **righteousness** you shall be **established**; you shall be **far from oppression**, for you shall **not fear**; and **from terror**, for it shall not come near you.

When we don't take unnecessary risks, we are always protected in Christ and the evil one cannot touch us.

CONCLUSION

STOP being **sin and self-conscious**.

STOP going on the **performance treadmill**.

STOP the doing to **earn** the favor and Grace of God.

IT IS DONE!

The **PRICE** has been paid by the Blood of our Lord Jesus

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What difference has Calvary made in terms of our positioning and Satan's?
2. How should we deal with guilt and condemnation so as to be broken free from the devil's accusation and also to be restored to God?
3. What are some scriptural verses that we can bank on regarding our righteous standing in Christ, the cleansing of our sins and the removal of them far away - as far as east is from the west?

