



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC Hope in Victory over Sin

SPEAKER DSP Chua Seng Lee

THEME Hope In Hopeless Times

DATE 26 and 27 Dec 2020

MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

Citing Romans 8:1-4, DSP Chua declared that believers have victory over sin. God sent Jesus Christ to die and fulfill the penalty for our sins. We are therefore no longer condemned for the sins that we have confessed. Despite this truth, some of us still struggle with shame and guilt over past sins, while others feel wretched when their old carnal nature tempts them into sinning again. Without the assurance of victory over sin, believers can miss out on the spiritual transformation that God wants to do in their lives.

1 John 1:9 assures us that God is faithful and just to forgive us if we confess our sins, and that He cleanses us from all unrighteousness. Thanks be to our Lord Jesus Christ for His finished work on the cross. All our sins are forgiven when we confess them!

Why then do believers still struggle with sin? How do believers put sin to death? In his sermon, DSP Chua addressed these questions as he unpacked Romans 8 in three segments.

1. PARDON FROM GOD (ROMANS 8:1-4)

All of us sin because we have a sinful nature. Paul wrote about his own struggle in Romans 7:14-23; it was his sinful nature that caused him to do what he did not want to do, and to not do the good that he wanted to do. This inner conflict between our old sinful nature and our new nature in Christ can result in feelings of guilt when we fall into sin.

By setting his mind on God, Paul was set free from the law of sin and death (Romans 7:24-8:4). This revelation enabled him to lead a life empowered by the Holy Spirit to do God's work. He found assurance in Christ that God did not condemn him even when he fell into sin again. DSP Chua illustrated this with a jacket representing Christ. Even when he puts on the jacket (clothed himself with Christ), he is still in his mortal body, which is susceptible to sin. From God's perspective however, he is in Christ, covered and cleansed by Christ's death on the cross. Therefore, he can stand sanctified before God. This is the wonderful redemptive plan of God for our lives!

2. PERSPECTIVE ON GOD (ROMANS 8:5-8)

Since God does not condemn those in Christ, does this mean that Christians can sin freely? Certainly not! Romans 8:5-8 contrasts a mind set on fleshly desires (which ends in death) with a mind set on things of the Spirit (which leads to life and peace). Philippians 4:8 reveals what a Spirit-focused mind

is like. True faith in Christ results in a Spirit-focused mind that leads the believer to confess and repent of sin. This is the process of sanctification that helps Christians overcome the compulsion to sin and lead a life that glorifies God.

3. POWER OF GOD (ROMANS 8:9-13)

God has given us the Holy Spirit. We are therefore no longer under the control of our flesh. Instead, we have a choice and an obligation to live by the Spirit. By allowing the Holy Spirit to work in us, we can put to death the sins of the body (Romans 8:12-13). We can achieve this with these weapons against sin:

1. The Word of God (Ephesians 6:17) – Jesus used the Word of God to fend off Satan’s temptations (Matthew 4:1-11). We must do likewise in our battle against sin.
2. Faith in the Spirit (Galatians 3:2-5) – By faith, we receive the Holy Spirit. Likewise, by faith, we allow God’s Spirit to take control in our fight against sin.
3. Love God (Hebrews 13:5) – To love God wholeheartedly means that we are to trust Him in all areas of our lives and be content with what we have so that we do not fall into temptations of all kinds, including the love for money.

CONCLUSION

Christ’s death on the cross represents our victory over sin. However, temptations of all kinds will continue to be around us. We must be steadfast to live by the Spirit, subject all our thoughts, actions and plans to God, and obey the leading of His Spirit. In this way, we can truly lead a victorious life in Christ.

QUESTIONS

1. Romans 8:1-4 tells us that there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Why is it important for believers to understand this truth?

2. Recall a situation when you had to struggle internally between your old and new natures. What triggered this inner conflict? What did God's Word say about that situation?

3. Ponder over the three weapons we have against sin – the Word of God, Faith in the Spirit, and Love God. How are you doing in each of these areas? What adjustments do you need to make to grow further in each?