

# 9 Sermons on Romans 5:12-21 Death in Adam, Life in Christ

## Romans 5:12-21

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned—

<sup>13</sup> To be sure, sin was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not charged against anyone's account where there is no law.<sup>14</sup> Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who is a pattern of the one to come.

<sup>15</sup> But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many!<sup>16</sup> Nor can the gift of God be compared with the result of one man's sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification.<sup>17</sup> For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!

<sup>18</sup> Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people.<sup>19</sup> For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

<sup>20</sup> The law was brought in so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more,<sup>21</sup> so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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## Sermon 1

### Sin and Salvation –Each by One Person



1. Quote

**Life is wasted if we do not grasp the glory of the cross, cherish it for the treasure that it is, and cleave to it as the highest price of every pleasure and the deepest comfort in every pain. What was once foolishness to us – a crucified God – must become our wisdom and our power and our only boast in this world.**

**John Piper**

**Power Truth**

Your word is a lamp to my feet  
and a light to my path.

Psalm 119:105

**Trouble in Text**

The word of God is powerful. He created the entire world with the word of his mouth. In Genesis,<sup>1</sup> God said, "Let there be." Everything came to be that way during creation. God also made rules for Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. The word of God is life, and man has to obey it. Sin provokes the delight of God in us. The only thing God had requested of them was obedience. In His might, God has known all our evil plans. However, He gave us the freedom to choose for ourselves.

### **Trouble in World**

The committing of sin starts with temptation. When the temptation persists and prevails, we commit the acts. Temptations keep us engrossed in an intermittent string of sinful acts. The conscience in man can allow him to break the temptation cycle, and therefore stay off sins. In his word, James,<sup>2</sup> draws our attention to temptation. Temptation drags a righteous man away from God. Our desires entice us, and when we fall to temptations sin arises. The transgression committed by Adam and Eve bundled the entire generations of mankind to the consequences of sins.

### **Grace in Word**

The consequences of sin were also delivered by word of mouth by God. When sin was committed in the Garden of Eden, things changed entirely. The serpent was cursed for deceiving Eve.<sup>3</sup> The serpent crawls and eats of dust of the earth.

Eve was to be under the ruler ship of Adam, and her desires shall be for her man and her childbirth will be painful.<sup>4</sup> For Adam, his punishment was to always toil for his food. The earth brings forth thistles and thorns as a result of man's transgression.<sup>5</sup>

Sin started with deception and temptation. The serpent deceived Eve. Eve shared the forbidden fruit with Adam. Adam suffered for his act of eating the forbidden fruit without any regard. He accepted to fall with Eve into the temptations.

The consequences of sin are irreversible. A permanent damage to relationships occurs. After sin, Adam and Eve were let off the Garden of Eden and its goodness.

From Romans,<sup>6</sup> we learn that the wages of sins are death. After the original sin, death befell mankind. So, in place of joy and life everlasting in the Garden of Eden, death ravages us. All that came about by the word of God

### **Grace in World**

The plan of God has always been to save mankind from the perils of sin. That is as a result of everlasting love from God.<sup>7</sup> It's that strong that even death itself could not take away Christ from God. He resurrected on his third day after crucifixion and death. That sealed the power of life and love against that of death.

Humankind always keeps slipping into sin. God laid out salvation covenants through the Old Testament. In the New Testament, God sealed a one and lasting covenant. That's out

of His love for man even with his weaknesses in sin. God let out His only son<sup>8</sup> to die for us. Ours is to believe and confess to it and change all our ways to conform to his ways. Christ's ways are rich righteousness.

The world is full of evil, but those who follow in Christ's footsteps shall make it through to his kingdom. As a way to offer an example for us, Jesus<sup>9</sup> counseled us not to love our earthly bodies too much. When we love ourselves too much, we love pleasure and in that way, we become lost in sin. But, if we remain focused on Christ, we have to let go the earthly things. We value more of his kingdom by getting secluded to the pleasures of the world. When we give ourselves wholly to Christ, we may seem to have lost. But our reward will be in forms of rewards in life in God's kingdom.

### **What Now**

1. Which rule did man disregard for him to be ejected out of the Garden of Eden?
2. The serpent is the creature that convinced Eve to eat of the forbidden fruit. Is that right?
3. What are the three things that befell man after violating God's rule in the Garden of Eden?

## Sermon 2

# Adam Planted Death But Christ uprooted it



## 2. Quote

**God never said that the journey would be easy, but He did say that the arrival would be worthwhile.**

**Max Lucado**

## Power Truth

“Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road is easy[a] that leads to destruction, and there are many who take it.

Matthew 7:13 NRSV

## Trouble in Text

Ever since man left the Garden of Eden, Sin has followed man and injected pain and suffering across generations. To the Church in Ephesus,<sup>10</sup> Paul encouraged the faithful to conquer evil by being kind to each other. Being compassionate and offering each other forgiveness freely as Jesus did on the cross for all of us. When we forgive others, it's not to mean that we are weak. To human beings, it may be weak, but in Christ, we rejoice. The words of the apostles through the epistles mirror the same problems that face our churches today. From them, we can learn many lessons to enable us live better as Christians..

## **Trouble in World**

Our world gets busy every day. We create our own plans and seek to accomplish them. However, how much blessing would it be to live a life led by the very purpose of our own creator? To the prophet of God, Jeremiah<sup>11</sup> declared that He had all plans for him. The plans were for prosperity, devoid of harm and towards a hopeful future. Trusting in God is a great way to allow God to guide us in life. Christ's life was given up as a ransom for our sins.

## **Grace in Word**

The pain we suffer under sin is untold. In Matthew,<sup>12</sup> Christ rescued a man who was under the possession of demons. The demons pleaded with Christ and he sent them off to a herd of pigs nearby. The possessed pigs ran off into the sea, and all drowned. The powers of evil have been destructive, always. Through Adam, condemnation to death, pain, and every iniquity from sin befall us.

The powers of sin are a cycle that we can monitor and overcome. We can discern the tempting forces facing us. If we overcome sin, we keep vigil with Christ as we wait for his second coming on the earth. In his second coming, Christ will come to judge the living and the dead. Staying afloat in the ocean of sins will determine our efforts to conquer sin, during judgment. The righteous ones will never drown in sins, and Christ will save them from the fires of eternal hell.

In the Gospel of Matthew,<sup>13</sup> Christ commissioned his disciples to keep the fire of his kingdom alive. He allowed them to preach, teach, and baptize in his name and that of the Holy Spirit. The journey to Christ and away from sin is never simple. We seek the counsel of the Holy Spirit for us to be able to navigate the hurdles to salvation. Christ went to heaven over two millenniums ago. All these years, the church has thrived under the Holy Spirit. Up until the end of time, when Christ will fulfill his faithful promises.

## **Grace in World**

When we ascribe to the ideals of Christ, we take up to be good ambassadors of Him. Paul shed more light to this in his second epistle to the church in Corinth.<sup>14</sup> In our way to Christ, we must learn to love fellow human beings. We only witness to but do not see Christ, the Holy Spirit and God the Father. It becomes much easier for others to read from our graceful life if we live to the true ideals of Christ.

Christ ensured that whatever he did was for our own good. At one time, right before the start of his ministry, Christ attended a wedding at Cana in Galilee<sup>15</sup>. This was his first miracle. When at the height of a wedding, they ran short of wine. Christ asked them to fill several jars with water, which he turned into wine. The head waiter was so pleased with

the wine that he called on the bridegroom. In their earthly blindness, they did not know where the wine came from.

We too can get the transformation. In a similar way, Christ converted water into wine. That's from sinfulness to holiness. There are some miracles that Christ performed deliberately. So, may we be doubtless and believe in him. Our mandate is to have unquestionable faith in the promises of Christ.

### **What Now**

1. What's Jesus' first miracle in his mission?
2. What differences are there between the problems that faced the early church and those that face churches today?
3. What are the ways to keep vigil with Christ against temptations?

## Sermon 3

### Life and Salvation in Abundance



#### 3. Quote

**God's work done in God's way will never  
lack God's supplies.**

**Hudson Taylor**

#### **Power Truth**

Indeed they cannot die anymore, because they are like angels and are children of God, being children of the resurrection.

Luke 20:36 NRSV

#### **Trouble in Text**

Christ was laid out on a cross and put to death. He salvaged us from sin by paying the ultimate price for us as sinners. It is not adequate to just learn that. Taking action is the way to being crucified with him and being ready for his kingdom. In the book of Acts,<sup>16</sup> renouncing sin is the way to life in Christ. It is a tussle between the powers of the flesh and the will of the spirit. Our weakness and desires of the world must be overcome through his holy promises. Christ overcame the powers of death through resurrection. Thus, we are his brothers and sisters, as children of God the Father.

### **Trouble in World**

One of the biggest challenges is a non-believer who discredits the words and promises of Christ. Blasphemy is everywhere. For us to be able to believe Christ's ways, we must believe, doubtlessly. In Philippians,<sup>17</sup> Paul stresses obedience. We do not obey because we see, but we believe without questioning or even doubting the ways of the supreme God. All of our forefathers have rested in faith that they will rise again in the day of resurrection.

### **Grace in Word**

For the faithful followers,<sup>18</sup> of Christ, getting to Christ accords us life and his priceless favors unto our lives. The way to life and abundance is by following Christ. In John 10:10, the thief comes in to kill and cause destruction. The evil one is the thief. In our life, the consequences of evil are losses and pain. When we fall into addiction, the long-term struggles of it are destructive to our lives. Addiction in alcohol may even lead to complications that cause death like cirrhosis of the liver. Staying rooted to Christ gives us the favor of remaining ever sober. It's not that our bodies do not desire to drink, but we keep away for the sake of Jesus our Savior. Keeping vigil with Christ is restorative to both our physical and spiritual bodies. Christ came, not to change things but to restore the glory and promise of life.

In Matthew,<sup>19</sup> Jesus offers us an opportunity to lay our hands on what is precious. The Kingdom of God is more precious than the few luxuries here on earth. His words were that we seek first an assurance of his Kingdom. When we get the Kingdom, then all other things follow. Seeking the Kingdom of God is the duty of the living. Followers should stay away from sin, and love God and fellow human beings as one would for themselves. The Psalmist<sup>20</sup> seeks the presence of God to reveal the path of life to Him. He also seeks the sparkle of life in His presence and a promise of the pleasures to those who'll be to the right hand of God, in paradise.

### **Grace in World**

The crown of life everlasting is full of glory. The earth in which we step on towards the promises of Christ is never welcoming. We meet heavy obstacles all along. In Galatians,<sup>21</sup> we have to view ourselves as crucified with Christ. Nothing in this world matters to us when we remain vigilant with him. The best gift we can offer back to Christ is remaining true to his teachings. Our role is to conquer evil, pain, mockery, and physical weariness that come with our weak flesh. We must be alive to what our weaknesses are as human beings. The devil lays snares through temptation to us, in similar ways as he did for Adam and Eve. When conscience of temptation alerts us, we must remain strong. Our prayers during brief moments of silence matter. We invoke Jesus and the Holy Spirit to help us in hard moments.

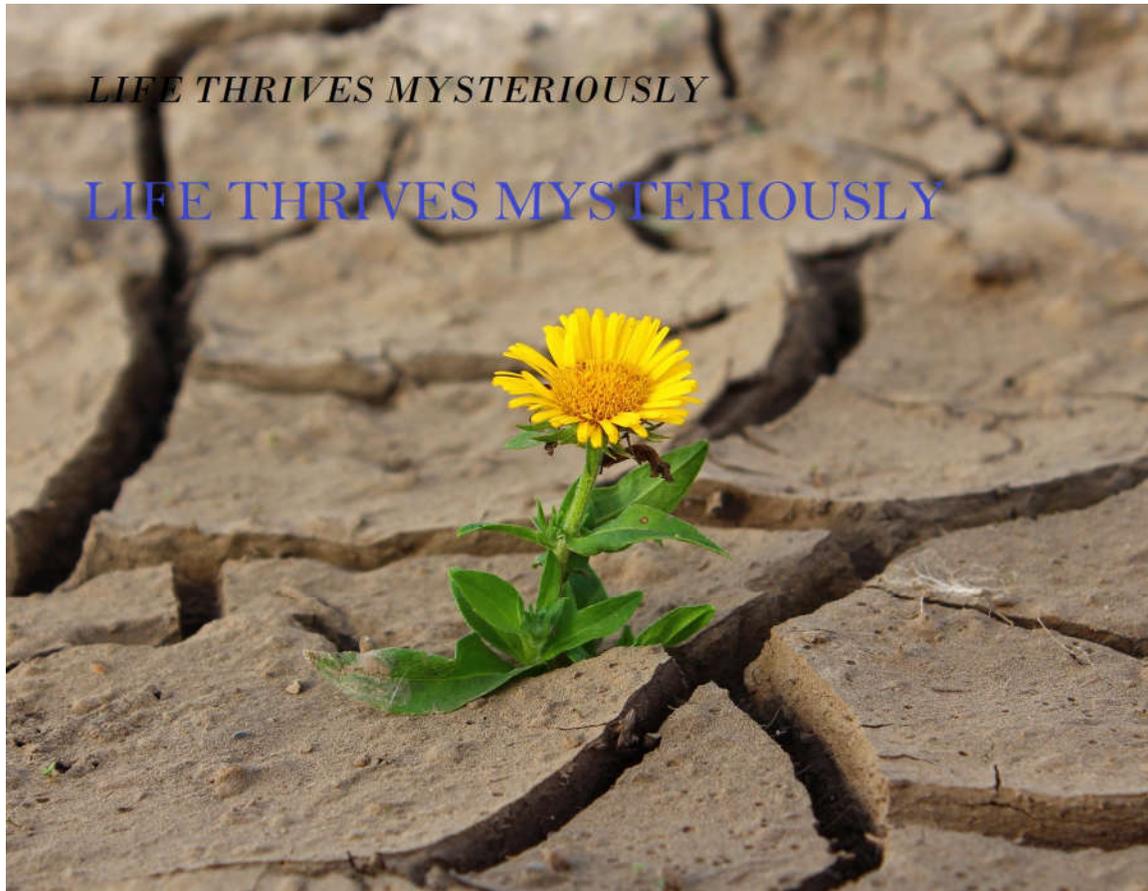
We are all God's Children in faith<sup>22</sup> by receiving Christ through confession of our sins, baptism, and living to the ideals of his teachings. The abundance of life is a gift to people of all nations. Christ calls all without discrimination. He is true to the Spirit of God the Father during creation.<sup>23</sup> God bestowed a lot to man as compared to other creatures. In unique ways, all other creation was done by word of mouth by God. When the time to create man came, God Himself in unison with the Holy Spirit and His very own Son Jesus did it.

### **What Now**

1. How does Jesus rescue man from the fallacies of Adam and Eve?
2. According to Christ, which is more precious between the earthly riches and life in his Kingdom?
3. How can one become a child of God?

## Sermon 4

### THRIVING AMONGST ENEMIES



4. Quote

**God will meet you where you are in order to  
take you where He wants you to go.**

**Tony Evans**

#### **Power Truth**

Do not be astonished at this; for the hour is coming when all who  
are in their graves will hear his voice

John 5:28 NRSV

## **Trouble in Text**

The seed of sin flows with every human generation. Christ lived up to his promise to offer us salvation. Learning the ways of the wicked one ensures that we are alert every moment in life. The prophet of the Lord Isaiah<sup>24</sup> explained the ways of evil. He gave the example of restless sea waves. The waves toss mud and impurity to the shores ceaselessly. It's never peaceful. A wicked soul is that way, restless and always throwing up dirt and impurity.

In Job,<sup>25</sup> the soul of a wicked one writes in pain all days. Ruthlessness awaits him at the end.

## **Trouble in World**

Living in knowledge allows us to see the darkness in sin, whose rewards are death. The epistle to the Hebrews,<sup>26</sup> elicits that after the knowledge, we have to live in the power of the light. Honestly speaking, it's wrong to sin knowingly. If I step on your toe by mistake and say sorry, should I repeatedly do so? No! So, know the truth and follow it and its goodness shall follow you all the days of your life.<sup>27</sup> You shall enjoy the peace and love of God in your life for living for Christ in your ways.

## **Grace in Word**

Sin is a state of lawlessness.<sup>28</sup> State authorities do not tolerate lawlessness. Governments use force to crack down on lawlessness. God too does not spare sinners; they shall suffer the full consequences of disobedience. Human beings have reasoning and memory. Conscience is what we should use to discern our sinful actions. More importantly, stay away from sin, and utmost seek to confess all the wrongs committed even without our knowledge.

The way from death in Adam to life in Christ is a straight pathway.<sup>29</sup> Walk in it steadfastly without losing focus. Loss of the steadfast focus allows our minds to shift from our focus, that's the ways of Christ. For salvation, there's no shortcut. The way to God the Father and to our salvation is through Christ Jesus only.<sup>30</sup> All the preachers and ministers of our communities must also adhere to this. Earthly riches can't get us a place in heaven. Let the poor ones never feel lost due to lack of material needs. Christ put it in no better words than in Matthew.<sup>31</sup> The earth and all shall come to pass, but his words, promises, and friendships shall remain with us forever.

In the book of Proverbs,<sup>32</sup> we are to trust in God with all our hearts, without regard to our own thinking and understanding.

## **Grace in World**

Prayer is one of the tools to take us closer to God. We have to pray for all days- pray in joy, pray in sorrow, and pray at all times. Besides the Lord's Prayer, we can pray in numerous ways. Even a short prayer at the bottom of our hearts is a way to invoke the presence of the Holy Spirit with us. When we pray, we should be confident and doubtless,<sup>33</sup> that he will faithfully grant to the wishes of our supplications as per his mighty will. God will hear us all the way from His dwelling place, which is heaven. We are His servants by hearing and responding to His voice confession and baptism. Here on earth, we are all God's servants, but in heaven, Christ will show us to Him as brothers and sisters. In the tenure of our servant-ship, let's surrender ourselves to the will of God, like the apostle Paul. Paul never spared himself anything in place of Christ, giving up his time and life for the sake of Jesus through spreading the Gospel across nations.<sup>34</sup>

In very simple rules, the Kingdom of God is never far away from us. Thoughtfully acting on the basis of love for one another is the key. Proverbs<sup>35</sup> gives a direct treatment to our enemies. Never send them out hungry and thirsty. It takes up much humility, as human, it's hard but for Christ, we can for his glory.

## **What Now**

1. How does prayer take us closer to God?
2. What did Christ's apostle Paul spare in his life from Jesus?
3. How should we treat our enemies?

## Sermon 5

### Surviving Sin-hood



#### 5. Quote

**Remember who you are. Don't compromise for anyone, for any reason. You are a child of the Almighty God. Live that truth.**

**Lysa Terkeurst**

#### Power Truth

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

John 6:35 NRSV

## **Trouble in Text**

The four Gospels explain Christ's life in details. He, being the seal of the New Testament, accomplished many things in his entire mission. From conception to death and resurrection, Christ lived an earthly life as a proof of salvation. For every living Christian, some of the missing elements in Biblical teachings can be found in details from the Acts of the Apostles and the Epistles to the various churches. In summary, not every detail is in the written record. For us to believe some of the acts and miracles were documented.<sup>36</sup>

## **Trouble in World**

Through his death on the cross, Jesus linked all of us as a ladder for us to climb up to life in heaven with him. Although he lost his earthly glory through humility and suffering, he remains the Son of God. Many people at the time Jesus was around wanted to disprove him. How could God come in the name of a son of a carpenter? God reminds us that we must not rely on miracles to believe in Him. John<sup>37</sup> says that Christ did not come to disrupt our ways of living. He came as the gate to heaven. He came that we may find good pasture under the auspices of a good shepherd.

## **Grace in Word**

From the word of God, Proverbs<sup>38</sup> reminds us to fear the Lord. From our fear of God shall flow forth a brook of wisdom to help us through life. Similarly, Ecclesiastes<sup>39</sup> lays emphasis to that too. However, it's inclined towards our obedience of God's commands. Our obedience to God places us in harmonious positions with God Himself and with fellow human beings. At the end of time, the wisdom of God shall judge the living and the dead. All our acts, known and secret, shall follow us to judgment.

There are numerous circumstances that we find ourselves in sin. That should not worry us in keeping our efforts focused towards penance and salvation. In Genesis,<sup>40</sup> Abraham's brother Lot found himself surrounded by sinners. The men in Sodom were that immoral that they would have men for themselves and not the daughters of Lot. Unknown to them, the men whom Lot had bowed to and ushered into his house were God's angels! Lot had guarded his ways as an individual. Faith is a real personal matter, but we should also encourage our spouses to join us in the truth to life everlasting. Unfortunately for Lot's wife, she was weak in faith. She acted against the command of God, to never look behind. So she turned to a rock of salt. Lot and his daughters obeyed to flee forward and never look behind them. God saved them from brimstone that He rained on Sodom and Gomorrah.

## **Grace in World**

The earth is a cursed place. People do not love to embrace the truth.<sup>41</sup> When Christ died and resurrected, there were plans to conceal the good news about his resurrection although that plot never survived. By then, the church's inauguration was under the Holy Spirit. Christ left a firm foundation for the spread of the good news. So, although the plans to bury the promises of Christ had been intricately planned, few occasions lived to witness the truth. Of the very last witnesses of Christ alive was the Roman centurion, Cornelius.<sup>42</sup> His own words, surely, "This was the son of God."

The mission of Christ under the Helper, the Holy Spirit, proved to be the most powerful era in salvation. That although Christ was not physically present with us, miracles never ceased, preaching never stopped. In fact, they became more powerful with the Holy Spirit and spread out in all directions from Jerusalem.

The hardness of hearts is also witnessed in Acts.<sup>43</sup> Non-believers stir up every other person not to believe. But let's always remain reminded that of the unseen powers of the Holy Spirit, the church shall live to the second coming of Christ. Taking up the Cross and following Jesus is continuously uprooting of sin and planting life in the Kingdom of God.

## **What Now**

1. Why did the Roman centurion utter, "Surely, this was the son of God"?
2. Where in the Books of the New Testament can we read about the documentation of Christ after his earthly mission?
3. Why were there plans to conceal the news about the resurrection of Christ?

## Sermon 6

### Breaking Away from The Earth and laying Treasure in Heaven



6. Quote

**He who lays up treasures on earth spends his life backing away from his treasures. To him, death is loss. He who lays up treasures in heaven looks forward to eternity; he's moving daily toward his treasures. To him, death is gain.**

**Randy Alcorn**

#### Power Truth

“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” 48 So he ordered

them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

Acts 10:47-48 NRSV

### **Trouble in Text**

The journey of death in Adam and life in Christ is a synopsis of the journey in salvation. When man sinned, God drove him from the Garden of Eden.<sup>44</sup> Temptation and disobedience resulted in the revocation of favors accorded to man at creation. When Christ resurrected, he won the battle against death. Christ appeared to the two who were walking with him to Emmaus. In a yet more miraculous occurrence, when the two arrived from Emmaus, Christ was standing amidst them in Jerusalem. This way he was able to conquer the doubting Thomas. This marks the very foundation of the church when Christ said these words; “Peace be with you!”<sup>45</sup>

### **Trouble in Word**

Temptations, lacking in faith and doubt are our enemies in our relationship with Christ. In one of the occasions, Christ allowed his disciples to go ahead of him in a boat. In the early hours of the morning, he appeared to them while walking on water. Amongst them was Peter, who asked Jesus to allow him to walk on the water.<sup>46</sup> He did! When he saw the waves, his faith failed, and he started to sink. He cried out and Jesus saved him with a word of rebuke. We too are that weak and we must endeavor to believe doubtlessly.

### **Grace in Word**

God intercedes through the presence of His holy servants. God’s presence is that of life, healing, restoration, and salvation. Jesus intervened for the resurrection of Lazarus.<sup>47</sup> It didn’t matter that he’d been dead for four days. In the old times, far more resurrections had been witnessed. When the Lord’s prophet Ezekiel<sup>48</sup> prophesied at the command of the Lord, a vast army rose up from a valley full of dry bones! Even to the wilderness, the mighty Lord strikes a fountain for His people to drink and have a new life.

Who is God? He is life, the Alpha and the Omega. Unto Moses God said, “I’m who I’m.” The power of life and death is in His speech.<sup>49</sup> From His anger, He condemned Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden. Out of His mercies, He sent out His begotten son to relieve mankind from the burden of sin and death.

The mighty Lord is plentiful in mercy. In one of His earliest covenants,<sup>50</sup> God promised never again to wipe the earth of life with a flood. This was after He'd sent rains for forty days and forty nights to drown everything except whatever His servant Noah had allowed into the ark. What we see is a God who is unhappy with sin but very swift to forgive those who listen up to Him. So, man must be up to the standards to reap from the mercies of God.

### **Grace in World**

During his earthly mission, Christ did offer the gifts of healing and relieved many from pain. Forgiveness and healing is the same thing. In Luke,<sup>51</sup> Christ offered to heal a woman who'd spent all energy and resources in the search for a cure from bleeding. She had suffered beyond bleeding itself. The community had cast her out and her husband could not let her be with him. It must've been a lonely and difficult journey for the past twelve years. Christ's word to her faith draws a synonymous relationship between healing and forgiving.

The mission of healing is also manifested in the Old Testament. For the Spirit of God is the same and works wonders timelessly. In Deuteronomy,<sup>52</sup> God promises to save His people from all sicknesses and heap them unto those who hate His people. For all those who walk in the true paths lighted up by the Holy Spirit, there is no fear for any sort of dangers. God's promise is to protect every bone they possess against breakage.<sup>53</sup>

Protection of earthly life against the enemies is a priority promise all through the Old Testament. When Pharaoh and his armies pursued the Israelites, God led them peacefully.<sup>54</sup> Moses asked all of them to stand firm and watch as God fought for them. By the end of the night, the Israelites crossed the Red Sea and the sea filled up again, drowning with it the Egyptian chariots and the Army.

### **What now**

1. How did God create a way for the Israelites through the Red Sea?
2. After Christ's resurrection, he appeared to several people. Name two of such instances.
3. What are some of the occasions in which man has displeased God in the bible?

## Sermon 7

### From Death to Life



#### 7. Quote

**God does not give us everything we want,  
but He does fulfill His promises, leading us  
along the best and straightest paths to  
Himself.**

**Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

#### Power Truth

So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.

### **Trouble in Text**

Out of God's plans to salvage man from the tentacles of sin is an unfailing love. Mankind falls into sin-hood and the unfailing love of God uplifts us from the mess.<sup>55</sup> It's so even for the love between fellow humans. Love masks many of our iniquities. The Psalmist<sup>56</sup> asks a very humbled question, that if God were to count on every iniquity we make, none would stand before God. John<sup>57</sup> spells out that, there's no greater love than that of Christ. He laid out his life for us to have the opportunities to have life everlasting.

### **Trouble in World**

Christ never got weary of doing well. In his pursuit of salvation, Christ did not back down from the weight of the cross and that of our sins. Galatians<sup>58</sup> also encourages us to walk in that line for us to reap from the fruits of salvation. In special ways and authority, we are to regard highly those who bring us good news and lead us towards God. We are to imitate their ways to God. So, for the leaders too, our followers are keenly watching. Let's not falter as the followers will walk on the same path!

### **Grace in Word**

The way to God has many obstacles. The path is the narrow one. Falls will be common. When we fall, let's not stay there lamenting in sin and dirt. On his way to Golgotha, Christ fell down three times. In each of the times, he never lost his focus. The ideal Christian is to rise up, and progress towards Christ. Its open for us to seek out for help from God, Christ and the Holy Spirit. Along with that too is a duty not to allow others to fall. Yes, some of us could be in positions that determine the next step for a Christian. That's whether they'll fall or remain with Christ.

God promised to hold us by the hand and never let us lose in courage.<sup>59</sup> Every Christian must be hopeful and courageous. The devil is not timid in his pursuits. For us too, we must not let down our guard but hold on as Christ did to his final exaltation. Our tools of war in this journey are prayer, praise fasting, and thanksgiving. These are rituals we must fulfill diligently. Christ as our role model was not weak in them. Amongst us are Christians who may not be true to the calling. Theirs is to thrive silently amongst us while causing the faithful to fall every way into sins. Their mission is to propagate not Christ's Kingdom, but that of Satan. For them, that acts in that sly way, their ways will be met with heavy gnashing of teeth. Christ will separate them from wheat like tares and accord to them the fruits of sin.<sup>60</sup>

## **Grace in World**

Thanksgiving offers us a great way to remain committed to God. We can't thank God enough for all His gifts. At the circumcision of Christ, two doves were offered. Although Christ was born to poor earthly parents, that did not limit his mandate. In any case, it reinforced the urgency that God's kingdom is not predefined for any rich or poor personalities. We all have numerous avenues to offer adoration to Christ. Doing compassionate things is among them. If we are in short of material things, we have the time to offer. Take time to pray for others, to sing a hymn of joy and thanksgiving. Give thanks at all times. Give thanks for the joy of others through Christ.

In Matthew,<sup>61</sup> Christ commissions us at baptism to be witnesses among friends and enemies alike. The ultimate care we can offer is sharing to others the choice of changing and being heirs to the kingdom of God. The role of evangelization belongs to the church as it belongs to us individually. The early church was built by the auspices of the Holy Spirit and even today it's not over yet. Even as our lives get busier by the day, let's not abandon evangelization. At all costs, the best evangelization is the change in our habits. Others can learn a great deal from the causes of change in our lives, for the sake of Christ.

## **What Now**

1. Is it true that it's the work of the church alone to spread the Gospel?
2. Why were turtle doves presented during the naming and circumcision of Jesus?
3. How true is it that some rogue Christians masquerade as faithful ones?

## Sermon 8

### The Linkage Through The Cross



8. Quote

**Always, everywhere God is present, and  
always He seeks to discover Himself to each  
one.**

**A.W. Tozer**

#### **Power Truth**

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”—

Galatians 3:13 NRSV

### **Trouble in Text**

In a figurative way, the journey from Adam to Christ is crossing the river of death to that of life. Moses did a wonderful job by leading the Israelites from Egypt towards Canaan. Due to the anger that possessed Moses, he dropped the tablets with the Ten Commandments broke them into pieces. For that, although God was pleased with the work of Moses, He never revoked his punishment to him. For that, Moses<sup>62</sup> never set foot on the Promised Land. But for a bit of relief for him, God allowed him to see it from a distance!

### **Trouble in World**

The earth has away for perpetuating its agendas and doing away with the heavenly ones. These are very sly and we must be aware of. Being demeaned, accused falsely, and crucified alongside robbers faced Christ at his time.<sup>63</sup> The earth and its evil ways found a way to silence his earthly body. Unbeknown to the authorities, Christ belonged to the everlasting authority. In his resurrection, Christ did not come back to haunt His killers. His resurrection affirmed our salvation. In the Gospel of Mark,<sup>64</sup> the angels attested to his resurrection and being taken up into heaven; "Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him."<sup>65</sup>

### **Grace in Word**

The death of Christ affirmed a clear way for us to serve others in a true sense of his Kingdom. When we serve others in his name, we plant seeds that even the power of death can overcome. Weeding out pride from our hearts is a must. We cannot be lying to ourselves<sup>66</sup> that we are righteous yet we commit sin even without our conscience. All our reasoning should be very open. None of us is to judge others. Although some of us have authority here on earth, our actions have to be for the glory of God in heaven.

Telling lies is not anywhere in our Kingdom; we are made of and belong to the truth.<sup>67</sup> Christ too did not tell any lie. Christ died, resurrected, and rose to heaven as he'd promised. As part of His promises, God allowed the salvation mission to be fulfilled at its. That true revelation laid a clear way for the consequent events in the times of the church. The words of God, written or delivered by angels and the Holy Spirit, shall come to be. In one 1 Kings,<sup>68</sup> a woman believed in the words of Prophet Elijah as a servant of the highest God. Doubting a prophet doubts God! Exodus<sup>69</sup> warns us against falsely testifying against our neighbors. They are the very image and likeness of God.

## **Grace in World**

God is perfect and orderly. In James,<sup>70</sup> He is the source of all perfect gifts for us. The new covenant perfected humankind's loss through Adam. That's through the condemnation of one man; all men fell short of the graces of God. Consequently, salvation came through Christ, the one and only begotten Son of God. As God's times are perfect, so is our salvation. From God, there is time for darkness and time for the day. God perfected this right from creation. Grace and glory come from Him.<sup>71</sup> To them who are upright, He bestows honor and good things. Our salvation through baptism and confession lays a foundation for the Holy Spirit to take over from us. We become witnesses and worthy of His everlasting Kingdom. The tree of the cross is a bridge laid for us to cross to life, for the way of Christ is not for the unwilling ones. When we join Christ, it is not a way to earthly riches or glory. In special ways, it's a way for us to lay our treasures in heaven, where none can take them away from our possession.

The powers of prayer for thanksgiving and supplications are powerful prayers met by his graces. For all our needs and wishes, we put them to God in prayer. And out of His wisdom in Matthew,<sup>72</sup> God takes care of us as His children.

## **What Now**

1. How was Paul a sinner transformed from sin to be a witness to Christ's love?
2. What are the rewards from God for an upright believer?
3. Moses never saw the Promised Land. Why?

## Sermon 9

### Here's the True Path



9. Quote

**Christ literally walked in our shoes.**

**Tim Keller**

#### **Power Truth**

Thus storing up for them the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

### **Trouble in Text**

The Old Testament prophesied the coming of the Messiah from David's lineage. That a new covenant sealed with human blood will be in place. In the Acts of the Apostles,<sup>73</sup> there is a reflection of the same. Accordingly, after fulfillment of the covenant, a new era dawned in the generations of human beings, those blessed with the life in Christ.<sup>74</sup> It is theirs to claim from the jaws of sin that has hit mankind across the ages. The secret to life in Christ is obedience, faith, and love for God as fellow human beings.

### **Trouble in World**

All through the Old Testament, God made attempts to seal covenants with man. But due to weaknesses of men, the covenants were always broken. God never lost hope. That's the reason as to why the New Testament was fulfilled. It has a long history, right from the genealogy from King David. From the words of the Lord's Prophet Jeremiah,<sup>75</sup> God made a declaration that He will seal a Covenant from the House of Judah. This too falls in God's calendar of events to fulfill His promises. According to John,<sup>76</sup> prophesies the second coming of Christ. The living and the dead will face judgment.

### **Grace in Word**

The cornerstone rejected by masons refers to Christ. But the Lord has fulfilled this and it's a wonder in our eyes.<sup>77</sup> This truth is hidden to the knowing and revealed to the humble ones.<sup>78</sup> So in special ways, this call goes to the learned and the wise, to humble themselves in the place of the Lord and savior. The way to live in Christ is not in pride, but humility.

In the year of God's wonderful acts, the Spirit<sup>79</sup> shall be sent through an anointed one. He shall bring news of redemption to all. There shall be hope for the poor, liberation of captives, and comfort to the mourners. All His promises shall come to be. Daniel<sup>80</sup> foresees the coming of the lords with restoration and a new covenant to be in place. That covenant is the suffering, death, and resurrection of Christ. All this, Christ underwent out of love. Love binds us into everything with God. Love complements our deliverance from sin.

The disciples and apostles had difficulties in discerning these mysteries, just as we do. God is the truth. The mysteries to the way of life in Jesus can be better understood with the indulgence of the Holy Spirit, the wonderful counselor from the beginning.

## **Grace in World**

Isaiah foretold the coming of the Messiah from the old times. He refers to him as the suffering Servant of God. Isaiah tells of the exact happenings that will befall the Messiah in his earthly mission.<sup>81</sup> The servant shall act wisely. Jesus acted out very wisely. In coincidence to that, the Gospel in Luke concludes: “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”<sup>82</sup> Those were the words of the Messiah as a confirmation to the fulfillment of the prophecy.

Regarding his wisdom, the Messiah acted as so. Matthew’s Gospel<sup>83</sup> captures part of this wisdom in the parable of the ten bridesmaids. And this parable, in very unique ways, reminds us to be ever ready for the life in Christ through his second coming. The five bridesmaids were not ready. So, when the bridegroom came, they were out searching for oil for their lamps. At the hour of unpreparedness, the bridegroom came in and locked all doors. How prepared are we for the second coming of Christ?

The confirmations of life through Christ were also revealed to others. Amongst them was Simeon.<sup>84</sup> The Spirit of God was over with revelation, that He shall never see death without seeing the Messiah. Simeon gave thanks and in very strong words. He rested in peace for he had seen Jesus.

## **What Now**

1. Who told Simeon about the Messiah?
2. Why were the five bridesmaids not ready for the bridegroom?
3. According to the parable of the ten virgins, how many of them were locked out when the bridegroom got in?

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<sup>1</sup>Genesis 1:3-4  
<sup>2</sup>James 1:14  
<sup>3</sup>Genesis 3:14  
<sup>4</sup>Genesis 3: 16  
<sup>5</sup>Genesis 3:17-19  
<sup>6</sup>Romans 6:23  
<sup>7</sup>Romans 8:38-39  
<sup>8</sup>John 3:16-18  
<sup>9</sup>John 12:25  
<sup>10</sup>Ephesians 4:32  
<sup>11</sup>Jeremiah 29:11  
<sup>12</sup> Matthew 8:31  
<sup>13</sup>Matthew 28:18-20  
<sup>14</sup>2 Corinthians 5:20  
<sup>15</sup>John 2:1-12  
<sup>16</sup>Acts 3:19-21  
<sup>17</sup>Philippians 2:12  
<sup>18</sup>Proverbs 8:35  
<sup>19</sup>Matthew 6:33  
<sup>20</sup>Psalms 16:11  
<sup>21</sup>Galatians 2:20  
<sup>22</sup>John 1:12  
<sup>23</sup>Genesis 1:26  
<sup>24</sup>Isaiah 57:20-21  
<sup>25</sup>Job 15:20-35  
<sup>26</sup>Hebrews18:26  
<sup>27</sup>Psalms 23:6  
<sup>28</sup>1 John 3:4  
<sup>29</sup>Job 23:11  
<sup>30</sup>John 14:6  
<sup>31</sup>Matthew 24:35  
<sup>32</sup>Proverbs 3:5  
<sup>33</sup>1 John 5:14  
<sup>34</sup>Philippians 1:21  
<sup>35</sup>Proverbs 25:21  
<sup>36</sup>John20:31  
<sup>37</sup>John 10:9-10  
<sup>38</sup>Proverbs 15:33  
<sup>39</sup>Ecclesiastes 12:13-14  
<sup>40</sup>Genesis 19:1  
<sup>41</sup>Psalms 78:32  
<sup>42</sup>Mathew 27:54  
<sup>43</sup>Acts 14:2  
<sup>44</sup>Genesis 3:24  
<sup>45</sup> John 20:21  
<sup>46</sup>Matthew 14:22-33  
<sup>47</sup>John 11:38-44  
<sup>48</sup>Ezekiel 37:1-14  
<sup>49</sup> Exodus 3:14  
<sup>50</sup> Genesis 9:11-17  
<sup>51</sup>Luke 8:44

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<sup>52</sup>Deuteronomy 7:15

<sup>53</sup> Psalms 34:20

<sup>54</sup>Exodus 14:23

<sup>55</sup> 1 Peter 4:8

<sup>56</sup>Psalms 130:3

<sup>57</sup>John 15:13

<sup>58</sup>Galatians 6:9

<sup>59</sup>Isaiah 41:13

<sup>60</sup>Psalms 37:17

<sup>61</sup>Matthew 10:16

<sup>62</sup>Deuteronomy 32:52

<sup>63</sup>Matthew 27: 26-45

<sup>64</sup>Mark 16:6

<sup>65</sup> Mark 16:6

<sup>66</sup> 1 John 1:8

<sup>67</sup>1 John 4:6

<sup>68</sup>1 Kings 17:24

<sup>69</sup>Exodus 20:16

<sup>70</sup>James 1:17

<sup>71</sup>Psalms 84:11

<sup>72</sup>Matthew 7:11

<sup>73</sup>Acts 2:22–32

<sup>74</sup>Psalms 16:8-11

<sup>75</sup>Jeremiah 31:31

<sup>76</sup>Revelation 20:12

<sup>77</sup>Psalms 118:22-24

<sup>78</sup>Matthew 11:25

<sup>79</sup>Isaiah 61:1-2

<sup>80</sup>Daniel 9:24-27

<sup>81</sup>Isaiah 52:13-53:12

<sup>82</sup>Luke 4:17-21

<sup>83</sup>Matthews 25:1-23

<sup>84</sup>Luke 2: 23:32