

Romans #101

“Thanks be to God who Delivers Me through Jesus Christ our Lord”

Part 3

Romans 7:21-23; John 8:25-32;

Philippians 3:3-10; 2nd Corinthians 12:7b-10

Romans highlights the very character, nature and essence of God, along with the free-will of man and his constant rejection of God and how this relates to the righteousness of God and how understanding His righteousness reveals the magnificence of His grace and

His gracious plan of salvation available freely to everyone.

Jesus Christ was God-determined, not self-determined;

“Father, if you are willing, take this cup from Me; yet not My will but Yours be done.” Luke 22:42

God can do all He wills to do but He may not will to do all that He can do.

Being God-determined requires active passivity, another irony.

Jesus has come to free us to be the men and women God designed us to be; living in a generation of darkness yet being lights in the world, shining in the darkness.

If we think we have something in ourselves that we can solve our problems with and if we think our wills are strong enough or our drive is motivated enough so that we can control evil by self-determination, we’ve not come to the end of ourselves and we remain hopeless.

While the Christian life is one of peace, it’s also one of constant warfare, another irony.

As we serve Jesus Christ and His kingdom, we’re at war with the evil powers of darkness engaged in the battle between God’s truth and the lies of Satan that captivate the minds of unbelievers.

The conflict between the purpose to please Jesus Christ and the desire to fulfil the lusts of the sin nature while living in this world becomes a constant antagonistic pressure where the true purpose of the Christian life can be compromised by the trends of the sin nature.

Everything is decided in the soul.

Without Biblical truth resident in the soul, there’s no inner conflict, for there is no divine viewpoint to challenge the trends of the sin nature.

Biblical truth resident in the soul is not only the means of attaining spiritual maturity and glorifying Jesus Christ but it’s also the means of combating the attacks of the sin nature as the soul is the battleground.

The mind is where information is waiting to be processed and sent over to the heart where it is usable or it stays there and is connected with arrogance and misused, distorted and abused.

Only Biblical truth in the heart causes spiritual growth to advance the believer.

***If we are strong enough, we won’t be attacked.* Being a prisoner to the sin nature results**

**in a life of misery and divine discipline and eventually
the sin unto death with no possibility of fulfilling the plan of God for our life on earth.**