



“Why I Do What I Do?”

Romans 7:13-25; 1 Peter 1:1-7
Scripture Text: Romans 7:15-17; 1 Peter 1:3

Last week I shared what we must learn in order to grow in 2009. It was stated clearly that if you are to become who Christ wants you to become it is imperative that you grow mentally. In other words, never stop learning who God is and what He wants to do with your life. We learned from 2 Peter 2:1-11 that “God has already given us everything we need to live successful, meaningful, and useful lives.” Peter says that we must learn to grow in virtue, understanding, self-control, tolerance, patience, perseverance, devotion to God, concern for others and love.” If we learn and apply these characteristics in 2009, “we will not stumble or fall. God will then give you a glorious welcome into His kingdom that will last forever.”

I want to teach this morning on the profound question we probably have all asked at one time or another, “Why do I do what I do?” I have heard it answered that, “The Devil made me do it.” That may be true, however, let us learn and apply what the Word of God says according to the Apostle Paul.

Because of God’s grace and our faith in Christ, we have been born again. We are spiritually alive and we enjoy a spiritual union with God as Adam and Eve did before the fall. Being in Christ, we are declared righteous and are completely acceptable to God. Understanding and acting upon this truth of who we are in Christ is the basis for successful Christian growth and maturity. Despite God’s provision for us in Christ, we are still less than perfect in our behavior. We are saints who sin! Our position in Christ is settled—solid. Unfortunately, our daily performance is often marked by personal failure and disobedience, which disappoints us and disrupts the harmony of our relationship with God.

In 2009, many of us will face the great Christian dilemma, as did Paul, “Why do I do what I do?” (Romans 7:13-25). Paul declares that it is not him doing what he does, but the SIN living in him (Romans 7:15-17). Since God “...delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son” (Colossians 1:13), can we still be in both kingdoms? When God declares that we are “not in the flesh but in the Spirit” (Romans 8:9), can we be in the flesh and in the Spirit simultaneously? When God says, “You were formerly darkness, but now you are light in the Lord” (Ephesians 5:8), can you possibly be both light and darkness? When God states that, “If any person is in Christ, he/she is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold new things have come” (2 Corinthians 5:17), can we be partly “new” creatures and partly “old” creatures?

If you believe that you are part light and part darkness, part saint and part sinner, you will live in a mediocre manner with little to distinguish you from the non-Christian. If Satan can get you to believe that you are no different from the natural person then you will behave no differently from the natural person. In 2009, we want to learn about who we really are as described by Paul in 1 Corinthians 2:14 (the natural person); 1 Corinthians 2:15 (the Spiritual person); and 1 Corinthians 3:3 (the fleshly person). Never forget we are a composite of all three. It just depends upon which one is in control of the moment when “We do what we do!!”

Sin is the cause of spiritual death. Sin is so powerful in separating you from what you know God wants you to do that you do wrongly in spite of your desire to do right. Our lives are a battleground between good and evil. When we grow to know that Jesus has already paid the supreme redemptive price, we understand that Jesus will rescue us from doing what we do not want to do (Romans 7:23-25).

Do not miss any part of this life changing series which will finally answer your question—Why do I do what I do? Read 1 Corinthians 2:14, 15; 3:3.

Let us grow together in 2009. Your spiritual growth will change you and sustain you—not simply the change from 2008 to 2009!

Pastor Gerald L. Durlley