

“The Essentials Of Our Faith”

Session XVII

February 6, 2011

“IDENTIFICATION” TRUTH: “Reckoning” – The Means Of Experiencing Life!

Review: What is the Christian life?

I. The Christian life is lived by “FAITH”, Heb. 11:6.

--Everything in our relationship with God is determined by the principle of faith:

A. We are saved by faith in God’s provision → Christ’s death for sin, Jn. 3:16.

B. We are sanctified by faith in God’s provision → Christ’s life in us, Gal. 2:20.

II. The Christian life is lived by faith in the “FACTS” of God’s Word.

A. Fact: The Believer has been “Baptized” into CHRIST, Rom. 6:3.

*“Or do you not **know** that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus . . .”*

→ Key: At the moment of salvation, the Believer is placed “into Christ”.

B. Fact: The Believer has been “Baptized” into Christ’s DEATH, Rom. 6:3.

*“Or do you not **know** that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death.”*

→ Key: We participated in what happened to Him!

→ Key: He “died” to sin; we “died” to sin!

*“**Knowing** this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with (rendered inoperative, powerless),” Rom. 6:6.*

C. Fact: The Believer has been “United” with Christ’s RESURRECTION, Rom. 6:5, 11.

*“For if we have become **united** with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection.”*

“Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.”

→ Key: What happened to Him, happened to the Believer!

IV. The Christian life is lived by “_____” upon the “Facts” of the Believer’s “Position” in Jesus Christ.

*“Even so **CONSIDER** yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus,” Rom. 6:11.*

--The word “consider” (logizesthe) = present imperative middle, from logizomai; = “to consider, to reckon, to regard as true”

Note: The “present imperative” could mean ‘do this continuously’. (C. Rogers)

A. “Reckoning” begins with the “Facts” of God’s revealed truth.

*“We should remind ourselves that the written Word was designed specifically by God to bring us to **know** the Living Word. Never for a moment is the written revelation to be bypassed, or slighted in any way. We are to study, meditate, and **count on it** (“reckon”) through the ministry of the Spirit of Truth, in order that we may **know** the Lord Jesus. He is our all, **by means of the Word**.”*

*“There is a crippling tendency among Believers today to deprecate head knowledge of the truth, and even doctrine itself. Emphasis is being put on so-called ‘heart knowledge’ gained by means of experience. This, however, is **to place condition before position**, which is the opposite of God’s scriptural pattern. Truth ‘**reckoned on**’ fosters the only healthy and abiding spiritual experience. For faith to function, there must be **Spirit-given knowledge** of the Word.”*

*“The **Spirit of Truth** ministers truth to us by means of our mind – the spiritual mind that relies on Him. This head knowledge gives us the **facts** on which we exercise **faith** or ‘**reckon**’. In time, through deeper understanding and a quiet assimilation of the truth, there is both head knowledge and heart knowledge: we not only **believe**, but now we know **experientially**.”*

“Some people belittle head knowledge because they see many Christians who seem to know so much Scripture, yet whose lives fail to ‘adorn the doctrine’ (Titus 2:10). Doubtless there is some justification for this reaction, but it should be realized that one’s knowledge of truth is always in advance of his growth in that truth. Many Believers know truth in which it will take them a lifetime (and eternity) to grow.”

*“Further, there are those on every hand who know **about** truth, having grasped and even memorized Scripture by means of the natural mind. **Such knowledge will never become living experience**. In the final analysis, we are not to*

decide about spiritual matters by observation of others Believers. It is the **Holy Spirit** who must teach us by means of the Word, 'comparing spiritual things with spiritual' (I Cor. 2:13)."

"Ideally, head knowledge precedes heart knowledge. However, both are essential for **healthy growth** and **effective ministry**. Heart knowledge alone cannot progress beyond the fluctuating feelings and emotions of babyhood. It can exhort, emotionalize, and share experiences and blessings, but it **cannot** lead others to 'establishment' in the truth. To share effectively, we must be brought to **maturity** of both head and heart knowledge."

--Miles Stanford

B. "Reckoning" often involves periods of "_____!"

"How many defeated Christians have exclaimed bitterly, 'I tried Romans 6, but **reckoning** didn't work for me!'

"Most discouraged people turn back to the futile struggles of Romans 7 as a result of seeming **failure**. Some even follow the alluring 'experience-centered' errors of so-called 'holiness' groups. But whatever it may be, **all outside the realm of Spirit-taught and Spirit-ministered identification truth results in compounded failure and bondage**. 'Having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect (mature) in the flesh.' (Gal. 3:3)"

--Miles Stanford

C. "Reckoning" becomes "_____ " by three essential principles.

"... as to **reckoning** on the specific identification truths centered in Romans 6, nearly all of us **stop** at the written Word. It is as though we stand there, with a death-grip on a handful of truth, repeating with conviction, 'I believe this is true, and I reckon, reckon, reckon.'"

"Much of the **failure of reckoning** is due to **erroneous expectation**. We are delivered **only** by the 'Liberation Truths'! Certainly we must believe and appropriate these truths, but **the actual liberation comes as the result of our intimate personal fellowship with the Lord Jesus through the Holy Spirit**. Simply put, the principle is: **Liberation is in the Liberator (Jesus Christ)!**"

"The **reckoning that counts** is made up of three essential steps. Most Believers stop at the first, many stop at the second, but none can **know** the true results of **reckoning** apart from all three factors."

--Miles Stanford

1. “Know” and “Reckon”:

“ . . . our knowledge becomes a set ‘heart attitude’: I have died to sin; I am alive in Christ to God (Rom. 6:11)” --Miles Stanford

--Our experience:

“ . . . always delivered unto death . . . that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh (body),” II Cor. 4:11.

2. “Abide” and “Rest”:

“ . . . we are a branch in the True Vine. By means of this awareness we learn to abide. We simply rest where we have been newly created – in Christ.” --Miles Stanford

--Our experience:

“Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine, so neither can you . . .,” John 15:4.

--Note:

“Not only is the ‘written Word’ to be counted on, but the ‘Living Word’ is to be rested in.”

3. “Depend” and “Walk”:

“Deep within our spirit He (the Holy Spirit) abides forever, and there, through our study, He teaches us the truth of our position. Then, as we reckon on the truth taught, He applies the crucifixion of the Cross to the old man, and ministers the life of Christ to the new (man).” --Miles Stanford

--Our experience:

“ . . . walk by (depend upon) the Spirit and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh,” Gal. 5:16.

“For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death,” Rom. 8:2.

--Note:

“Our reckoning becomes effective as we count on the Word, abide in the Lord , and walk in the Spirit.”

A Sober Warning:

“Another subtle reason why our reckoning flounders in the midst of these steps is that our motives are centered in self. We know and count on identification for OUR liberation; we abide and rest in Him for OUR growth and peace; and we seek to depend on and walk in the Spirit for OUR empowering and fruitfulness.” --Miles Stanford