

IT IS FINISHED

Hello I'm Jim Fuller. I'd like to share a few thoughts and some scriptures with you.

As Christians we have an enemy. Yes, that would be Satan.

Although he has been defeated by Christ and cannot overturn His victory, Satan relentlessly assaults our minds to try and keep us from laying hold of our victory and walking fully in it.

He hits us with thoughts that keep us focused on our past failings, our weaknesses, and our insecurities. They are designed to create doubt, unbelief and keep us focused on our natural limitations rather than the victory of Christ. He tries to make us doubt that we will ever complete the course before us and fulfill the destiny that God has created for us from the beginning of time.

I'd like to share a few thoughts and some scriptures to encourage you that you can and will fulfill the destiny that you were created for regardless of Satan's lying efforts.

Recently the Holy Spirit reminded me of a vision that I'd had many years ago. It was a vision of a marathon race. I got my number, pinned it on my shirt and took off running with the pack of runners. After a while I began to slow my pace down considerably. There was a man along the course who said, hey buddy come over here. So I stepped off the course and he said, you look weary and tired. You know what you need? You need the peace of God. This is a long race and you're going to need to draw on the peace of God all the way through it. I have a 2 CD series for \$19.95 that'll enable you to do just that. I said great I'll take it.

I ran on a few miles further and started to run out of gas again. There was another guy who called me over. He said, I see that you really want to finish this race. I see you've got the peace of God cds there, but what you really need is the wisdom of God. There's a lot of things that are going to present themselves along this race and you're going to need the wisdom of God to deal with it. I've got a 3 CD series that will enable you to do exactly that. For \$29.95 I'll give it to you so that you can draw from the wisdom of God all the way through the race. I said, great I'll take it.

As I ran on further another guy met me along the race and said I see that you're really determined to finish this race. You have the peace cds, you have the wisdom cds, but what you really need is the power of God. You're going to encounter things in this race that you've never dealt with before. You need to learn how to draw on the power of God. I've got a 4-cd set for \$39.95 and I'll let you have it so that you'll be able to draw on the power of God all the way through this race.

When the vision ended, I thought to myself, this is crazy. Our walk with God can't be like this.

Then the Holy Spirit reminded me of this verse in John 19:30

Jesus said, it is finished.

He did NOT SAY the race has begun. He said it is finished.

Jesus did not recruit us to apply our will, our minds, our emotions, and all of our strength in hopes that we MIGHT finish the course. He didn't even give us His teachings to draw from to bolster our natural fleshly efforts.

He won a complete and total victory for us. As His children, that victory belongs to us on our first day as believers. He didn't give us teachings to help our fleshly efforts. He gave us Himself, The Living Word to actually BE our victory.

He never asked us to believe in and try to apply His word to obtain victory by our own efforts. He asked us to believe and apply His word because we already have His victory over sin, our old self, and Satan.

Let's look at a few scriptures

Romans 6.2 amp reads,

How can we who died to sin live in it any longer?

Are you ignorant of the fact that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?

We were buried therefore with Him by the baptism into death, so that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious [power] of the Father, so we too might [habitually] live *and* behave in newness of life.

For if we have become one with Him by sharing a death like His, we shall also be [one with Him in sharing] His resurrection [by a new life lived for God].

We know that our old (unrenewed) self was nailed to the cross with Him in order that [our] body [which is the instrument] of sin might be made ineffective *and* inactive for evil, that we might no longer be the slaves of sin.

For when a man dies, he is freed (loosed, delivered) from [the power of] sin [among men].

Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him,

Because we know that Christ (the Anointed One), being once raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has power over Him.

For by the death He died, He died to sin [ending His relation to it] once for all; and the life that He lives, He is living to God [in unbroken fellowship with Him].

Even so consider yourselves also dead to sin *and* your relation to it broken, but alive to God [living in unbroken fellowship with Him] in Christ Jesus.

Please notice that all of these statements are past tense.

It says that, we WERE baptized into His death, our old self WAS crucified with Him, and we WERE raised from the dead.

He's not asking us to draw from our own natural effort to accomplish this. These are things that He has done by His own supernatural ability.

They are paid in full, signed sealed and delivered.

Look at Romans 8:29 amp

For those whom He foreknew [of whom He was aware and loved beforehand], He also destined from the beginning [foreordaining them] to be molded into the image of His Son [and share inwardly His likeness], that He might become the firstborn among many brethren.

And those whom He thus foreordained, He also called; and those whom He called, He also justified (acquitted, made righteous, putting them into right standing with Himself). And those whom He justified, He also glorified [raising them to a heavenly dignity and condition or state of being].

Again these are all past tense realities.

We WERE called, justified and glorified by His one perfect sacrifice for all of us.

Let's look closer at the Greek words in this scripture.

Foreknew - proginosko - to know in advance

Predestined - proizo - to
pre-establish boundaries

Justify - dikaioo - to make righteous.

glorify - doxazo - to make righteous

So predestination is actually setting the pattern in advance about what something is supposed to become.

Let me give a simple example:

You can't plant an orange seed and expect it to come out as an apple. It's predestined to become an orange.

The word conformed is - *summorphos* - sharing the same form or identity.

It's like when my wife and daughter made Christmas cookies. After they rolled out the dough they took shapes of candy canes or stars and pushed them into the dough. Each one was conformed to be like the first one.

Predestination is not a capricious pre-selection by God of who will go to heaven and who will go to hell.

Colossians 1.2 says that,

Jesus was the firstborn from the dead. We are the rest of the crop.

1 Peter 1.23 states that,

we've been born of the same imperishable seed.

Romans 8:29 says that we were predestined from the beginning to be conformed to the image of Christ.

God's plan is pretty simple. If you plant the imperishable seed of Christ in a person's spirit they will not come out as a Baptist, a Methodist, a Pentecostal, a Presbyterian nor any other type of denomination. We are predestined to become conformed to the image of Christ.

We are predestined to become like Christ. Ephesians 4.15 states that we are to grow up in all aspects into Christ. His seed can't produce anything else.

God never intended for us to use the fleshly nature that He delivered us from to try and do our best imitation of Christ.

Jesus said in John 6:63,

It's the Spirit who gives life, your flesh profits absolutely nothing.

I'll wrap this up with a few final scriptures.

Colossians 1.19

For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross, through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.

And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds, yet He has NOW reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach, if indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast and not moved away from the hope of the Gospel which you have heard....

There is nothing like the gospel on this planet. God is the only one who could completely reconcile us and make us holy and blameless in his sight

He put us in Christ to accomplish this miraculous transformation. He's asking us to stay there, and abide in Christ, and allow the Holy Spirit to renew our minds and reveal to us everything that God has made available to His children by inheritance.

Then He intends for us to become those instruments in His hands to live His eternal life and impart it to other people wherever we go.

God bless you.

Jim Fuller

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