

## SURVIVING YOURSELF

Sin means death. We must choose to put to death all the manifestations of our fallen nature and let the life of Christ live in us.

### KEY POINTS

- ❖ God told us this from the beginning: the end result of sin is death.
- ❖ Adam and Eve had this fact clearly in mind. But then desire met deception and their understanding became clouded, leading to terrible results:
  - They were separated from their daily close communion with God, from eternal life, from the place of provision and blessing that God intended for them to live in.
  - They were even separated from each other by shame, blame and accusation.
- ❖ In Genesis 6, God looks at the results of many generations of humans living out the ways of sin—in other words, all the ways of death. His conclusion: everything that is of the earth—of the flesh—has to die, to give a planet plunged into sin by those given dominion over it a fresh start.
- ❖ After death (by the Flood) came new, fresh life. After the raven, the dove. After the destruction of flesh came new life by the hand of God.
- ❖ What happened to the earth at the Flood also happens with us. Baptism is intended to bury the old life, to put to death the desire to sin, the actions of sinning, and to cleanse us from the effects of sin.
- ❖ In Romans 7, Paul laments the ‘human condition’: <sup>15</sup>I don’t really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don’t do it. Instead, I do what I hate....<sup>17</sup>So I am not the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it. <sup>18</sup> And I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. I want to do what is right, but I can’t. <sup>19</sup>I want to do what is good, but I don’t. I don’t want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway. <sup>20</sup>But if I do what I don’t want to do, I am not really the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it (NLT).
- ❖ Paul saw that in so many ways his flesh—his human nature—although a “body of death” (KJV), was much too alive and well. He asked in agony how he could possibly get deliverance from it.
- ❖ How can we avoid doing the things the flesh, quite naturally, wants to do and does; but which the Spirit knows is nothing but death?

### KEY SCRIPTURES

Genesis 2:16-17; Romans 7:15-25, 8:5-14

- ❖ His answer was that this can only happen as we follow the experience of Christ.
- ❖ We have to be willing to essentially allow our earthly nature to be ‘crucified’, so that resurrection—a life in which we are alive to the things of God, a life where we set our affections on things above—can come.
- ❖ It’s not a one-time thing. To quote Paul again, we “die daily” (I Corinthians 15:31).
- ❖ Are there some aspects of me, of you, which are not like God, which don’t fulfill His word, which are not subject to the law of God or the leading of the Spirit?
- ❖ If I am willing to put “flesh” to death, new life will come. If I am willing to choose God’s nature over my human nature, the life of God will be born in me.
- ❖ If we live according to the ways of the flesh, we will die. But if we put to death the ways of the flesh we will, from the Spirit of God, receive life.
- ❖ Not just life, but life more abundantly. Not just more abundantly but forever. Not just forever but starting now. So the call today is to come and die.
- ❖ But beyond that, having died, survive yourself. Let the life of God inside you live.

### DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Susanna Wesley (to her son, John):  
Whatever weakens your reason, impairs the tenderness of your conscience, obscures your sense of God, takes off your relish for spiritual things, whatever increases the authority of the body over the mind, that thing is sin to you, however innocent it may seem in itself.  
Is this a truly biblical principle, applicable to godly life in the 20<sup>th</sup> century? Discuss.
2. How can we manifest the nature of Christ in what we read, watch, say, do; where we work, live, go? Identify possible decisions in each area and how they might affect our spiritual health, growth and development.

### Prayer Time







Lord, please help me to die to myself—that is, my flesh—so I can live in You; in Jesus’ name.

Start-up: identify and describe cycles/processes in which things naturally change in appearance and/or behaviour, repeatedly or over time.

## WEEK OF SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2018

### NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week’s message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

-  (Reminds me/Confirms)
-  (New idea)
-  (Think about)
-  (Do this)
-  (Speaks to my heart)
-  (Must share)

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### PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

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*Go deeper with your Life Group family.*  
**CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD**  
*Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline*