



Sermon – September 1, 2019
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Verses Covered

Ephesians 4:30

Romans 8:4, 16

1 Thessalonians 1:6

Ephesians 5:18

2 Timothy 4:6 - 8

So we're in Ephesians 4:28. Now evangelical Christians, and generally that's termed by people that believe in the blood of Jesus is the only redemptive factor and we believe the Bible's true. And that can be people in any denomination. But for the most part, those in evangelical groups are really good at talking about the blood of Jesus Christ. As a matter of fact, we're great at talking about His crucifixion, His burial, His resurrection. We are gifted at that. We're good at that. And so that becomes the centerpiece of who and what we are. Songs, Keep Me Near The Cross, actually is almost at times an incredibly dangerous philosophy. The cross, now I want you to listen to me carefully today. Don't do the normal thing and run out of here and say I said something I didn't say. OK. The cross and the death of Jesus is not an end in itself. It never was. It has a purpose for an ending. Now we tend to not understand the purpose and we center in on simply the cross. It's what we talk about. As a matter of fact, it's interesting in prepping to be able to teach preaching, one of the big arguments in that is where do I put Jesus in the text? How do I put Him in the text? He has to be in every text. And He's not. He's not in the text we look at today. He's the basis for the text. But He's not in the text we look at today. Now He is the basis. You have no hope without the blood of Jesus Christ which is why every sermon I ever end, I make an offer for people to find Jesus. I'm never not going to do that. But I think one thing that's killed us as evangelicals, and one of the reasons we've lost our power and our ability to live well, we struggle intensely with depression, not all depression, but some depression. The reason we struggle with doing what's right, we can't be holy, we struggle with holiness. We wrestle with all of it. We can't quite seem to conquer pornography in our lives. We just struggle. And it's because we're caught up in two-thirds of the Trinity's work in our redemption. If you remember, Ephesians 1, you go back 3 – 14, it talks about God the Father choosing to redeem us. God the Son accomplishing that redemption in His blood sacrifice. And then God the Spirit applying that redemption. If God the Father doesn't do His part, the other two don't work. You have one God in three persons. And in redemption, all three persons, all three Gods, all three, not Gods, but all three God, co-eternal/co-equal, God the Father, God the Son, God the Spirit, all had a part in your redemption. And we

have come to a place in our lives where we center on God the Father, God the Son, but we don't know anything about God the Spirit. And that is a fundamental flaw because the purpose of the blood of Jesus and the reason He went back was so we could have the Spirit. I would go home today and I would read John 14 to 17. I would read Romans 8. John 14 to 17 are what Jesus, He's got 11 guys with Him now. Judas is gone to get the Sanhedrin to arrest Christ. So they leave the upper room, they walk through the Kidron Valley, they walk up into the Garden of Gethsemane. We know what He said on that trek because it's John 14 to 17. And one of the things that He was distinct about is He said, "I've got to leave or the Spirit can't come." And He has to come. And then He said, "I'm not going to leave you orphaned." If Jesus had stayed and He's in Dallas, He can't be here. But the Holy Spirit has come. And He can indwell all of us. The whole purpose of the cross of Jesus, the reason He's crossing that valley, the reason He's going into Gethsemane, the reason they're going to kill Him, bury Him, He will resurrect, He will ascend back to Heaven, He's coming back. But the reason for that is so that you can be forgiven and then if you're forgiven, you become so holy by the blood of Jesus that God's Holy Spirit is now able to enter you and alter who you are. But now once you walk through the blood of Jesus Christ, now your focus is gratitude for the blood, gratitude for the love of Father, but now allowing the third person of the Trinity to impact your life. That's why Jesus said, when we baptize, Jesus was very precise, you baptize in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Because all three are aspects of your redemption. And we have unfortunately in evangelical circles we're really good about the blood of Jesus and we're not good at all about the Holy Spirit.

So that's the introduction. We may be here a while today. Now listen. Ephesians 4:28. Now listen to what he writes. He talks about, I'm sorry, Ephesians 4:30.

³⁰Don't grieve the Holy Spirit of God in whom you have been sealed until the day of redemption.

Now listen to what he says. He says the Holy Spirit has sealed you. And here's what happens. When you come to Jesus Christ, Holy Spirit speaks to you. Only eye witness we have in the world. Because what Jesus did on the cross was 2,000 years ago. I wasn't there. I didn't see it. But the Holy Spirit did. He was there. And so now He comes, He convicts me, and He shares with me that in fact Jesus did die. I believe that. And here's what happens. Two things. My sins are washed away in His blood and He gives me His holiness. This is why I don't like the word pardon. Because the word pardon implies I'm just getting rid of judgment. No, no, no, no, no. You get rid of sin and you get implanted in you His holiness. Both of which allow His Holy Spirit now to, in His words, seal you. It's the same word we saw in the first chapter. It's a Greek word that was used for the king's ring. Anything that the king possessed, and he didn't want anybody else to mess with, he would seal. He would put some wax on it, he would take his ring, he would put his impression in that wax whether it was a letter, whether it was a box. Whatever it was, and when you saw that seal, you knew, "I need to back away." So understand, you are, because of the blood of Jesus, sealed by the Holy Spirit of God. You are sealed by the third person of the Trinity. God through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, has declared, now listen, to the entire universe that you're His. Now before we get into another part of the text. Just as an aside, because I still here it. I see it on TV. I still hear it from people that come to me. I hear it going on in Bryan/College Station at prayer meetings. Let me be clear. You are not sealed by an angel, or a cherub, or seraph. You are sealed by Almighty God. There is no demon that can ever possess you again. Stop

believing that malarkey. That's the Greek word: *malarkos, malarkous*. That's the Greek word. Stop it! It's insane. Mark 5. There's a guy with literally thousands of demons in him. Jesus walks up. The demons immediately, here's their response to Him. "We don't want to leave. Can we go in the pigs?" Understand, their second choice is a pig to you. So, but they're terrified. They're not cocky. They're not arrogant. There are thousands of the demons and they don't look at Jesus and think they can whip Him. They are terrified. Why in the world do you let people make you believe that a demon can control you after you've met Jesus? They're terrified of the Holy Spirit in you because He's Jesus in you. They're terrified. When you become a Christian, you should have been terrified of them prior to that. But now they become terrified of you. Don't let anybody come to you to kick demons out of you. That's insane. There's no way a demon can ever possess a person that the Creator of the universe has set His seal on, and said, "That's my child. Back off."

Now there are two things that occur. Stay where you are. I want you to listen. Romans 8:4. Here's what the Spirit does.

⁴In order that the righteous deeds of the law might be filled up in us who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

Romans 8:16.

¹⁶This same Spirit bears witness with our Spirit that we are children of God.

So the Holy Spirit, when He seals you, there are two things He wants to do in your life. Number one: He wants to create a relationship between you and the Father that He's in there because of the blood of Jesus. So you're redeemed to the Father through the blood of Jesus under the direction now of the Holy Spirit of God. He wants to build in you a relationship with the Father. So it's not a bunch of rules. It's a relationship. Number two: He's going to give you the ability when He says, the righteous requirements of law. It's not rules, it's whatever reflects God's glory. He's going to give you the ability now and the power. Bible says in Romans 8, another place, put to death the deeds of the body. He's going to give you the ability to reflect the glory of God in your life. So He's going to indwell you, seal you. He's going to establish a relationship with the Father. He's going to give you the ability to say no to sin and yes to the Father, and to reflect the glory of God. Now that's the purpose of the sealing.

How long are you sealed? What does he say? Don't grieve the Holy Spirit of God in whom you're sealed until the day of redemption. How long are you sealed? Until the day you die. That's the day you're fully redeemed. The world's not fully redeemed, but you are. You go home to be with the Father. everything's fine. There's a redemption coming to you; it comes at the end of your life. So you are sealed by the Holy Spirit of God until you die. It's why you can't lose your salvation. You are sealed. So I'm safe. I daily experience the Creator. I have the ability to reflect His glory.

So here it is. Now watch this. Don't grieve the Spirit of God. I want you to listen to 1 Thessalonians, chapter 1, verse 6. Listen to this.

⁶You became mimics of us and the Lord by receiving the word in great affliction, listen, with a joy of the Holy Spirit.

Now I want you to listen to me carefully today. He says, and obviously God, and this is why we have emotions. We have emotions because we're in His image. He is an emotional being. He's not controlled by them. But He is emotional. Holy Spirit is grieved when what? When I don't show the glory of God in my life. He's grieved. There's joy in Him when I reflect the glory of God. So the clear inference here is that I have the ability if Ephesians 5:18, we're going to look at this in a few weeks, Ephesians 5:18:

Be filled with the Spirit

If I am controlled by the Spirit, I walk by the Spirit, I'm filled with the Spirit, He's in control of me does conscience fit in?" Great question whoever asked that. Here it is. Now listen. The Holy Spirit's grief and joy are tied to the glory of God. My conscience and what it feels, grief and joy, is tied to whatever I tie it to. It's tied to what I think. If I don't think this is wrong, my conscience won't bother me. I can sear it in that particular area and I'll do that same sin over and over and over because that doesn't bother me; my conscience doesn't bother me. It may bother me in this area, but not bother me here. My conscience is whatever I've tied my emotions to that I think is wrong and I think is right. So my conscience is controlled by me. The Holy Spirit's grief and joy are tied to the glory of the Father. So what you want to do is you want to get your conscience connected to the Holy Spirit so that you deeply know what is bothering Him and what is bringing Him praise. So that in my life I don't live by rules, I live by His presence. I live by what He makes me know is grieving Him and He lets me know what He is excited about. So I want to live I the excitement of the Holy Spirit in my life. Not in the grief of the Holy Spirit in my life. I actually have that capacity. I actually have that ability. So what would happen, I mean really, what would happen if we did that?

A couple things, number one, we'd set ourselves and our kids free. Now I'm not anti-education by any stretch of the imagination. Although, after my professors corrected my dissertation on simple little words, I'm about at the end. But the greatest flaw in our education system today is they're killing our kids. When they teach your kid in class evolution is not a theory, it's a fact, and that those that believe in creation are nuts, that they're crazy, they're right-wing, fundamental Bible thumpers. Really probably what I am. But when they tell you that and then they say, you evolved. There's no Creator, there's no design. There's no reason for you to be here. y life. Now listen. You actually have the ability when the Spirit controls you to know when you grieve Him and when you bring Him joy. When Jesus came out of the baptism, there was a voice from heaven, said, "This is my Son in whom I'm what?" Well pleased. You can actually sense in your soul and in your spirit when you are grieving the Holy Spirit and when you're bringing joy to the Holy Spirit. You have that capacity if you're filled with the Spirit. It's the only thing that makes sense here. How do I know I'm grieving Him? Because I can sense that. You say, "Well You're just here. What happens when I die? Don't really know but probably nothing. Listen, and then you tell that kid to feel good about himself? How in the world can I have any sense of worth when I shouldn't even be here? I'm a product of luck, and time, and chance. But what the Scripture would teach, that there's a creator who lost me, loves me, got me back, reinstalled Himself in my life, and now I can live in His presence and know every single day I'm alive that they're wrong and the Bible's

right and there's a holy God who's indwelled my soul. I can do that. So now I have a chance to live inside valid worth. If I lose my job, it doesn't take that worth away. If I can't throw a football well anymore, it doesn't take that worth away. My worth is tied into His love, His redemption, His indwelling.

Then I have the ability to live well. Listen to me. There is no sin, there is no act of righteousness God demands of you that in the power of the Holy Spirit you can't do. Nothing. If I rely on Him and trust Him and I'm filled with Him. So I can all of a sudden, and here's the great thing, I'm walking toward Christ, I, let me just put it on the table. There's certain things in my life I've always feared. One of them was I wanted to end well. I didn't want to end badly. And I've had tons of acquaintances, tons of friends, who've ended poorly. Men that I've eaten with and done things with and I thought, "Man, this guy, never." And I've seen so many guys end poorly. The one thing I didn't want to do was end poorly. And here's the great thing about living under the grief and the joy of the Holy Spirit. And as best you can getting your conscience tuned to that, what happens is I'm walking towards hell, I get saved, now I'm walking toward Jesus. And what's the enemy going to do? He's going to try to pull me off this road. But here's the great thing. If I'm living in the grief of the Holy Spirit, the minute I'm over here, I'm going to sense that grief and I don't want Him to grieve, so I back up. And then I sense His joy in doing the positive aspect so I move over here. In my marriage there are two things he would want me to do. Not to love my wife well. And to get intimate with someone else. So when I live in His grief and I begin to even step that way, His Holy Spirit's, "Man, don't go." You've got to take a lot of steps to get into intimacy with someone, not your wife. But that can't happen if I'm living under His grief. I feel it. I don't want it. I swing back. And then He gives me the joy. I begin to love my wife the way I should so I live inside His joy and His grief. And so the enemy's going to but me, but he really can't pull me very far off this line. Because I'm living off His grief and His joy. I get pulled off the line when neither matters to me. So there's a holiness that occurs when I don't grieve the Holy Spirit of God. And when I live in His joy.

And then no matter what happens, I can end well. We know about the guy that wrote this book as a matter of fact, Paul, all sorts of issues. Pretty sure when he came to Christ, his family left him. They were embarrassed. That was the beginning of his ministry. Because as a Pharisee, you virtually had to be married. He's obviously not married anywhere in the New Testament. So he's lost his family because of coming to Christ. They're embarrassed. So you fast forward to the end of his life. Been in jail 3 times. 2 years in Caesarea by the Sea. Then a little bit of time in Rome. Gets out. Probably goes into Spain. Comes back. He's re-arrested. Now here's the difference. First two jail times were preaching. Not the third time. The third time he's in jail, because Nero killed his own mother. One of the most debauched emperors ever to sit on the Roman throne. Burns Rome down because they didn't like it. He burnt the city of Rome, he wanted to build more buildings. Burned down about 70% of the city. Well everybody knew who it was. But Nero had a plan. He was really smart. So what he did was he blamed it on the Christians who everybody hated. They were atheist, they were cannibals, he hated them, so he blamed them. So what he does, smart guy, debauched, but smart, and so he picks the two head guys, puts them in jail, and kills them. Peter and Paul. Deflects everything. So Paul's in a jail cell. He knows he's going to die. But he's in jail for being a traitor. And it must have been a pretty powerful argument because in the first chapter of 2 Timothy he writes to his son in the ministry, Timothy, and he says, "Hey, man, come see me. Don't be ashamed of my chain." Timothy wouldn't even go see him because

he's embarrassed of the apostle. Everybody's gone, the only guy with him is Luke. Peter's last words, his heart and the grief and the joy of the Holy Spirit, nobody wants to be with him, not even his son in the ministry.

⁶I've already been spent, time of my departure is at hand. ⁷I fought the good fight, I've finished the course, I've kept the faith. ⁸Remained now for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord will deliver to me on that day, the righteous judge, and not only to me, but to everybody who loves his appearing.

You can't end well when it's about your happiness and your fun and your pleasure. But you end well when it's about His grief and His joy driving every component of your life.

Let's pray.

Father, remind us. We have in us what we need to know you and to honor you. And so Father anybody in this room that hasn't been doing any honor, let them know they can. Not just to be beaten up. Know they can alter. And Father for anybody in this room that has no relationship with you, let them find Your Son this morning. I ask You those things in Your Son's name who made that possible.