

YAG RETREAT II
Theme: The Great Makeover

Message #3
2nd Morning Session
Title: COMBATTING MAN'S FALLEN NATURE

Tuesday, 1 November 2005

Key Texts- For Reference and Meditation

A. Man- Before the Fall

1. Genesis 1

2. Genesis 2

B. Man- After the Fall

1. Before Regeneration

a) Genesis 6

b) Psalm 14

c) Romans 1-2

2. After Regeneration

a) Romans 6

b) Romans 7

c) Colossians 3:10

d) Ephesians 4:24

C. THE HELP OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD

1. Promise of the Holy Spirit

John 14-16

2. Theological Appreciation of the Ministry of the Holy Spirit

Romans 8

INTRODUCTION

"For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin. For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practise; but what I hate, that I do." Romans 7:14-15

1. Change is Difficult

2. Simplistic measures will not work

3. A strong mindset is needed to see significant changes effected.

DIFFICULTIES IN THE CHANGE PROCESS EXPECTED BECAUSE OF MAN'S FALLEN NATURE

1. The Sin Principle

"But sin, that it might appear sin, was producing death in me... so that sin,, might become exceedingly sinful." Romans 7:13

a) Some neglect the sin factor in considering "Change"

b) Others are not fully aware of the power of sin

c) The problem of the power of sin must be underscored

2. The Reign of Sin

"Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts" Romans 6:12

a) Sin is no mere act

b) Sin seeks to do no less than reign in our body

c) It demand obedience from the individual

3. The Extent of the Influence of sin

a) It has the power to seize every opportunity to create sin

"But sin, taking opportunity by the commandment, produced in me all manner of evil desire..." Romans 7:8

b) It has the power to deceive

"But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it killed me" Romans 7:11

c) It has the power to reside within the believer

"But now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me" Romans 7:17

d) It weakens the human will

"To will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find"

Romans 7:18

"For the good that I will to do, I do not do; But the evil I will not to do, that I practice"

e) The carnality of man

"For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin" *Romans 7:14*

f) It causes a person to be weak and inconsistent

"For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice;

but what I hate, that I do." *Romans 7:15*

DIFFICULTIES CAN BE OVERCOME BUT NOT WITHOUT TREMENDOUS BATTLE

1. Crucifying of the flesh

"Knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin" *Romans 6:6*

a) In principle

b) In practice

2. Walking in newness of Life

"Even so we should walk in newness of life" *Romans 6:4*

a) There is newness of life

b) One must in the newness of life

3. Reckoning self dead to sin

"Likewise, you also, reckon yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord" *Romans 6:11*

a) Dead to sin

b) Alive to God

4. Presentation of self to God

"Present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God" *Romans 6:13*

a) Presentation of self as alive to God

b) Presentation of different faculties (members)

- i) Body
- ii) Mind
- iii) Heart
- iv) Spirit

RETREAT CHALLENGES

1. Knowing the difficulties that sin creates, are you still prepared to work at “changes” in your life?
2. What are you willing to do to win this battle against sin?
3. Can the defeats in your spiritual battle be due to the problem of underestimating the power of sin in your life?