**Redeemed from all Evil**

Based on [Romans 8](http://biblia.com/books/esv/Ro8), and Article 2 of the Creed

Preached on December 15, 2016

Advent Midweek 3

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Last week we considered Romans 3, which teaches that by faith in the redeeming blood of Christ, you are right with God. And today we consider Romans 8, which teaches that your redemption is even more than that. **Christ’s blood has redeemed you to God, but it also has redeemed you *from* sin, *from* death, and *from* the power of the devil. You are right with God by faith, but you still live in an evil world, with evil forces at work to overturn your faith, and undo your redemption.** These spiritual enemies still work to tempt you, accuse you, to frighten you. But through his death and resurrection, Christ has poured out his Holy Spirit upon you to overcome these enemies and win the victory.

First, you have been given the Holy Spirit who has set you free from the law of sin. The Law demanded perfect obedience, according to the flesh, the Law can only increase your sin. God commands, “**Love your enemy**,” but the flesh says, “**I don’t want to, he doesn’t deserve it**.” The Law says “**Forgive your brother when he repents**,” the flesh says, “**He hasn’t suffered enough to be forgiven**.” The Law demands these things and more, but the flesh is hostile to God, and will not submit to God’s Law, indeed it cannot. Sure one who lives according to the flesh can say to his enemy “**I love you**”, but he can’t say it from the heart. One who lives according to the flesh can say “**I forgive you**”, but he cannot say it willingly. He will say it as a slave under a cruel master who demands what he really does not want…and the more the master demands the more he flesh resent him and the more he sins.

But Christ did what the Law could not do. He condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the law might be fulfilled in us and that we might live God-pleasing lives.

We have been set free to fulfill God’s law, not with resentful hearts, but *with a willing spirit*. Set free by a willing spirit. Freedom is not only getting to do what you want; true freedom is wanting what is right. When you *want* to do evil, you are a slave, because evil is condemned and you are bound to want the thing that will condemn you. **But when you *want* to do good, you are truly free. Think about it. Whoever from their heart *wants* to do what is pleasing to God…always gets to do what he wants. That is freedom.** And because of the Holy Spirit given by Christ, now you actually *want* to love your enemies, and you *want* God’s Law to rebuke you when you don’t. You *want* to forgive those who apologize, because Christ has forgiven you. Those who set their mind on the flesh obey God out of resentment and fear, because they don’t really *want* to. You are free to do what you want, because more than anything you want to please God and keep his commandments.

In addition to a willing spirit; the Holy Spirit empowers you to actually overcome sin. Even though you want to keep God’s Law, your sinful flesh still clings to you and it will assault you with all manner of wicked temptations, to covet, to hate, to lust, to anger. And those who live according to the flesh set their mind on it and sin is their master, and they are slaves. **But those who walk in the Spirit have the ability, Romans 8 says, to “put to death the deeds of the body.”** The Spiritual person is able, capable to subdue the flesh, to keep it in check and obedient to Christ. You can’t get rid of it now; but you can refuse to listen to it and like a mad dog on a leash, keep it under control.

Second, the Holy Spirit has set you free from the law of death. Death has been in the world ever since the first sin. Creation has been in bondage to corruption and decay. And Romans says that the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the Sons of God. The sin that still clings to your flesh, it is some day going to bring about your death, as it has been doing to all people for a long time. But Jesus Christ was the firstfruits of the resurrection of the body. Death once condemned all, but now it will only condemn the flesh, those who are alive in the Spirit will conquer death through the victory we have in Jesus Christ. The glory that you have now as the children of God, is hidden in suffering and weakness, as the corruption finally puts your body to death. But it will be revealed in the resurrection on the last day, when Christ comes again to carry his harvest home. “**Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is**” (1 John 3:2).

We are set free from the Law of Death, because we know that our true eternal existence with glorified incorruptible bodies will be revealed on the last day. **And this means we are free even now, because we have been given this hope, that the present sufferings we endure with Christ are not worth comparing with the glory of the resurrection of the redeemed.** And hope overcomes anxiety, and gives us patience. Yes this body of death is dying, but it will be raised again a body of life by the same Spirit that raised Jesus. Yes, I suffer, but it’s only for now, I have the hope of eternal life. I can live for all things, suffer all things, lose all things, conquer all things, because I will gain all things when my the inheritance of my Father in heaven is delivered to me and to all believers.

Finally, the Holy Spirit has set you free from the power of the devil. The devil is the prince of this world, and this world is his agent. The devil is our accuser and our tempter. **The devil is a fallen angel and he has power over this world, power that our flesh cannot contend with nor will have the strength to resist him and overcome.** And so, those who do not have the Spirit, he will condemn and he will defeat. But those who have been given the Spirit already have been given the victory.

You have been given the victory already because the devil cannot condemn you. The devil once accused you of unrighteousness, but his mouth is now stopped. Romans says, “**Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.”** Christ died and was raised and it is he who Justifies, and he who condemns. And the devil can bring no charge against those who are in Christ Jesus.

You have been given the victory already because the devil cannot condemn you, and you also have the victory even now, because the devil cannot defeat you. He can’t win. **Jesus Christ our king is ascended to the right hand of God, he rules all things, has power and dominion over all things, has victory and glory over all things.** And he is on your side. No matter what happens in this life, you know that God is on your side, because you are on his side. “**And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose.**” Whatever happens in this corrupted creation, it is all good, because you love God, and God is working all things for your good.

If you love God and remain in His Word, you know that God is on your side. And “**if God is for us who can be against us**?” Christ died for you, was raised for you, and now ***He*** rules all things. **And you’re worried that the world will conquer you, that the devil will win the victory?** You have the Lord of Hosts going to battle for you! “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.”

The devil is not only the accuser, he’s also the tempter and using his sway in the world he will try and tempt you away from the faith and from keeping God’s Word and abandoning Christ the King in order to make your life easier for the moment. Not smart to listen to him. **But you have the Holy Spirit who intercedes for you, so that you will not fail.** By faith in the Word you are invincible, though you die you will live, though you stumble you will not fall. Romans says, “**For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord**.” Such is the victory we already have in the redemption of Christ our Lord.