

Title: Our God is Greater IV – overcoming the power of sin
Speaker: André Kruger
Date: 23 February 2014
Time: 09:00



Introduction

One thing that neutralises a sincere believer more than anything else? The crooked paths of sin.

James 5:19-20 *brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, let him know that **he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.***

- Do not be deceived, sin causes things to die.
- Truth encounter. **Right believing, will lead to right behaviour.**

Ephesians 2:8–9 (NKJV) ⁸ *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ **not of works**, lest anyone should boast.*

Declaration: For sin shall not have dominion over me, for I am not under law but under grace. God's grace empowers me to overcome every sin and temptation. (Romans 6:14)

Right believing. Too Easy?

Everything was done at the cross! It is finished! It is done. It is completed. Jesus fulfilled the law for you and me. He obeyed perfectly for you and me. It wasn't easy. And it isn't easy to believe it.

Nothing is for free. That is true. **Jesus paid for it. So that we can receive it as a gift.**

The same perversion of the gospel that Paul combats in this letter keeps appearing in various forms. Legalism, which teaches that justification and sanctification depends upon a person's own efforts, thus denying the sufficiency of the Cross, is the most persistent enemy of the gospel of grace. (Salvation by faith alone)

- **Righteousness is received, not achieved.**

Colossians 1:22 (NLT) ²² *Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault.*

Declaration: I am dead to sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus my Lord. Sin has no power over me, for I have the DNA of Christ and His blood coursing through my veins. (Romans 6:11)

Reigning from heaven

Ephesians 1:19–20 (NLT) ¹⁹ *I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power²⁰ that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms.*

****Jesus has sat down? Why is this significant?**

***The only work that is now working is the finished work of Jesus Christ.**

Reign in life

Romans 5:17 (NKJV) ¹⁷ *For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.*

*Righteousness is received. Not achieved.

*Reigning in life is the natural outflow of receiving grace & righteousness.

- How come? (1) Right believing will always lead to right behaviour. (2) Identity: Everybody wants to be significant. If we do something significant, then we will be significant?
- We connect our performance with our identity.

***Right believing will lead to right being. Identity.**

- I am significant (because of what Jesus did for me), therefore I will do significant things.
- *It is impossible for a believer to not live a significant life. I am loved...*

Your place has been reserved – an empty seat... sit down.

Psalms 23:5 (NLT) ⁵ *You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies. You honor me by anointing my head with oil. My cup overflows with blessings.*

- **What do you have to do** to partake of that which is set before you on the table? **Be seated.**
- **God has prepared a feast for us through Christ dying on the cross for us. He did it all!**
- **Sit down:** Stop working.
- ***The table of significance:** when you sit at this table you are significant. You are significant ***because of the company you find yourself in.**

Declaration: Where sin abounded, grace will abound much more. Every area of my life where sin has reigned, God's goodness and grace will reign much more. The grace of God will overcome every area of sin and temptation in my life. (Romans 5:20) ***Our God is greater than sin & temptation. He has done it all.**

Overcoming sin? Prayer of dedication.

I don't do so well when I look inward, so I'm going to stop. I am relying on You to point out to me the things that I need to see.

- **I promise to stay in Your Word .** You said that Your Word is a sword - so please use it to cut me deeply. Expose those things in me that are not pleasing to You. But in so doing, please give me the grace to forsake them.
- **I also promise to come before You daily.** Your presence is like a fire. Please burn from me those things that are unpleasant to You. Melt my heart until it becomes like the heart of Jesus. Be merciful to me in these things.
- **I also promise to stay in fellowship with Your people.** You said that iron sharpens iron. I expect You to anoint the "wounds of a friend" to bring me to my senses when I'm being resistant toward you.

Please use these tools to shape my life until Jesus alone is seen in me. I believe that You have given me Your heart and mind. By Your grace I am a new creation. I Want that reality to be seen that the name of Jesus would be held in highest honour.