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"The title of my remarks," the pastor said, "is God's "Much More." Anyone who reads the book of Romans could not help being impressed with the fact that God has a much greater pardon than any amount of sin that we have, or our guilt. The pastor continued, "I have found also that His power, or His life of holy living is much more and much greater than the life of sin that we did live, and thus it not only overcomes it but enables us to live a right life. It much more than overcomes our sinful life. Then when it comes to disease, I find His power to deliver is far beyond our need of healing; He has "much more" healing than we can ever need.

It is the same financially. And His peace is far beyond any need of peace that we could ever have. I will give you an illustration: If your expenses for housekeeping and clothing and every need were \$500 weekly, and your income was \$1000 per week, would you not say your income was much more than your expenses? Well, that is the thought this "much more" brings out—that God has a "much more" supply and is "much more" willing to give that supply than we have need of it. His supply far over-reaches our need, and His assurance of doing it is "much more" than our need.

God always says that everything is "much more", but Satan says it is much less. You will be surprised how many of us, if we are not careful, will accept Satan's much less, rather than God's "much more." If we accept Satan's much less, our faith will be hindered for the time; we will be paralyzed spiritually. But if we see and accept God's "much more", it will immediately inspire faith, and we will have sufficient faith. That is the reason we are having this lesson, that we may be inspired to "much more" faith, as we grasp God's "much more" grace and provision.

In Romans the 8th chapter, we will make our start. Paul is speaking. He says— "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us."

There is nothing that can happen down on this earth that can really do us harm. The point Paul is making is that it is not possible for sin, or persecution, or temptation; it is not possible for men or demons, or anything or anybody to do anything to cause us real harm or damage. Then he goes on to say— "Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us."

"We are more than conquerors over these things, because of God's "much more" deliverance than we possibly have need of; we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us.

Then he adds further: "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

In other words, it makes no difference what it is, God has a deliverance out of it. That is an encouraging discovery to make. So, we do not have to get frightened, or disturbed, about what happens down here, how it happens or where it happens; if we are really a child of God, we need not have any anxiety or be frightened at anything; that is unnecessary. All fret, all worry, and discouragement is taken out of the Christian life as we get the least idea of God's "much more."

Again, speaking in the 4th chapter of Philippians, Paul says— "Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

Instead of worrying, we can be carefree and need not worry about anything. People may tell you dreadful things are going to happen. But you can dismiss them with a smile, as they must pass through God before they can touch you. However serious it may seem, it cannot do you any harm.

Our first thought in this "much more" is in reference to our sins. Now the provision that God has made to overcome sin is "much more" than the need. We sometimes think, when we get to looking at ourselves (we all have in the past), how hard we have tried to manage ourselves and have so failed, that we almost think God cannot do it; but I want you to see that the provision God has is "much more" than the need any of us could possibly have. This is brought out in Romans 5:6. "For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly."

This is a very valuable thought, that God gave His most valuable gift and did His greatest work for us while we had not a bit of power to do anything ourselves. We could not raise a finger to help ourselves. Beloved, when we were without strength, utterly helpless and hopeless, and could not merit, win nor earn it, God gave His very best, most valuable gift, which was His Son. Now, you just turn to Romans 8:31-32, and you have one of God's "much more" which is a very prominent principle and great foundation of faith. "If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?"

Now going back to the 5th chapter of Romans, we see when this great gift was given—When we were without strength God did His greatest work and gave His greatest gift, and it was the greatest and most valuable gift in the universe, and it was far beyond the greatest gift ever given. There is no comparison to the value and greatness of that gift of the Son of God; a human life and divine life combined, the sinless Son of God; and He did it for us when we had no strength, and when we could not do a thing to merit, or recommend, or induce God to do it.

Now turning to the 5th chapter of Romans, we read—"For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Verses 7&8)

It is a positive fact that Jesus died to reconcile us to God while we were enemies; then, how much more will He do for us now that we are no longer enemies, but friends. So, let us couple these up: "Much more then, being now justified by His Blood we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if, when we were enemies, we were

reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by His life." (verses 9 &10)

If it dawns into our minds the meaning of being saved by His life, immediately there will take hold of us a confidence to live an overcoming life. Now Paul makes this proposition: that if it is true, and it is true, that Jesus died for us while we were without strength and while we were enemies, and by that death took all the enmity away between us and God, and after His death we were reconciled to God—if He did such a great work for us while we were enemies—and now that we are no longer enemies, but friends, how much more shall we be saved by sharing in the life of Christ?

Now the real practical thought is, if God thought so much of us, if His love was so great that He would make us His friends through this gift of His Son, while we were enemies, how much more would He live that life in us; how much more would He enable us to live an overcoming life? That is what it means to be saved by Christ's life. If God reconciled us while we were enemies, how much more will He live the life in us and enable us to live, now that we are friends?

Again, quoting Paul— "For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by Whom we have now received the atonement." (Verses 10 &11)

As we read on down this chapter, we see how Adam brought a great multitude of transgressions through his sin. One man started sin going and it has made wonderful bounds and has grown in myriads of lives from that day to this. Sin brings condemnation, but God's forgiveness, which God has provided through His Son, has always been far beyond the sin. God's pardon preceded the sin and has always kept ahead of it and is always sure to overcome.

Now, let us keep this thought before us. "But not as the offense, so also is the free gift." The gift was not as the sin, but goes back as far as Adam's original sin, and a great deal farther than that. Paul further says—"For if through the offense of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many. And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for

the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offenses unto justification." (Verses 15 &16)

This is an over-flowing pardon! A greater, more far-reaching pardon than our sins could ever be. This is like people competing in a race; one tries to get ahead of the other, but God always keeps ahead of sin. Satan is chasing and does make progress, but God's forgiveness is always ahead, is always more than a match—beating Satan and sin.

"For if through one man's offense death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ." (Verse 17)

If we have been made partakers of Adam's sin, and we have need of pardon, this tells us that we are "much more" partakers of the free gift of pardon of God's greatest gift of righteousness.

The pastor said, "I will give you an Illustration, which may help you to catch the very thought we have expressed here. "If someone would rob you of all the money you had, which we will suppose was ten thousand dollars, and it would worry you very much, because you needed it very badly, and some kind relative would give you twenty thousand dollars, you would be better off than if you had never lost the ten thousand.

The thought here is that more surely than we have been partakers of Adam's sin, Adam's guilt, and have been living a sinful life, through that work of Jesus Christ, the power of God gives us a greater pardon than any offense, a greater power than all the sin we ever committed; He has a much greater power to exhibit in us.

When the law entered, sin seemed to be greater than ever, for it exposed sin and it just seemed as if people were worse than ever. The law did that by exposing it and sin sprung into view as never before.

"Moreover the law entered, that the offense might abound, But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:" (Verse 20)

Here is the thought: It makes no difference how great a sin there is in your Individual life, it might be the greatest in the nation, or in the world, but God's forgiveness is always greater and has been provided and is ours. He has a greater pardon than any sin we could ever commit, a greater power to live an overcoming life, a power far beyond the power of self and power of Satan put together— God's "much more".

"For if by one man's offense death reigned by one; much more they which received abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ." (Verse 17)

Sin brings forth death, but through Jesus Christ we will receive much more pardon for those sins; for there is a greater pardon for sin than any sin we have ever committed, a greater power to live over sin and the power to do evil.



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