

Reflections

From the Ugliness of Weeds
To the Beauty of the Weed-free Garden.

4-11-10



Reflections

Weeds and more weeds! Ugh! Weeds are the scourge of the flower beds and yard especially of one who does not enjoy yard work. Weeds seem to grow when nothing else will and before long, if they are not dealt with, they soon take over and the beauty of the grasses is marred by the ugliness of the weeds. Fortunately there are ways to deal with these pesky interlopers, but it does take commitment and time to remove them from the landscape. How sad that even though the weeds in the gardens and yards are among the first signs of Spring when renewal begins in all the plants that beautify our world, they are such a challenge to the beauty of Spring.

As I once again face the battle of the weeds, I am reminded of how sin plays a similar role in our lives. It seems that it is too easy to slip back into our old patterns of thinking and living where sin interferes with the beauty of our salvation in Jesus. We are informed in the Scripture that we have authority to deal with these challenges, but, too often we see our lives controlled by these “weeds” in our daily walk. Paul wrestles with this very problem when he explains in Romans ch. 7 what is actually happening. He explains that in his battle with the sin nature he finds himself in a quandary.

He says...*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.* ¹⁶ *If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that it is good.* ¹⁷ *But now, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.* ¹⁸ *For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find.* ¹⁹ *For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice.* ²⁰ *Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.* ²¹ *I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good.* ²² *For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man.* ²³ *But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.* ²⁴ *O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?* ²⁵ *I thank God-- through Jesus Christ our Lord!* (Romans 7:15-25 a NKJ)

As with the weeds where we find it necessary to employ a committed determination to remove them from our gardens and to accomplish this, we often rely on both our own efforts and, in

some cases, we also need a powerful herbicide to assist in destroying those ugly weeds. This need for commitment and help could be used as a metaphor illustrating a similar set of circumstances caused by the sins that so easily beset us and the need for us to depend on Jesus and to be committed to walk after the Holy Spirit's leading in our lives in order to rid those sins of their control of our lives. The Scripture explains that we cannot overcome our sin nature by sheer determination, but that we must learn to submit to the Holy Spirit's role in empowering us to live in the Lord's righteousness.

We can better experience the joy of our salvation when the “weeds” of sin are not allowed to interfere with the beauty of God's grace toward us as His children. Paul explains how this can be our reality when he says...*Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.* ¹² *Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.* ¹³ *And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.* ¹⁴ *For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.* (Romans 6:11-14 NKJ) By recognizing that it is Christ in us that is our hope and the He has given us the authority to avoid the sins that once held us captive. When we, by faith, have received His gift of salvation offered by His grace toward us in Jesus, we can then consider that we have been raised to new life in Him and that He has given us the authority to offer ourselves to Him as opposed to the sin nature and thereby learning to walk in His holiness. We don't have to put up with the “weeds” of sin.

This Spring as we mow our lawns, weed our flowerbeds, attack those pesky weeds and fight their influence on the beauty of Springtime in our yards and gardens, let's remember that they can be a good reminder of how we must tend the garden of our lives. When we pull yet another dandelion, we can see how its removal helps improve the beauty of a lawn and we can be reminded how, if we don't remove it, quickly it can infect the entire yard. Sin like weeds can rapidly multiply and create difficulties and even defeat in our lives. Let's let the master gardener remove them from our lives and learn to walk in victory over those “weeds of sin .

Pastor Doug