

TRIUMPHANT LIVING

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The last several weeks we have been dealing with this theme of adequacy. Several weeks ago, Don taught us on Christ is adequate not only in life but also in death. Last week Bishop Rodgers taught us about faith is adequacy, how you live your faithful life and that adequacy really is, forsaking all and I trust Him. Don gave us some examples from his own life and the creation of the seminary. I am required to live by faith because of the adequacy of Christ.

Today I want to talk about the big picture of why is it that Christ has made us adequate and I want you to see one thing. The last passage says that, "We have been made adequate but to be servants of a new covenant." A new relationship. So we have been positioned to be adequate to live a life as a servant. Now the question is, why is it that we are adequate to live the life as a servant? The servant is someone who is concerned about somebody else's material, somebody else's well being. So we have been made adequate to become adequate as a servant.

It really has to do with one simple thought, Brothers, and we are going to talk about that today and that is the sufficiency of Christ. Now if you ask me of any big issue in the history of the church, and certainly in today's world, what is the biggest issue in the church? I would say it is the sufficiency of Christ in the Scripture. People will say, "Well, the Scripture is my authority." That can be interpreted in any way they choose to interpret it. But is the Scripture sufficient for life and Godliness? Is Christ really sufficient to have accomplished a salvation that permits you and me to be adequate as ministers of a new covenant? To be servants?

Let me give you an example before we get into this. When I was with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes years ago, I had a horrendously difficult, unexpected experience for I was thrust into something absolutely over my head. It was a situation I have never been in before and I trust I will never be in another like it. It was for me, the very first time and I hope the last time that I will be personally confronted with satanic spiritual warfare.

A young man walked into my office in Kansas City, and I had known him for he was a coach and had been to some of our conferences. And right in the middle of our conversation...my door was closed...he went in to some sort of a convulsion, began to foam at the mouth and these voices started coming out of his vocal cords. I was shocked; it was just as satanic as I had ever been exposed to; and so right in the midst of all that, I was confronted with satanic warfare. I mean it scarred the bejeebies out of me. It was worse than anything I had gone through in combat. The realization that I was sitting in front of someone who was influenced by demonic forces...almost levitating off his chair, foaming at the mouth, different languages coming out of his mouth, his eyes rolled back...it was just horrendously horrifying. And I am sitting there in this chair looking at my friend, having no idea what is going on, what I am to do...and what...what am I supposed to do? You know, what do you do in a situation like that? And all I could think of was the Cross. I thought, "I have no idea what I'm doing, I'm not qualified to do this." But

then I began to realize that I have been made adequate...to become adequate to become servants of a new servant...a servant of a new relationship. And I began to realize that I was involved in something much bigger than just the event of this man sitting in front of me who had demonic influences.

There was something much bigger going on in that and I was a part of something far bigger than just two men sitting here talking together. I was involved in the whole plan of salvation, the great power of God at that moment in my life. All I could do was claim the Blood of Christ and the Cross. Whatever he said... the only thing I kept saying was, "You have been defeated by the Blood of the Cross. You have been defeated by the Blood of the Cross." And that was the only thing that came out of my mouth for the next six hours! The next six hours! I heard these things and I heard these voices saying, "He's too smart, he knows too much." And all I kept saying was, "You have been defeated by the Blood of the Cross." Nothing else. And I am not going to say anything other than that because that is the only weapon I have.

Now, Brothers, I hope I am never in another situation like that. I'm only telling you that because of this: Christ is sufficient. It is the sufficiency of Christ that makes you and I adequate to become servants of a new relationship. Now I'm not telling you that to be theatrical, I just want to illustrate a point.

You might find yourself in a situation where you have no idea what you're doing, but because you are involved in something far greater than just the event of that moment in time; you are involved in the grand and glorious plan of salvation of what God is doing...redeeming the world to Himself.

You see that is what Paul is saying when he says, "You have been made adequate." Our adequacy means living by faith. I want to help us understand today what we are talking about when we talk about the sufficiency of Christ which makes us adequate.

Yes.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: *[UNCLEAR]. For those of us who [UNCLEAR] What is it that tells you...you sit in a room for six hours listening to this individual who is convulsing and you understood [UNCLEAR] where someone who didn't have [UNCLEAR] of [UNCLEAR] didn't have a seizure and why they aren't calling for an ambulance?*

I don't know, I don't have an answer for that.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: *What happened to him, did he go back to the way he was?*

Yes, he settled down. I've stayed in touch with him somewhat. He had been exposed to many things in his life...I don't know the answers to all those questions. I don't have an answer for any of that. I don't know the answers. But that is not the point. The point is, at that moment in time...the sufficiency of Christ permitted me, under God's grace, to be adequate to do something that I had no idea of what I was going to do. You see, that is what it means to live by faith. Bishop Rodgers gave you some illustrations last week...in his own life...of how you had to be there.

But the point I want to talk about today is this, the reason you and I are adequate to become servants is because of the absolute sufficiency of the personal work of Christ. It is the sufficiency of Christ that makes you adequate. It is not my knowledge, it is not my intellectualism, and it is not my spiritual

understanding. It is the sufficiency of Christ that God makes us adequate. So when we look at the word adequacy in 2nd Corinthians, Chapters 3, 4 and 5, it really can be boiled down to four words. What is adequacy? It is faith. It is forsaking all, I trust Him. Adequacy is our faith. When do we get adequacy? It is when Christ makes us adequate. He makes you adequate. Your adequacy is not something you achieve, it is something you **receive** because you are involved in the grand, glorious plan of salvation.

How are we made adequate? That is when we forsake all, and we trust Him. Forsaking all, I trust Him. That is our adequacy. It is at that moment in time when you have nothing else but to trust the Blood of Christ and the Cross. That's it. That is when you are made most adequate. When are we adequate? It is when we are forsaking all, and trusting Him. Why are we made adequate? To become a servant.

I want to talk today about the 'why.' I want to take you to Colossians, Chapter 2, and verse 15. I want us to understand two things about the sufficiency of Christ that permits us to be adequate, because God makes us adequate. God has made us adequate to become servants of a new covenant. Notice, He does something **to** us to make us adequate.

Go to Colossians, Chapter 2, verse 15. "And having spoiled the principalities and powers, He made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in His triumph." Now the plan of salvation in my mind displays in a way like nothing else can the great power of God. Certainly, we can see the power of God that was manifested in the incarnation when He prepared a body for His Son to come and and to die on the Cross for our sin. We can certainly see His power there. We can see His power when He worked His miracle of the virgin birth. We can see His power when He made the wonderful creation when He created out of nothing.

But in my mind, there is no greater demonstration of the significant power of God than in the plan of salvation. Because in that you see the complete power of God doing everything that is opposed to Himself and He overcomes that. And He overcomes everything that is opposed to our well-being. That is because of His sufficiency. What you see in the salvation plan of God the Father is the absolute sufficiency of His having accomplished a salvation for us that permits us to be adequate. The fact is, the world is really in a severe problem...we are in a very problematic world. The world is really hurting and one of the reasons is because we don't understand why the world is hurting.

One of the brightest of the angels created by God rebelled against Him, and took up his forces against Him and rose up against God. And that is the origin of satan. Satan is a power, but satan is a person. He is a powerful person. How great is his power? We don't understand the significance of spiritual warfare in Colossians 2:15. We do not understand that because we belittle the fact that there are satanic forces in this world. Our battle is not against flesh and blood, but against spiritual forces of this world. See, that's the battle we're involved in. That's why I gave you an illustration of what happened years ago with that experience I had.

Do you know how strong satan is? He is powerful enough that he deluded man. That is how powerful he was. He conquered mankind; and, therefore, he made himself god of this universe. Paul says, "He became the prince of the power of the air." The power of the devil is something that you and I do not take seriously. Satan believed that he had won the day when Christ went to the Cross, and he thought he had overturned the grand work of salvation that God had planned in eternity past.

But according to Paul in Colossians 2, verse 15, that is where satan made his greatest blunder... at the Cross. Now notice what Paul says, "Jesus spoiled the principalities and the powers. He made a show of them publicly." In other words, He triumphed over them by the Cross. It is kind of like...at the Cross... Christ and satan went one to one, man to man, face to face. Christ really just routed him. Just routed him. And He fulfilled the promise back in eternity past when we read in the Book of Genesis the great promise, "The seed of the woman will bruise the serpent's head." See friends, that statement is the beginning of the plan of salvation. Do you understand that? That statement is one of the first expressions of God's redemptive power of the plan of salvation...when He said this: "The Child of the woman is going to bruise the serpent's head." He is talking about the plan of salvation. He is talking about what God ordained...the Father ordained, the Son accomplished, the Holy Spirit applies. See the grand plan of salvation is something that you and I are involved in; it is far bigger than just the events of this world. The great plan of salvation is what demonstrates the power of God.

There is sufficiency in this power of the plan of salvation. That's why we give you the little wrist band that says, WHJD, because we need to remember not necessarily what happened to us inside of us at our regeneration, but what happened **to** us 2,000 years ago. Something happened **to** you and happened **to** me over 2,000 years ago. We always emphasize the fact that something happened inside of me when God gave me...granted life and regenerated my life...but we forget that something happened **to** me. You see, Christianity is not something you do. Christianity is something that is done **to** you. The great message of salvation is that God did something **to** you.

We talk about the Christian ethic, but the message of Christianity is not an ethical lifestyle. That is a consequence. That is not the message of the Cross. We talk about a Christian world-view that is not the message of Christianity. That is a consequence of the message of Christianity. The message of Christianity is...it is a phenomena, it is something that happened **to** you when God invaded your life; He not only did something inside of you when He changed that heart of stone and gave you a heart of now flesh that is sensitive to the spiritual things; but He also did something **to** you.

Yes, Don.

DON: *I can't help but think when you are talking about spiritual warfare of satan's subtlety...he has all kinds of ways like the obvious example that you gave, when you sat in front of that man for six hours, but also the attitude of many people in this country...who think "well, I'm a good person, I don't need Christ, [UNCLEAR], or Christ is irrelevant," and [UNCLEAR] or whatever [UNCLEAR].*

Absolutely.

You see, satan's great power is and was that he deluded man. He delusions people. That is his great force and he deludes us by getting our mind off the personal work of Christ. You see, the greatest church growth expert is satan. He wants our churches to be filled far more with bodies than you and I do. But he wants them to come to something other than hearing the fact that Christianity is not a style of life, but it is something that God does **to** you. He doesn't want people to hear that. He wants them to come and think they can do something, that Christianity is something I do. Christianity is not something you do, Christianity is something that happens **to** you and it happened **to** you 2,000 years ago. That is why I want you to wear that little bracelet that says, "What Has Jesus Done...WHJD?" You and I have got to

constantly remind ourselves that we're involved in something that is much more extensive than just the events of our life. We are involved in this glorious plan of salvation that is the most powerful demonstration of God in all of His glory. Yes, you see the power of God in other illustrations: creation, the virgin birth, the incarnation, but there is nothing in my judgment...no greater power that God has on display than the plan of salvation and that is what you and I are involved in.

That's because He is sufficient to accomplish that. You see what Christ did at the Cross does not make your salvation possible, He accomplished it. That's because of His sufficiency. You and I are wrapped in that. That is the realm by which we live. That is the umbrella under which we now function and you now have been made adequate because of the sufficiency of that grand plan of salvation, now you can be the one who can give away what God has given **to** you. You can be who you are and where you are because you have been made adequate to become a servant. All I am saying, Brothers, is this is how you and I learn to live by faith and trust Christ and not ourselves. We forsake all and we trust Him.

That is the sufficiency of the plan of salvation. This is the first thing I want us to understand. Do you understand that? There is sufficiency in the plan. Christianity is a phenomenon. It is a phenomena... something happened **to** you and **to** me when God was pleased to invade us, and that's what the little bracelet is for...I wanted us to remind ourselves...to remind yourself that you are involved in something that is gloriously grand, and gloriously powerful. That is this magnificent plan of salvation. For what the Father ordained, the Son accomplished, and the Holy Spirit applies. You have a Trinitarian salvation. You were saved in eternity past. Do you realize that? That is what you are involved in. We have the audacity to say, "Oh, I don't have the strength to go through this," when you are involved in something that in eternity past that God was pleased to grant you saving faith, because of the grand and glorious plan of salvation. The most powerful demonstration of God and all of His omnipotence is this glorious historical plan of salvation.

You see the reason that you and I can be servants is because we are involved in something much bigger than we are. We are involved in the sufficiency of God Himself, and that plan of salvation is as secure as God is Himself. The first thing we need to understand is the sufficiency of His plan.

The second thing I want you to understand...we need to understand...go to John, Chapter 10, verse 28. I want us to see the sufficiency of our security. We've seen the sufficiency of God's power in the plan of salvation. Now, let's take a look at the sufficiency of our security in God. The apostle John writes this, "And I give them eternal life, they shall never perish; neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand." No one can take you "out of My hand."

Here we begin to see the sufficiency of our security in Christ. We have seen the sufficiency of the plan of our salvation, the most powerful demonstration that God has is the plan of salvation. In eternity past, if you can give me some license, when God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit were implementing this marvelous plan of salvation. The Father started it by the counsel of His own will, the Son accepted it, and the Holy Spirit completes it. That is why the Scripture says He will complete the good work that He started in you. See, the Holy Spirit completes this plan of salvation; and part of that completion is that you have now been made adequate to become a servant of something far bigger than just the system of this world. You become adequate to become a servant of the Cross and the Blood of Christ, servants of a new relationship because of the sufficiency of God Himself.

Part of that means how do I understand where I fit? That is why I want to take you to John, Chapter 10 and that is why the little breaks come in handy. Sometimes God...when you are overwhelmed...you just need to go back and say, "Look, I need to go back and realize what I'm a part of. I'm a part of this glorious plan called salvation by grace. I'm part of that," and in that lies your sufficiency and security of your position.

We understand because of re-generation there is nothing that can really interfere with our being accepted by God, or our being forgiven by God. When it comes to saving faith, those are the realities we have, not about our relationship or our Son-ship with Him; but when I realize I am part of God's plan... when I realize I am a part of God's masterful plan, and then I begin to realize that nothing can frustrate that plan. And I am impacted by being involved in the plan that cannot be frustrated by anything. Therefore, that is what we rely on...our security and our relationship to Christ because we understand this: I am involved in something that cannot be frustrated. Yes, you and I can be frustrated but the plan of salvation cannot be frustrated. You and I need to remind ourselves of that...I am involved in something that cannot be frustrated by the powers of this world because Christ has already overcome that. You and I need to think of our history past, not of our history present; and often times we live our lives based on feelings and experience. Sometimes, you just need to base your life on fact. And the fact is this; I am involved by God's grace in a plan that cannot be frustrated because of the sufficiency of the personal work of Christ. So, you realize...where do you fit? I fit into this plan.

Yes.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: *Just as you said that, I am reminded of, the early part of your Christianity [UNCLEAR] will see us through and God existing outside of time; and when we talk about [UNCLEAR] accomplished [UNCLEAR] frustrated. I mean that the scoreboard already says "Final." The score is already done, we do not need to feel frustrated, we are only living in a game that has already been completed.*

Amen! That is the sufficiency point, Brothers, that is what I am trying to say. We have been trying to help you understand why you're adequate. Your adequacy is the function of the sufficiency of the plan of salvation; and when you get personally frustrated at the human level, we need to go back and think, "I'm involved in something that cannot be frustrated," and that is the plan of salvation. Do you understand that?

Yes, please.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: *I guess, just because I'm a bigger sinner than most but {LAUGHTER}, my problem here is...I find that as I'm going through this...my struggle with the adequacy is not believing that I have adequacy because of Christ's sufficiency, it's because that in my sinfulness...I put that aside and I decide...you know, I've got this one. And that's when, if I get into a position where I'm stumped and I don't know what to do, it's because I dug the hole myself. And that's where it starts...I don't keep adequacy and sufficiency in mind, I assume that role myself. Then I find myself, ya, I did it again.*

Yes. Well, here is your silver bullet because you are not the only Lone Ranger. {LAUGHTER}. You just described everyone of us. That is the point of why we are emphasizing this. We are trying to understand, what is

adequacy? Adequacy is, forsaking all, I trust Him. And when we do not forsake all, and I trust myself, I dig myself into the hole. What I'm trying to say is, give yourself a reason to look to something that is going to get you out of that hole. To get out of that hole, you have to look back on the grand plan of salvation of which you are a part of. You have to look at yourself in light of something bigger than the event. And that is this glorious plan called salvation. Now that is why we have to change the way that we think. You have to think right, act right, and feel right. I am trying to help us understand there is something that we need to do, and that is...we need to think of our self in something bigger other than the just event.

Yes.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: *I think until you have an experience like you had, you cannot realize the depths of what we are involved in.*

Well, I appreciate that, and respect that but do not set me up in my experience as the standard.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: *No, I don't mean as a standard, I'm just saying in our own inadequacy we don't recognize what we are involved in.*

Well, standby, you might go through one. {LAUGHTER} I mean, it is not over yet. That's maturity. You see, we are all becoming more mature; we do not become more spiritual. Spirituality is an absolute that is defined by the personal work of Christ. That is true Spirituality. You and I become more mature. We become more mature in our faith so that we become more adequate in those situations...by our own experience of God taking us and maturing us. That is what life is about. As we go through life, we become more mature. That means more of Christ and less of me. That is a whole experience where the Holy Spirit is now completing that grand work of salvation as He works through your life to complete that for you. You and I just need to remind ourselves of what you and I are involved in. I'm involved in this glorious plan of salvation. You see, that is our hope. Often times, we get stuck by just looking at the circumstances of the situations. We need to realize that situation is going to be used, according to the Scripture, because God uses all things for His glory and all things for good to those who love Him. So, somehow, that is going to work. All I'm trying to suggest is this, we need to go back and rely on Christ's sufficiency. Remind yourself of that, and that is the thing that is going to help us become more mature.

Yes.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: *Don't we have to rely on the Holy Spirit and be dependent on the Holy Spirit to come to our rescue at times like you had...[UNCLEAR]?*

No question about that. That is the completion work of the Holy Spirit.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPANT: *But we need to be asking, "Holy Spirit, where are you? I need you right now." [UNCLEAR]*

However you want to say it, but you need to forsake all, and trust Him. He is sufficient to handle that for you at that very moment. That is what faith is about. That is what Bishop Rodgers taught us last week. That is what faith is. Faith is...Hebrews 11, says, "Hoping for that thing which you don't see." You see,

the greatest level of our hope and the greatest level of our faith is believing when there is no evidence. I'm trying to give you the evidence. The evidence is the plan of salvation. This glorious, eternal relationship that God had with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You see, the role of the Holy Spirit is multiplicity. It is to reveal the person of Christ, it is to reveal the work of Christ, it is to reveal the message of the Word of Christ, it is to apply the Word of Christ, and it is to complete what Christ started. So in a sense, here is the role of the Holy Spirit: to convict, convince, convert, comfort, and complete. That is what He completes. So, absolutely, it is the work of the Holy Spirit in those moments that you and I are trusting the Holy Spirit to complete something that was secured sufficiently thousands of years ago at the Cross.

The Holy Spirit at that time and right now in my life and in your life, is completing what was accomplished at the Cross. That's why the only thing I could say at that moment in time was, "You have been defeated by the Blood of the Cross." It wasn't my knowledge theologically; it was something that happened thousands of years ago that was my only defense, and that was this, "You have been defeated by the Blood of the Cross." Sometimes, Brothers, when you are going through hellish situations in life you just need to go back and say, "You have been defeated by the Blood of the Cross." Something happened thousands of years ago, that changed me and that is why Christianity is not a lifestyle, it is a phenomenon. It is a miraculous, supernatural phenomenon that God does something **to** you. That occurred at the Cross and that is my point. That is the sufficiency of the Scriptures. The sufficiency of Christ. So absolutely, we are trusting the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is going to complete what the Father began, that the Son accomplished, and He is completing that in our life every moment, by moment, by moment. That is why we forsake all and we trust Him.

Remember this, Brothers, I am not talking about being successful. I am not talking about being successful. I am just talking about trying to be excellent in your faith...forsaking all, I trust Him.

The maturity of our Christian life is not if we fail, you and I will fail. We are failures, and we will fail. The real test of our maturity is this, how quickly do I get up when I do fail? That is the test of your maturity. The reason you do that is that you realize that you are involved in something that happened **to** you and that is the glorious plan of salvation that cannot be frustrated.

So if God loved you enough thousands of years ago to create a plan where you could live your life **now** to its fullest; and He loved you enough **then**, do you think He is going to allow you to be frustrated **now** when He loved you enough **then**? You see, that is the plan of salvation, Brothers, that is the glorious plan of it.

I want you to understand John 10 in that context. “No one can snatch you out of His hands,” John says. Let me go back and give you a little history lesson. Many people, specifically statesmen and politicians talk about the Protestant Reformation and the influence it had upon the world. You find certain politicians and statesmen who will say that you really cannot explain the history of England apart from the Protestant Reformation. Then they would go on to say that you cannot explain the United States of America unless you understand the context of the Protestant Reformation. They go on to tell you that some great truths came out of that Protestant Reformation that people based their life upon. Why is it that the Pilgrims endured so much to cross the Atlantic to create a new land? You come up with all sorts of reasons, but there was a subtle reason behind it and it was this; they understood one of the doctrines of the Reformation and that was this, the perseverance of the saints.

They understood where they fit in the history of the world. They fit into this glorious plan of salvation and they were willing to endure the hardships and the tremendous difficulties they went through to create a completely new system of life because they understood one of the truths that came out of the Reformation...God will preserve you. It is the perseverance of the saints...you can hang in there. I prefer to call it the preservation of the saints. God preserves you. You and I are being preserved. That is what John is telling us. “No one can snatch you out of His hand.” Brothers, when you and I go through difficulties in life, one of the things we have to ask ourselves is this; if God loved me so much in eternity past that He formulated a plan that was sufficient to save me and because of His love for me, do I really think that what I am going through right now is going to frustrate that plan? When the Holy Spirit’s job description is to complete the plan that was created in eternity past, and because something happened to me? See, we have a misunderstanding of the Christian life. We think it’s a Christian ethic. That is the consequence of it. Christianity is a supernatural phenomenon that is miraculous because something happened at the Cross 2,000 years ago that changed your life. As a result, you and I think differently, we act differently, we talk differently. There was a phenomenon that occurred in your life and you and I need to remember and ask ourselves the question, “What Has Jesus Done?” That is the thing we need to think about. Not what do I need to do right now. I need to remind myself that I am involved in something far bigger than just the event of this day in which I find myself.

For me during that time, I am just so grateful that the Holy Spirit was there at that moment with me and had me think about one thing only and that was the Cross, that’s it guys. That is the sufficiency of it. Everything hinges around the Cross and I could not get my mind off anything but this, “You have been defeated by the Blood of the Cross,” when he threw out these things...Reba Cauza was one of these names. He came out with seven different names that he threw at me, and all I ever said was one thing, “You’ve been defeated by the Blood of the Cross” as I peed my pants and shivered because I was scared to death. It was worse than anything I experienced in combat in Vietnam. I mean terrible. And all I could do was to say, “Lord, I have nothing else but You. There is nothing else but You, the Cross is enough; it is sufficient and I am going to hang myself on that Cross.” That is the sufficiency that we are talking about. And that means this; because of the plan of salvation, no one can snatch you out of His

hands. You may feel lower than whale dung in a situation in your life but you know this, no one is going to snatch me out of the Father's hand. I'm secure because of the sufficiency of the Cross. Now, how that translates into your life, I don't know; but that is what you and I need to think about at times when we are being frustrated. We need to go back and say, "What Has Jesus Done?" His sufficiency has accomplished this plan that cannot be frustrated. I am going to hang my hat on that.

We need to understand that if God loved me enough and was so sufficiently concerned for me back **then**, do I really think He is going to let me be frustrated right **now**? He has created a sufficient plan for that. That is the glorious plan of our salvation. It is the sufficiency of Christ. It is the Cross.

Yes, Ted.

TED: *And I was going to sing...say [unclear] even when we are not forsaking all and trusting Him.*

Please, go ahead.

TED: *It just...it ultimately does not depend on me...I mean I've heard you [UNCLEAR] things like God is [UNCLEAR] depending on you, He is not going to get this done unless you do it. Even when I'm not forsaking all, even when I'm not deserving faith, He is still triumphant in doing it.*

Amen to that. It does not depend upon us and that is my whole point. Why is it that you and I have been made adequate? You notice the verb of that? You have been made adequate. Why is it that you have been made adequate? Because of the sufficiency of Christ. That's it, that's what I'm trying to help us understand. It is His sufficiency that makes us adequate, whether or not we are trusting Him or not trusting Him, we are adequate. Because of the sufficiency. It does not depend upon our faith, it depends upon His accomplishing it; it is His accomplishments that make it happen, not our faith. My faith, does not do anything, other than express my confidence in His sufficiency. It is His sufficiency that makes us adequate. Do you understand that?

Yes, John.

JOHN: *One way this translates in my life, the most destructive and sinful acts that I have committed over the years have been acts I committed in the middle of tremendous pressure and stress [UNCLEAR], when I didn't [UNCLEAR] sufficient and I grabbed the steering wheel, which is another way to say I volunteered to become the hands and feet of satan rather than letting God do it for me.*

Amen. Well said. Did everyone hear that? It is when you and I begin to take the reigns. Guys, that is the most contrary thing in our whole life because we want to be in control. We think we are the captain of our own ship, don't we? We are not! We really are not. The whole point is that you and I need to base our life and everything on the sufficiency of Christ. It doesn't mean that you are not going to be successful in the eyes of the world. That is not what we are talking about. We're talking about realizing

you have been set free to become a servant of the glorious plan of salvation that God has instituted that cannot be frustrated because of His sufficiency.

One of the things that happens is we begin to talk about legalism. Legalism is basically this, it is the denial of the sufficiency of Christ. That is what legalism is. It is saying that His accomplishments were not enough; therefore, I have got to do something more. I've got to do this, I've got to do that. It depends upon me. I've got to take control because what He accomplished wasn't sufficient enough for me to be secure in my faith. I have got to do something to earn this relationship to God and the security that I have. John says there is no one who can snatch you out of His hands. No one is going to do that. Why is that? Because it is the sufficiency of what has been accomplished. It is because "What Has Jesus Done?" WHJD. It is His sufficiency.

Legalism is basically saying, what He did is not enough, He is not sufficient; I need to do one more thing. I'm going to fill in the gaps. I'm going to add to it. Legalism is adding to the insufficiency of Christ in your mind. It is something I've got to do.

I mentioned a couple of weeks ago that several of us have written a new book on legalism called "Law vs. Liberty." Remember, I gave you the book on prayer written by R. C. Sproul, John MacArthur, John Piper and some other guys. We all got together and decided to do one on legalism. It will be coming out in March. My chapter...I wrote one of the chapters...I called it this, "The Cross is Enough." "The Cross is Enough." My whole point was, understand that legalism is the denial of the sufficiency of the personal work of Christ. I want to read you my last concluding paragraph and then we will close. In my chapter... I'll get you a copy of the book in March when it comes out.

Here is what I wrote, my last paragraph.

"The Good News is not only what happened inside of us at our rebirth, but also what happened to us over 2,000 years ago." Brothers, something happened **to** you, if you are in Christ today. Something happened. A phenomena that was supernatural and miraculous. It happened **to** you over 2,000 years ago. We need to remind ourselves of not only what happened inside of you at the new birth, but what happened **to** you historically. A phenomena of supernatural miraculous power occurred to you."

That is what that sentence means to say. Then I go on to say, "Our faith is in what He accomplished for us, and inside us, we've been given a heart that believes that. What is the first evidence of your salvation? Belief. That is the first evidence of your true saving faith. You believe. Belief doesn't save anybody. Christ saves you. He is sufficient to do that and you now believe because something happened to you, a phenomena, a miraculous supernatural power occurred to you that changed the way that you think and the desires that you."

Hebrews, Chapter 8, verses 6 and 7 state that, "Christ has obtained a ministry that is much more excellent than the old, as the covenant He mediates is better, since it is erected and enacted on a better promises, that is the Blood of the Cross." Christ guarantees the terms of the new arrangement. He guarantees that because He has already obtained them. He has already obtained the terms of the new relationship. You and I are now trusting the One who has obtained it. Our faith is in what has already been obtained by the One who has obtained it. Faith in what God has done...WHJD.

Brothers, the Cross is enough. The Cross is enough.

Let's pray. Father, forgive us in our inadequacy humanly. We try to communicate these things to the point of understanding. Father, we trust that your Holy Spirit will intervene and only bring to bear those thoughts that are absolutely consistent with your truth, your nature, your glory, your attributes, and your Holiness. And Father, help us in our unbelief, help us just realize that the real issue is, do I understand that I am involved in something far bigger than me? I am involved in something that happened historically, a phenomena that occurred over 2,000 years ago...and that was the Cross. Father, when we begin to be frustrated by the evil one, the prince of power of this air, may we realize that he has been defeated by the Blood of the Cross. May we be reminded daily and consistently in our life and for your glory that the Cross is enough. May it be so for Jesus' sake. And all the Brave Men said: Amen!