

No Condo!

Slide#1 - Gideons.

I. Slide#2 Intro: Title: *No Condo!*

- A. Slide#3 We have all benefited from the chemist *Elbert Botts*. Worked for *Cal Trans*. *Botts Dots*.
1. Driving over them produces a *ka-thump! ka-thump! ka-thump!* That swiftly captures our attention when **drifting out of our lane or off the highway**.
 - a) *Well*, the **Holy Spirit** works even better than *Botts Dots* when we start to do a **mental lane change**.
 - b) He *ka-thump ka-thump ka-thumps* upon our heart, **warning us** to get back in our ***Spirit lane***, when we start crossing over into the **flesh lane!**
- B. Isn't it frustrating, we want to be **spiritual champions**, **but** our old nature seems to laugh at it every chance it gets!
1. Remember that **feel** of the pull of the **riptide** at the beach when you were younger.
 - a) Swindoll said, "We've felt the subtle yet **almost irresistible riptide of temptation** drawing us out to sea of pleasure & then **drowning us** in its consequences."
 2. But what we learn in ch.8 is that we **don't** have to **kill a giant** or **slay a dragon**. It's not about **performance** **but** about **faith and in Whom** we place that faith!
- C. *So in ch.7* was Paul saying we must as believers spend our whole life on earth **frustrated** by ongoing defeats of indwelling sin? (**no!**) And, is there power provided to achieve victory? (**yes!**)
1. It is the indwelling Holy Spirit who is the **source** of divine **power** for sanctification.
 2. It is the indwelling Holy Spirit who is the **secret** for **spiritual victory** in daily living.
- D. *Now in ch.8* – Paul uses ***Spirit/spirit*** 21x's. (At least **18** refer to the **Holy Spirit**)
1. Thus more references here to ***the Spirit*** than in any of his writings.
 2. We have here Paul's fullest discussion of **the new life of the Spirit**.
- E. **Outline:** **Eternally Secure; Internally Free; Positionally Perfect; Life According to the Flesh; Life According to the Spirit.** [Then a short story]

II. NO CONDO! (1-11)

- A. Slide#4 **ETERNALLY SECURE!** (1)
- B. **To Who?** To those **in Christ Jesus**.
1. **In 7:25** Paul revealed that we can be **set free** from the power of sin by **only one thing...the atoning work of Jesus Christ!**
 2. **So, those who are in union with Him. Those who have** their **faith** in Him. **Those who have** their **identification** w/Him. **Those who are** justified, declared

righteous, stand in His grace, are no longer under his wrath, possess eternal life,...
all of our sphere of safety is *in Christ Jesus!*

- C. So, we will continue to **struggle** against our sin nature - & sometimes even **lose some battles** - **Yet**, we will **never** receive *everlasting punishment* for our failures!
1. That's the **1st benefit** of the atoning work of Christ...**Eternal Security!**
 2. So **No Condo** (Condemnation) (MSG) *Those who enter into Christ's being-here-for-us no longer have to live under a continuous, low-lying black cloud.*
 - a) *So this is a new teaching? Nope! David* knew back in Ps.34:22, *The LORD redeems the soul of His servants, And none of those who trust in Him shall be condemned.*
- D. **Slide#5 INTERNALLY FREE!** (2)
- E. Our 2nd benefit is **Internal Freedom** (vs.2 *made me free from*).
- F. Like a cruel slave-owner, the law of sin & death rules every **unregenerate** person.
1. It **permeates** everything they do, **even** helpful & virtuous deeds.
 2. **But** when they **trust** in Jesus Christ, the **shackles fall off** & believers are **emancipated** from their **bondage**.
 - a) *And can finally say "no" to the flesh & "yes" to the Grace of God!*
 3. Every one of us, *in Christ*, has the ability to **reject** sin. We can resist temptation & choose to live righteously.
 4. This **Internal Freedom** is the **2nd benefit** of the atoning work of Christ.
- G. **Slide#6 POSITIONALLY PERFECT!** (3,4)
- H. Our 3rd benefit is **Positional Perfection** (vs.3 *God did by sending His own Son*).
- I. The Law **spelled out** perfect righteousness, **but** as sinful humans we couldn't obey it. **But** what we couldn't do, *God did by sending His own Son.*
1. *Did that make us perfect in every way? Obviously not!*
 - a) But it did make us **Positionally Perfect**.
 - b) Our **standing** before God is that of someone who lived a perfect life.
 - c) *When the Lord looks at us, He looks through lenses colored by Jesus' blood!*
 - (1) I guess God wears *Rose Colored Glasses!*
- J. *Now* with these **foundational truths** on how to live a **victorious Christian life**, he moves on to **contrast** that **victorious life** to the **old life** dominated by the flesh.
- K. **Slide#7 LIFE ACCORDING TO THE FLESH!** (5a,6a,7-8)
- L. As the Children of Israel while in the wilderness **continued to be reminded** of how bad Egypt was, **so we believers** need to **continually be reminded** of the **evil** of our old life.

M. Living in the Flesh!

1. **We had a fleshly frame of mind!** – a mental orientation toward sin.
 - a) They are drawn to it **like metal filings** to a **magnet** **or like** a **bug** to **light!**
2. **We had a fatal future!** – a road leading straight to eternal separation from God.
3. **We had hostility toward God!** – They proudly answered to no one but *themselves!*
4. **We had an inability to obey or please God!** – They had no power to change their sinful orientation, & as a result, they lack the ability to please God.

N. **Slide#8 LIFE ACCORDING TO THE SPIRIT!** (5b,6b,9-11)

O. God's design for us now is to live in a manner worthy of our new calling:

1. **We now have a fresh frame of mind!** – A new course toward righteousness. A desire to conform to Christ!
2. **We now have a peaceful existence!** - We went from enemies **to** adopted children! We have a lasting sense of peace. We know we are loved by Him.
3. **We now have become Spirit-Powered!** – Yep, the same power that raised Jesus from the dead kind-a-power! (11)

P. (9) **We are no longer under the control of our sinful nature.**

1. **To the contrary**, our lives are *under the influence*_(direction) of the indwelling Spirit of God.
2. **When a toddler begins to walk he may revert back to crawling because it is still most natural to him. Walking is scary/risky. **But there is some serious issues if your teenager keeps reverting back to crawling!!!****

III. **Slide#9 2 Roads, 2 Rooms!**¹ (a short story; an allegory) [TY, Nephew Jason]

A. **Tell me if you can't relate to this:** does your Christianity whisper in your ear, **or** scream in your mind, *“put on a good face, try harder, fix yourself, keep up the appearances, do more, be better, or a least...act like you are.”*

1. **Slide#10 Or**, it's Sunday morning, you go to your closet to pick out...which **mask** you're going to wear!
2. You think, *“If I could just sell out, care more, get on fire, buck up, shape up, & tighten up, then...I can be like the other Christians. Then I'll please God.”*
3. Have you **run out of answers**, **run out of breath**, **run out of ability?**
4. **Are you tired of insecurity & duplicity?**
5. **Are you tired, guilty, lonely, depressed, sad, can't make your life work? Finances** are a joke. Your **thoughts** are like trying to herd cats. And your **thought life** could be described as wild monkeys swinging through trees, which you can't capture.

¹ Two Roads, Two Rooms. Bill Thrall, Bruce McNicol, & John Lynch.

6. **Are you tired of Santa Claus Theology?** Every day wondering if He considers you naughty or nice. **Or, hoping your nice out weighs your naughty.**
- B. **Slide#11** This booklet beautifully laid out **2 Roads & 2 Rooms.**
- C. **Walking down life's road the christian comes to a fork w/a road sign that read:**
*To the left **Pleasing God.** To the right **Trusting God.***
1. Both sound good. Both feel good.
 2. You choose left, because *trusting God* sounds too passive. Too **"Christianity Lite!"**
- D. So you set out on this road called *Pleasing God.*
- E. **PLEASING GOD!**
- F. At the end of this road is **a Room of Good Intentions.**
1. **Slide#12** Above the **door** is a **sign** that reads, *"Striving to be all God wants you to be"*.
 2. Here you quickly find out from the others in the room, everyone says *they're fine*, & I quickly realize I must be fine too. *I'm fine!* The hostess at the door handed my a mask, you'll want to wear this. See its a phony life. It's a life of **hiding** who you really are [*Adam began this whole hiding game*]
 3. **Slide#13** On the back wall a banner reads, *"Working on My Sin to Achieve an Intimate Relationship with God."*
 - a) **See here**, your sin lies in a pile *between* you & God.
 4. You want that relationship with God bad, **so** you start investing more effort into sinning less. And you feel better...for a while.
 5. You notice the road of Pleasing God has turned into *What Must I Do To Keep God Pleased With Me?*
- G. You mask starts getting tight, you're breathing heavy, its feeling claustrophobic in the room. You head for the door. Maybe that other road is better.
- H. **Slide#14 TRUSTING GOD!**
- I. You start walking on the life's path with the motive of **Trusting God.**
- J. **Slide#15** You get to the 2nd Room, **The Room of Grace.** It also has a sign above its door, but this one reads, *"Living Out of Who God Says I Am."*
1. **Slide#16** This one also has a **banner** on the back wall. This one reads, *"Standing with God, with My Sin in Front of Me, Working On It Together."*
 - a) **Here**, your sin lies in a pile *in front of both* you & God.
 2. **See** we have already been changed. We have received a new heart. We have a brand new core identity. We have already been changed, & now get to mature into who we **already are!**

- a) **Slide#17** Consider the caterpillar. If we asked a biologist to analyze our caterpillar & describe his DNA, he would tell us, “I know this looks like a caterpillar to you, but scientifically, according to every test, including DNA, this is fully & completely a butterfly.”
- (1) God has wired this creature that looks nothing like a butterfly, a perfect complete butterfly “**identity**.” And because the caterpillar is a butterfly in essence, it will one day display the behavior & attributes of a butterfly.
 - (2) The caterpillar matures into what is already true about it. In the meantime, berating the caterpillar for not being more like a butterfly is not only futile, it will probably hurt his tiny ears!
 - (a) God has given us the DNA of godliness. We are saints. Righteous. Nothing will make you more righteous than we already are.
 - (b) Gal.6:15(msg) **Can’t you see the central issue in all this? It is not what you and I do - submit to circumcision, reject circumcision. It is what God is doing, and he is creating something totally new, a free life!**

K. But wait “*Pleasing God*” is a good thing! [Yes it is!]

1. **Slide#18** But there’s a timeless sequence. **Motives -> Values -> Actions**

- a) **Motives** direct what we **value** & how we **act**. [God designed us this way]
- b) Eg. If we’re motivated by **money**, we will **value** lucrative careers & people who can help us make money. That **value** will shape how we **act**.
- c) A key lies in Heb.11:6 it declares, **without faith it is impossible to please Him**.
 - (1) **Notice the 2 paths? Trusting God(faith) pleases God!**
 - (2) If our primary motive is **Pleasing God**, we never please Him enough & we never learn **trust**.
 - (3) But, if our primary motive is **Trusting God**, we will please Him, the writer of Hebrews says.
- d) **Slide#19 More right behavior + less wrong behavior = Godliness** is a **bad** theology; & sets us up to fail; & causes us to wear a mask & hide.
 - (1) **Pleasing God** is an incredibly good longing. It always will be. But it can’t be our primary motivation, or it will imprison our hearts.
 - (a) **Pleasing God** becomes the **fruit** of our godliness!

2. **Slide#20** If my **motive** is **Pleasing God**, then my **value** will be *Striving to be all God wants me to be*, and my **action** will be *Working on My Sin to Achieve an Intimate Relationship with God*.

3. **Slide#21,22 But...** If my **motive** is **Trusting God**, then my **value** will be *Living Out of Who God Says I Am*, and my **action** will be *Standing with God, with My Sin in Front of Me, Working On It Together*.

L. **Read** pg.20-22, Two Roads, Two Rooms.

Eclipse or Annular/ring of fire - tonight starting at about 5:30 p.m., the moon will begin to cross in front of the sun as it sets in the west. It will cover as much Sun as it can by about 6:40. Around May 5 the Moon was closest, which is why the Moon was so big. On May 20 it will be at its farthest, which means it won't be able to cover the whole sun like it usually does. (do NOT look directly or you risk permanent damage to your vision) One cool thing you can do with no equipment at all is to look at the shadow of any leafy tree. Really! Around the leaf shadows you will see countless crescents. They are tiny images of the eclipse caused by the way light travels through tiny holes between the leaves.