



Weekly Sermon Study

Don't Let the Devil Bully You | Doug Wekenman | 9.20

SHARE

What's up, Red Rocks family! Welcome to week 2 This week of our series *Imperfect People*. Pastor Doug preached a message titled **"Don't Let the Devil Bully You."** Through the story of Paul, we were reminded that God has always used broken and imperfect people to change the world.

The enemy wants to use lies, shame, fear, and condemnation to convince us that our imperfections have disqualified us. A lie believed as truth can affect our lives as though it were true. But Jesus tells us that when we know the truth, the truth will set us free. We do not overcome the enemy's lies by ignoring them. We overcome them by recognizing the lie and preaching God's truth back to ourselves.

- ☐ **What lies about yourself, your future, or your relationship with God has been especially loud lately?**

GROW

Read Galatians 1:13-18

- ☐ **What stands out to you about Paul's past and the way God chose to use him?**

Paul does not hide the darkest parts of his story. He openly admits that he violently persecuted the church and tried to destroy it. If anyone appeared disqualified from representing Jesus, it was Paul. Yet God met him with grace, transformed his life, and gave him a new purpose. Paul's calling was not based on what he deserved but on the grace of God.

- ☐ ☐ **How does Paul's story challenge the belief that someone can be too broken or too far gone for God to use?**

The enemy uses condemnation to turn something we have done into who we believe we are. He does not simply say, "You failed." He says, "You are a failure." But Romans 8:1 declares that there is

no condemnation for those who are in Christ. Condemnation pushes us away from Jesus in shame, while conviction identifies what is wrong and invites us to return to Jesus.

- ☐ **Where are you most tempted to define yourself by a failure, struggle, or painful part of your story?**
- ☐ **How can you recognize the difference between the enemy's condemnation and the Holy Spirit's conviction?**

God did not excuse Paul's sin, but He refused to waste Paul's story. The same zeal Paul once used against the church was redeemed and used to advance the gospel. Paul was also not immediately placed into public ministry. God used a hidden season to prepare him for what was ahead. Paul was not rejected or forgotten; he was chosen, redeemed, and prepared for God's purpose.

- ☐ **Which truth do you most need to believe today: I'm not condemned, I'm being redeemed, I'm not rejected, I'm chosen, or I'm not forgotten? Why?**

MOVE

Read 1 Timothy 4:7-8

- ☐ **According to this passage, what does Paul tell Timothy to do, and why does spiritual training matter?**

There is an important difference between trying and training. Trying often expects immediate results, while training accepts that growth requires time, repetition, and perseverance. The enemy points to the unfinished parts of our lives and presents them as the final picture. But God is still working. We may not be where we want to be yet, but that does not mean God has abandoned the process.

- ☐ **Where have you become discouraged because your growth has taken longer than you expected?**

Training requires more than good intentions; it requires a plan. We do not accidentally drift toward holiness, freedom, prayer, generosity, or obedience. We learn to pray by praying, become generous by giving, and grow in obedience by obeying. God's grace does not remove effort from our lives. It teaches us to direct our effort toward becoming more like Jesus.

- ☐ ☐ **What area of your life have you been trying to change without creating a clear plan for training?**

The enemy often repeats the same lies because he knows which ones we are most likely to believe. This week, identify one lie that has been bullying you and replace it with God's truth. Then take one practical step within the next forty-eight hours that moves you toward freedom, obedience, and the person God is training you to become.

- ☐ **What lie do you need to confront, and what specific truth from God will you use to answer it?**
- ☐ **What practical step will you take this week, and who will you ask to help you follow through?**

P R A Y

Share the lie that has been bullying you and the truth you need to remember. Pray for one another by name, asking Jesus to replace condemnation with redemption, rejection with confidence in His choosing, discouragement with perseverance, and impatience with trust in His timing. Throughout the week, pray: “Jesus, help me recognize the enemy’s lies, believe what You have said, and take my next step of obedience.”