

Romans 8

Romans 8.1-8

V 1 – **What is Paul's emotional tone here?** He is just about shouting the good news (based on his message in *Romans 7*)

V 2 – **Are we still under a "law" today?** Absolutely – the "*law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus*"

-How has that law set us free? We don't have to be perfect to meet the demands of this law

V 3 – **Do we know what Jesus looked like ("likeness of sinful flesh)?** *Isaiah 53.2* – not handsome or desirable in appearance, a man of sorrows

-Name for theory that Jesus did not come in flesh? Gnosticism

V 4 – **How do we "walk" today?** "...according to the Spirit"

V 5 – **When people walk according to the flesh, what do their minds dwell on?** Things of the flesh

-Where is list of things for Christians to think about? Read **Philippians 4.8-9**

V 6 – **What is the result of setting our minds on things of the Spirit?** Life and peace

V 7 – **What is the result of setting one's mind on the flesh?** That person is hostile toward God

V 8 – **What is the ultimate result of living according to the flesh?** That person cannot please God

Romans 8.9-11

V 9 – **How does the Holy Spirit interact with humans?** The Spirit dwells in us

-What is our situation if the Spirit does not dwell in us? We do not have Christ

V 10 – **What keeps the Spirit alive in us?** We have died to sin

V 11 – Notice that Paul repeatedly says that the Spirit dwells in Christians

-Proof of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit:

-*Acts 5.32* – Peter said that the Spirit dwells in the Christian

-*1 Cor. 3.16* – The Spirit dwells in the Christian

-*1 Cor. 6.19* – The Spirit dwells in the body of the Christian

-Some people have overreacted to the charismatic movement and want to say that the Spirit dwells in us only "symbolically" through the Word, but there is no passage in the Bible that says that

-Yes, the Word dwells in us, and the Spirit dwells in us, but that does not mean that the Spirit

dwells in us through the word

-As brother Thomas B. Warren used to say, $A = C$, and $B = C$, but that does not mean that A dwells in C through B

-We might meet a person who says that he lives in Chicago, but supposed we ask him how he lives in Chicago

-He would not understand the question – it would not make sense to him!

-Yes, the Word of God is the sword of the Spirit, but that does not disprove the literal indwelling of the Spirit

For more information, see:

-Lanier, Roy, Sr., *The Timeless Trinity for the Ceaseless Centuries*, see pp. 353-82

-McCord, Hugo, "The Indwelling of the Holy Spirit," in *Continuing in the Doctrine* (ETSOPM Lectureship, 1981), pp. 127-31

-Nichols, Gus, *Lectures on the Holy Spirit*, pp. 152-82

-Jividen, Jimmy, *Alive in the Spirit*, pp. 23, 52, 124

Romans 8.12-17

V 12 – We are not forced to live holy lives (we are not under obligation)

V 13 – **But what is our decision under the New Law?** We decide (or choose) to live according to the righteousness, and we ourselves put to death the unrighteous ways of our past

V 14 – **How do we become "sons of God"?** By being led by the Spirit

V 15 – **In what sense are we not afraid?** Fear no longer determines how we live (as it did under the Law of Moses)

-But what does determine how we live? The fact that God has adopted us into his family, and as adopted children we can call on him as "Abba"

V 16 – We are now children of God

-We have an entirely different motivation for determining our behavior

V 17 – **How else are we described under the Christian Age?** "*Fellow heirs with Christ*"

-What comes with our new motivation as children of God? We are prepared to suffer with Christ

Romans 8.18-25 – very symbolic language

V 18 – **Read 2 Corinthians 4.16-18** – Though the outer man is decaying...

-What are some of the worse forms of suffering in this life? Death of a loved one, sickness, persecution for our faith

-How do we see persecution and suffering in this life? Nothing compared to the glory to come

V 19 – **What other form of suffering do we see in this life?** The creation itself suffers because of its corruption by sin

-We see the personification of nature in many other Scriptures:

-*Psalm 98.7-8* – The rivers clap hands

-*Isaiah 55.12* – The hills sing

-*Ezekiel 31.15* – The trees fainted

-So nature has suffered because of sin and longs to be freed from sin

-How do we explain infectious diseases, tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes, etc.?

Because of the corruption of nature by sin

V 20 – Corruption spread to the natural world (as beautiful it can be in many ways)

V 21 – Read Rev. 21.1

V 22 – **What does the creation do?** Groan to be set free

V 23 – We also (as humans) groan to be set free from the corruption of this life

-*1 Corinthians 15.50-54* – *This body will put on immortality*

-*2 Corinthians 5.1-4* – *If the earthly tabernacle is torn down...*

V 24 – We eagerly await this redemption

V 25 – We have "hope" and look forward with the eyes of faith to our new bodies in eternity

Romans 8.26-30

V 26 – We don't know how to pray

-See *James 1.6-8* and *James 4.3* – We ask with the wrong motives

-Were Paul's prayers answered to his satisfaction? No, his thorn in the flesh was not removed (*2 Corinthians 12.7-9*)

V 27 – First "he"? God

-**Second "he"?** Holy Spirit

-What does the Holy Spirit do with our prayers? Tells the Father what we are really trying to say

-Most of us have had some terrible experiences that we have gone through, and we have been so distraught in our grief that we can only pray through our tears, "Be with me, Lord"

-The Spirit takes our thoughts and says what we really want to say and asks for what we really need

V 28 – **Can evil events be used by God to the advantage of the Christian?** Yes

-World War II was a catastrophic event for the world, but brother Otis Gatewood became a great missionary to Europe after the war and established many congregations there

-They probably would not have been established without the war

V 29-30 – The plan was predestined, not people

-The early Puritans believed that good works proved a person was saved, but that is not what the Bible says

-Those who have obeyed the gospel then fall under the eternal plan of God for salvation

Romans 8.31-39

V 31 – If God is for us, who is against us?

-Example: Like at a basketball game – us vs. Satan, but God is for us

V 32 - How do we know God is for us? *V 32* – He gave his Son for our salvation

V 33 – Who shall bring a charge against God’s elect? Elect = Saints? *Philippians 1.1*

-We are called “saints” (*Ephesians 2.19*)

-When the world is criticizing us, this can be our answer

-Remember *Acts 9.13* – Paul persecuted the "saints" in Jerusalem

V 35 – Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?

-Had Paul experienced any of these things?

-Tribulation – being dragged out of temple at Jerusalem at the end of his Third Missionary Journey

-Distress – Ephesus

-Persecution – Ephesus (riot), and at Lystra (*Acts 14.9*) being left for dead

-Famine – 14 days without food on the ship

-Nakedness, peril, shipwreck (*Acts 27*)

-Sword – The 40 assassins (*Acts 23.12*)

V 36 – Significance of the quote? The world sees us as targets of its wrath

V 37 – What a beautiful, beautiful passage - ...*through Him who loved us*

V 38-39 – Angels (spirits) – girl at Philippi (*Acts 16.18*), also *Colossians 2.13-15*

-Principalities: Caesar, Agrippa, Felix

-There is no power that can separate us from Christ...except one: We can separate ourselves from God (*Jude 20-21*)

This chapter leaves us breathless with its beauty and power, and we have to again say that only the Holy Spirit could have inspired Paul to write these things

Revised 2013-02-09