

The Book of Romans - Lesson 13

Just a few comments as I reiterate some things in the past before we proceed with the lesson:

In **Romans 7** where Paul uses the marriage relationship to bring forth the truth for the believer regarding the law (and actually any law or legal restraint we place upon ourselves) because we are dead to the law through our relationship with Christ and that to place yourself under any law is to become an **adulterer**.

Difficult thing to get your brain around, but the truth none the less.

The death of Jesus Christ and our relationship to Him has freed us from the law. To allow the law to have reign over our lives is to place His death to the law of *no consequence*.

Paul describes the law in **Galatians 4:9** as the “weak and beggarly elements such as observing special days, months, seasons and years or foods etc.

Remember beloved, to “fall from grace is not to fall into sin” It is to **return to law** as a principle for living.”

Remember also that the “law was given” so that sin might increase. When the law comes, we will sin all the more, which in turn reveals to us the nature of sin and prove to us that we cannot on our own, make it.

Just to contrast the two – **letter of the Law** - vs **Spirit**, let me offer the following;

Letter of the law

Depends upon the flesh

Produces rebellion

Results in more sin

Brings God’s wrath

Not of faith

Kills

Spirit

Depends upon God’s power

Produces God’s desires

Results in righteousness

Brings joy, peace & production

Totally by faith

Gives life.

The law can only condemn, it can’t free

Why was the law given? To **expose** our sin nature.(Rom 7:7), to **incite to sin** more (Rom 7-7-23) to **drive us to despair** of self-effort (Rom 7:24&25) and to **drive us to depend** upon the Holy Spirit (Rom 8:1-4)

The law is not sin, but arouses in me all manner of sin. Nothing wrong with the law, problem is me.

According to Paul, the law deceived him by luring him to attempt to live for God by his own efforts.

It will do the same to us if we are honest with ourselves. We tend however to be dishonest with ourselves, especially when we compare ourselves with others around us.

Remember, we can justify ourselves before one another, but NEVER before God.

Looking at the last part of Chapter 7, we note that Paul says in verse **22**, “for I delight in the law of God according to the inward man” We now know that our real identity is “spirit/Holy Spirit union within each born again believer. In our spirit, we delight in the law of God.

The problem does not lie in the spirit. It lies in the soul of man helped by the members of our body coming in contact with the world. That is what Paul is saying in verse **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”

Result – vs **24** “O wretched man that I am, WHO will deliver me from this body of death?

Paul cries out for help. Realizing that he cannot live this life without some help from somebody. Who is going to enable me to live for God. I can't do it myself, I need help. Oh that the church would grasp this truth....

Not what, but who. It takes a who to deliver me, not me doing something. The who is the Spirit within me. That is His job.

So verse **25** – I thank God through Jesus Christ- who delivers me.

Now as we shift to chapter 8 -

We are now shifting to the ministry of the **Holy Spirit**. In the first 7 chapters the Holy Spirit has been casually mentioned 2 times. In the 8th chapter of Romans, He is mentioned **19 times**. Thus the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Justification was what we dealt with at first. You get there (heaven) by doing nothing. He does it all. **Justification** is our entrance pass into heaven. Now as a believer we have a path before us called **sanctification** and that is what we are dealing with **now**.

Justification declares you righteous, and delivers you from the **penalty** of sin. Sanctification makes you righteous. Sanctification is the regenerated thing happening in the life of the believer. delivering the believer from the **power** of sin.

Eventually we will be delivered from the **presence** of sin, but not yet.

Chapter 5 of the book deals with the saving work of Jesus Christ in our lives. Justified if you will, **Chapter 8** deals with what Christ has done to produce “victory” in our lives.

Chapter 5 tells us that we are “Justified forever. In **Chapter 8**, we learn that a sanctified life is maintained supernaturally by the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. This chapter deals with our relationship to the world and the victory we now have in Jesus Christ.

The first 4 verses of Chapter 8 are a summary of the chapter 7 we just finished.

So verse 1 of Chapter 8 starts with “therefore” and this has reference to the previous verses mentioned in chapter 7. Going on – “therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus – PERIOD. The balance of the verse is also in verse 4 where it belongs. Translators added it to verse 1 for clarification purposes, but I feel it failed in the process.

There is therefore NOW NO condemnation to those in Christ Jesus. Period. Do not receive any condemnation from anyone, there is none. The lack of condemnation **does not depend upon your walk**. It depends totally on the finished work of Jesus Christ.

Chapter 8 opens with there is NO CONDEMNATION for those of us in Christ Jesus, and interestingly enough, the chapter ends with NO SEPARATION for those in Christ Jesus.

Great news beloved – period.

So **verse 2** “the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus, **has** (past tense) made me free from the law of sin and death.” The law of sin and death has not gone away. It is still in us, but it does not have “dominion” over me. I have a choice. Choices we make moment by moment – those will be there until we meet Him.

However, because of our union with Him, it is the **John 15** principle at work in our lives. In John 15, Jesus said: I am the vine, ye are the branches” continual abiding in Him

Verse 2 tells us about the law and how it is weak “because of my flesh” i.e. I am unable to perform it. Nothing wrong with the law, problem is me.

Christ died not only for my sin, but died for the Nature of my sin. He condemned sin in the flesh. The end result of that was that He condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteous requirements of the law might be fulfilled IN us, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

What does it mean to **not walk** by the flesh? Do not live by trying to do it by yourself. Such statements as “I can do better” I failed up until now, but from now on, I will do better. Nope beloved – walking by the flesh

Verses 5 through 27 **teaches us that it is the Holy Spirit that “indwells you”**. We would do well to understand that in the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit came and went. Paul understood that. He could relate to David in Psalm 51 “take not thy Holy Spirit from me” but now Paul was understanding that He – God – would never take His Holy Spirit away from him.

Verses 5-7 Paul is teaching that it is impossible for God to take His Holy Spirit from the life of the believer. **Verse 5** – for those who choose to live “according to the flesh: ie, / will try harder. Remember now the contrast here is between 2 believers. The one who lives according to the flesh, and the one who chooses to live according to the Spirit. This is not a contrast between a believer and a non-believer. These two folks are believers. The choice of how we as believers behave in in view. One guy is taking advantage of the indwelling power, and the other guy who doesn’t take advantage of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

The impossibility to live for God according to human effort. Can’t do it beloved, no matter how hard you try. The issue is not how sincere you are. Has nothing to do with that. Both can be very sincere, just who is the source of their living.

Verse 6 contrasts the two. The “carnal minded Christian” or the spiritually minded Christian. One is strife, and death (not physical, but spiritual) the other is peace. You get the difference, don’t you?

Now to summarize a bit here, when you see the word “if” we need to understand that it is not “if it were so, or if it were not so. Another rendering in the Greek is “**since**.” Verse 9 reads “but you are not in the flesh but the Spirit, (**since**) the Spirit of God indeed dwells in you”, now (**if**) i.e. does not have – the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

Vs 10 reads (**since**) Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

Verse 11 – reads in Greek but (**since**) Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life, because of righteousness and then vs 11 But (**since**) the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you.....”

We would do well to understand that Paul is not questioning whether the Spirit of Christ is in the believer, but since the Spirit of Christ is in the believer -----

Do we understand the difference here?

Paul is saying that “if we continue to live after the flesh” we will keep on dying. For to be fleshly (carnal) minded is death, spiritual minded is life and peace.

We are therefore (verse 12) debtors- NOT to the flesh, to live according to the flesh – for **if** (if you do this) you live according to the flesh you will die, but **if** you live by the Spirit, you put to **death the deeds** of the body,(deeply engrained habits of the body) you will live.”

Pretty simple stuff if you understand it in context.

A closer look at verse **8 of Romans 8** –“so then those that are in the flesh, cannot please God.” To be “in the flesh” is regarding the believer and his momentary lapse in thought. We can recognize our problems when I face being proud only to realize that I am blind. or to be discouraged, is unbelief, or to be disappointed with ourselves means

you relied upon yourself and hope to do better, proves to us the fact that we fail to see ourselves “in Christ” only and always. These kinds of thoughts that run through our minds, are not from Him.

Looking finally tonight at verse **9 of Romans 8** –“for if you live after the flesh, you shall die, but if through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, you shall live.”

If we keep on living “after the flesh” we will keep on dying. The word dying here is in the present tense, meaning it is continuing separation of spiritual fellowship with Him.

The word “deeds” means a deeply engrained habit and requires activity on our part to cease from this case.

Our fellowship with Him depends upon our walking out from under the deeds of the flesh. The whole concept of “trying” or becoming better people or rules to live by or anything we are adding to our lives in order to improve our relationship with Him.

You can’t improve on perfection beloved, and that is what you are now that you are “in Christ”

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