

## Lesson 14 – The Book of Romans

A quick overview of where we have come so far in this book.

We learned about 3 classes of folks on the earth: The pagan man – lost completely, the moral man – lost but does not know it, and the religious man – of which Paul uses the Jew as an example with his laws & rules – and again he falls short of the standard set by God.

All three are without excuse before God. The third group – the religious man thinks that his following the rules will get him into heaven. The moral man thinks that by doing good he will make it into heaven. Both groups are without hope as they measure themselves by the actions of others, only to find out that they too, come up short.

Positional righteousness before a Holy God can only be accomplished by the work of the substitute for all sin – Jesus Christ – God’s Son.

That work is what we call – justification- and is the total work of the one Jesus Christ. We are totally justified by believing in the work of Jesus – period.

**Justification** gets us into heaven. Great as that is for all of us, it is not the end all. We have been saved from the penalty of sin through the act of Jesus and our belief in that act. However, there is so much more in store for the believer, and sadly there are many who qualify with justification, but will be sadly disappointed in that day to find that there was so much more available to them today that they never experienced.

That next step is what we call “**sanctification**” and this is the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. He is the one who “sets us apart” from this world.. The difference between salvation and sanctification is that we are being sanctified. That through the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. We may still sin, but we do not choose to live there. His work in us is what causes us to “depart from iniquity, and be ye separate saith the Lord.”

As mentioned before, in the first 7 chapters the Holy Spirit is spoken of 2 times. In this chapter 8 alone, He is mentioned 19 times. Sanctification is our responsibility in working with the Holy Spirit to remove us from the temptation of sin. We have been saved from the **penalty** of sin, we are being saved from the **power** of sin as we yield to the presence of the Holy Spirit within.

In that day, we will be saved from the very **presence** of sin for there will be none when we get to heaven.

Just as in the case of the pagan man of chapter one, the earth and all of its glory is sufficient to convict a man of the fact that there is a God, so that he is without excuse.

So in **chapter 8** we learn that with the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives we can choose to not live under the power of sin. Ie. we are given the tools to choose to walk uprightly before our God. It is His work within us to do His will. As vessels we choose to follow Him.

Justification declares you not guilty. Sanctification makes you live righteously. It is the regeneration work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer.

Side note here beloved, - it is a shock to see just how far our world has fallen in just the past 50 years. Things allowed today were not even thought about 25 years ago and on you go with it. From the days of “leave it to Bever and Mr. Rogers”, to the removable of the breast of the 14 year old girl, because she has been told she is transgender, – in some cases without the consent of the parents, don’t try and tell me we are “getting better” or more enlightened” The rate in which we are falling is accelerating – speeding up and getting worse.

This sanctification is the performing of God’s will in the life of the believer.

Now, as I mentioned previously, the Holy Spirit is foremost in Chapter 8. There is a reason for this that I hope to explain next.

In **Ephesians 2: 1-3** Paul reveals the three great powers that attempt to enslave the believer. They are the world, the flesh and the Devil.

The **world** tells the believer that; ‘God helps those who help themselves.’ The world tells the believer that if: “You want anything done, you must do it yourself” “Don’t count on anyone or anything other than yourself if you ever expect to succeed.” The world is continually telling the believer to be self-sufficient, to store up for yourself in case of a rainy day etc. The world is telling the believer to look for instant gratification, materialism and is constantly disturbing the peace of the believer.

The **Devil** – on the other hand is working on the believer to disbelieve what the scripture says about God. “If He truly loves you, why is he allowing such suffering in your life?” How can a just and righteous God allow so much pain and anguish throughout the world.” “Hath God really said:” Working hard on the believer to not trust, nor obey the living God, telling the believer lies about God so you and I will not trust Him with our lives.

The third power is the power of the **flesh**. It is the power of the flesh that is highlighted in chapter 8 of Romans. The contrast is between the flesh and the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Let me be a little more specific concerning the flesh. Jesus said: “ the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak:.” **Matt: 26:41**. Ok, so the flesh means weakness. I can handle that to a point, but this understanding I do not think is sufficient to explain the flesh. We understand that it is weak because it has no ability to perform spiritual things. Only God can perform spiritual things. We get that. However, I want to expand a bit on the meaning of the flesh.

The term “of the flesh” is a term used **of** ourselves, and will always fail. The term “ in the flesh” means that we are trying by our own efforts. The term flesh is our use of our own resources. Drawing upon ourselves as a source for godly living. It is impossible to

live for God depending upon our own resources, or human efforts. It is very subtle beloved, but the truth none the less.

The contrast in **Chapter 8** is between us acting on our own behalf or depending upon the presence of God Himself within each of us.

Remember now that Chapter 8 deals with the issue of **sanctification**. That is “being separate from the world around us.” Living in this world, but not relying upon the world in which we live to bring about this separation.

The sanctification process taking place in our lives can only be accomplished through the indwelling presence of God Himself.

Any activity in which we endeavor with the purpose of setting ourselves apart from the world around us is called the “activity of the flesh.”

Christ died on the cross not only for my sin, but to remove me from the very nature of sin itself. Causing me now to live my life totally in union with Him.

The word “**for**” appears 17 times in this chapter. If you want a true picture of what Paul is saying, study the 17 times he uses it in this chapter alone.

Verse 3 “**for** what the law could not do because in that it was weak through the flesh”

Verse 5 “**for** those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh”

Verse 6 “**for** to be carnally (fleshly) minded is death

Verse 7 “because the carnal (fleshly) mind is enmity against God, **for** it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.” And on you go with it.

**Romans 8: 4** “that the righteousness of the law may be fulfilled IN us (not by us), who do walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.” I.e. we are not trying (that is trying by our own efforts). This beloved is a statement of FACT.

The flesh is a term again of our own human resources. The contrast is between true believers: the impossibility of trying to live for God by human effort – versus those who are truly walking by the Spirit.

Think on this for a moment beloved. All of the righteousness of the law of God given to the children of Israel is now fulfilled in each one of us. Not through our efforts in any way but because of the presence of God within each of us. Not by trying on our own efforts. Do we get this?

Also, I want to remind us that the contrast here is between two believers. It is not between a believer and non-believer, but rather between two believers – one of which it totally depended upon the indwelling Holy Spirit and the one who depends upon his own ability to live righteously.

Again remember that **sincerity** here is not the basis for comparison. Both folks are really sincere. It is between the one totally dependent upon the presence of the Holy Spirit within, and the one who is depending upon himself. So who is it that is driving you? Who are you relying upon?

We get the comparison between the “carnal Christian” – saved and justified and on his way to heaven, and the spiritual Christian who is dependent totally on the indwelling presence of God Himself.

Nowhere in the scripture is the flesh improved. We are powerless to improve it, so stop trying

Verse **8** – “So then, those who are in the flesh, cannot please God.” those who set about to live according to their own ability, his own resources, cannot please God – period.

Verse **12** “therefore brethren, we are debtors – not to the flesh to live according to the flesh verse **13** “for if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the **deeds** of the body, you will live.” Focusing upon the “exchanged” life, His for yours. The word “**deeds**” here refers to “deeply engrained habits”. We need to mortify the deeds of the body against our deeply engrained habits. This requires us to get involved in this saving process beloved. There is volition involved – ie. something **on our part. You have the power to do this because of the indwelling power within.**

**Vs 14** – “for as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are the **sons** (matured ones) of God.

**Romans 6, 7 & 8** – summarizes with “if you keep on living after the flesh, you will keep on dying.”

Now, next time we will examine the balance of this chapter as Paul deals with the security of the believer. Very important beloved.

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