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The Way

The West Valley End-Time Ministries Newsletter

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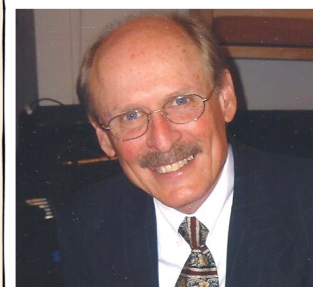
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Romans Chapter 8



Darrell Chilson, Pastor



Jessica Lindsey, Bible Instructor

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1 & 2 Peter

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Bible Study

1 Peter 2

1 Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. **2** Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, **3** now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

The Living Stone and the Chosen People

4 As you come to him, the living Stone – rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him – **5** you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. **6** For in Scripture it says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame." **7** Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, "The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone," **8** and, "A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the message – which is also what they were destined for. **9** But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. **10** Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Living Godly Lives in a Pagan Society

11 Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. **12** Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us. **13** Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, **14** or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. **15** For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. **16** Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. **17** Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor. **18** Slaves, in reverent fear of God submit yourselves to your masters, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh. **19** For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. **20** But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. **21** To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. **22** "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." **23** When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. **24** "He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed." **25** For "you were like sheep going astray," but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Honest Questions

Honest Question #1: Is it accurate to teach that "first day of the week" in Matt.28:1 should be translated the first of the Sabbaths or one of the Sabbaths... therefore, it indicates that the apostle spoke of the resurrection of Sunday as the first of a new order of sabbaths?

Bible Text In Question:

"Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb." Matthew 28:1.

Comments: According to Luke's account of Jesus' death, burial and resurrection, the days of the week are clearly delineated in sequence:

"That day [the day of Jesus' crucifixion] was **the day of Preparation** [Friday], and the Sabbath drew near. And the women who had come with Him from Galilee followed after, and they observed the tomb and how His body was laid. Then they returned and prepared spices and fragrant oils. And **they rested on the Sabbath according to the commandment** [Saturday].

Now **on the first day of the week** [Sunday], very early in the morning, they, and certain [other women] with them, came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared. But they found the stone rolled away from the tomb. Then they went in and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ... [The angel told them,] "He is not here, but is risen! Luke 23:54-24:6.

- 1) Jesus died on Friday, called by all four gospel writers, the Day of Preparation.
- 2) Interestingly enough, not only did Jesus' followers "rest on the Sabbath according to the commandment (Exodus 2:8-11), but even Jesus in death rested in the grave on the Sabbath — "the seventh day of the week".
- 3) The "first day of the week" was Sunday, and followed the seventh day Sabbath. And it was on that day that Jesus rose from the dead.

Nowhere in the New Testament does the Bible speak of another day of worship — another Sabbath — instituted by God or the Church of Jesus Christ to replace that of the seventh day Sabbath of the fourth commandment. The answer to the question above is, definitely "no".

Honest Question #2: Does the phrase "seventh day" in the fourth commandment mean simply one day in seven ... so worshipping once every seventh day is in keeping with God's intention?

Bible Text In Question:

"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ... The seventh day [is] the Sabbath of the LORD your God." Exodus 20:8, 10.



Honest Questions

Comments: Don't you think if that had been God's intention, He would have said, "one day in seven"? It was **the seventh day** that He rested from His work of creation (Genesis 2:2). And it is **the seventh day** Sabbath that is a memorial of creation — "For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but **he rested on the seventh day**. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day **and made it holy.**" (Exodus 20:11).

Then there is an additional post-resurrection significance for the seventh day Sabbath! Paul tells us that the seventh day Sabbath is not only a memorial of His creation, but of His saving grace, of our resting from our works even as God did His!

"For He has spoken in a certain place of the seventh day in this way: 'And God rested on the seventh day from all His works'; ... There remains therefore a rest for the people of God. For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His." Hebrews 4:4, 9, 10.

No, it is the seventh day of the week that God made holy, and it can be no other day that God intended for us to remember His creative power and His redemptive work on our behalf!

Honest Question #3: Does the Christian teaching of having a reasonable faith conflict with scientific law?

Comments: The concepts of "a reasonable faith" and of "scientific law" are not concepts of Scripture but rather of theological discussions. They are concepts intended to make matters of faith acceptable to those who rely on reason and science for credibility. An example might be found in the following question: "Given that most scientists believe that our world is a product of evolutionary progression rather than that of the Genesis 1 account of creation, can we reasonably reconcile the biblical account of the origins of man and the earth with the popular "scientific" theory of evolution?"

While true science supports biblical teaching, we must never begin our search for truth about anything with popular theories of so-called science. A Christian must always begin with an understanding of what the Bible has to say on a given subject, particularly as it relates to things as monumental as "the origin of the species" (Darwin) and the age of the earth! No one was there when over "millions and billions of years" the earth and its inhabitants are said to have gradually evolved during various ages and cataclysmic events of unknown history! Yet the Bible clearly tells us how old our earth is and how it came into existence! The God of eternity past was there! God is the authority on every important truth of every reality, and if His Word is properly understood, His Word must always be the standard by which we define "reasonable faith" and test "scientific law"!

Studies In Romans

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO PAUL – A STUDY IN ROMANS

Text and Notes from Our Study of Romans 8

November 12, 2025

Introduction to Romans 8

- ♦ In Romans 6, Paul tells us that we, having died in Christ, are **no longer under the power of the sin** which controlled us prior to faith in Christ.
- ♦ In Romans 7, he tells us that “we have been **released from the law**, having died to what we were held by, **so that we should serve in the newness of the Spirit and not in the oldness of the letter.**”
- ♦ “**If you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.**” Galatians 5:18.
- ♦ Now in Romans 8, Paul expands on the work of **the Holy Spirit**, who **lives within us** and is a Gift given to us **the moment we place our faith in Jesus Christ!** (Ephesians 1:13, 14).
- ♦ **It is the work of the Spirit within us which, over time, makes “the new creation” we are in Christ a growing reality in our lives – visible to others and to ourselves!**
- ♦ God’s promise to us is – “I will sprinkle clean water on you, and **you shall be clean**; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. I will give you **a new heart** and put **a new spirit within you**; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. **I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes**, and you will keep My judgments and do them.” Ezekiel 36:25-27.

Romans 8

No Condemnation for those who are in Christ!

1 There is **therefore** now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. **2** For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set me free from the law of sin and death. **3** For God has done what the law, weakened by the **flesh**, could not do: sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful **flesh** and for sin, he condemned sin in the **flesh**...

- ♦ The very first verse of Chapter 8 above is a one-sentence statement of the Gospel, vividly presented in the seven chapters before. The word, “therefore”, points us back to all Paul has taught us prior to chapter 8, and we must not forget the truth of this statement before looking into the things of the Spirit living within our hearts and the changes God will make within us as the Spirit dwells within.

Studies In Romans

Living in the reality of the presence and power of the Holy Spirit – the focus of Romans 8:

4 ...in order that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the **flesh** but according to the “**Spirit**” [19 times in this chapter]. **5** For those who live according to the **flesh** set their minds on the things of the **flesh**, but those who live according to the **Spirit** set their minds on the things of the **Spirit**. **6** To set the mind on the **flesh** is death, but to set the mind on the **Spirit** is life and peace. **7** For the mind that is set on the **flesh** is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, indeed it cannot; **8** and those who are in the **flesh** cannot please God. **9** But you are not in the **flesh**, you are in the **Spirit**, if in fact the **Spirit** of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the **Spirit** of Christ does not belong to him. **10** But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, but the **Spirit** is your life because of righteousness (NET). **11** If the **Spirit** of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his **Spirit** which dwells in you.

- ◆ Verse 4 – As the Spirit lives within us, the principles of the righteous Law of God will be manifested in us – **never** sufficiently to contribute to the complete and finished work of Christ already done to save us, but gradually, and over time, the righteousness that covers us will become a part of us as well. The fruit of the Spirit Paul describes in Galatians 5:22, 23 will be increasingly displayed in our lives, and the desire to live our lives consistently with our profession as followers of Christ will bear its fruit as well.
- ◆ Paul tells us that the Gift of the Holy Spirit is planted within our hearts the moment we place our faith in Christ. He says,
 - ◇ “In Him [Christ] you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.” Ephesians 1:13, 14.
 - ◇ “Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?” 1 Corinthians 3:16.
 - ◇ “He who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.” 1 Corinthians 6:17.
 - ◇ “God also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee [of our final inheritance].” 2 Corinthians 1:22; 2 Corinthians 5:5.
 - ◇ “Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.” Ephesians 2:19-22.

Studies In Romans

- ◇ “That good thing which was committed to you, keep by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us.” 2 Timothy 1:14.
- ◇ “Now he who keeps His commandments [as Christ’s followers will do, not for merit but as a fruit of their faith in and oneness with Christ!] abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides [lives] in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.” 1 John 3:24; 4:13..
- ◇ “...the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. ... If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and **We will come to him and make Our home with him.**” John 14:17, 23.

12 So then, brethren, we are debtors, not to the **flesh**, to live according to the **flesh** – **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. **14** For all who are led by the **Spirit** of God are sons of God. **15** For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the spirit of sonship. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" **16** it is the **Spirit** himself bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, **17** and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

Waiting for Our Final Redemption...

18 I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. **19** For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God; **20** for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of him who subjected it in hope; **21** because the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the glorious liberty of the children of God. **22** We know that the whole creation has been groaning in travail together until now; **23** and not only the creation, but **we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit**, groan inwardly as we wait for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. **24** For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? **25** But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. **26** Likewise the **Spirit** helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the **Spirit** himself intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words. **27** And he who searches the hearts of men knows what is the mind of the **Spirit**, because the **Spirit** intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. **28** We know that in everything God works for good with those who love him, who are called according to his purpose. **29** For those whom he **1) foreknew** he also **2) predestined** to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the first-born among many brethren. **30** And those whom he predestined he also **3) called**; and those whom he called he also **4) justified**; and those whom he justified he also **5) glorified**.



Studies In Romans

Paul's Grand Finale of the Gospel as Presented in the Book of Romans!

31 What then shall we say to this? If God is for us, who is against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, will he not also give us all things with him? 33 Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies; 34 who is to condemn? Is it Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised from the dead, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us? 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written, "For thy sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

AMEN!
