

Joyful at Heart class,

For the next two weeks, possibly three, we will be in Romans Chapter 8. Regardless of the Sunday, read the chapter in its entirety.

So far in our study of Romans, Paul has made it clear that salvation is a gift from God and that we can do nothing to earn new life.

- Before our rebirth, we were dead in our sins, separated from God, and under His Wrath
- We were completely unable to earn His acceptance
- Through His mercy, God sent Christ to die in our place
- Through Christ's death, we were given an avenue to escape death and judgment
- Our salvation is completely handled by God
- All we did, or could do, was receive it through faith
- Even though we are still in a sinning state – God has declared us righteous – justified us – crediting Christ's righteousness to our account
- Now the question: Who handles our sanctification – the process of “growing” in Christ?

**How would you describe sanctification?** \_\_\_\_\_

Romans chapter 8 contains some inspirational points concerning our sanctification.

- It overviews God's provision of the Spirit for victory over our sin nature – *this is instruction!*
- It addresses the sufferings that mark our present existence – *this is consolation!*
- It culminates with praise for the unfathomable love of God, revealed in Christ – *this is jubilation!*

Which person am I?

A) Sanctification is primarily my work. I am responsible for the state of my spirituality. “The Lord saved me, and now it's my job to become godly”.

B) Sanctification is a work of God. I am called to “cooperate” with Him in the process – but never commanded to “do it all myself”.

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This week; **Romans 8:1-17**      **Freedom and Sonship!**

V1-4    Three crucial and comforting truths emerge about a justified person's standing before God

<sup>1</sup> *There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.*

- V1: “therefore” – takes in v24 of chapter 7 – our battle with sin, and v25 – that there is only one thing that can set us free.
- The result = chapter 8:1

- Even though we will continue to struggle with sin – AND sometimes even lose the battle... we will NEVER receive everlasting punishment for our failures.

? – From V1, what would you say is the first benefit of the atoning work of Christ?

<sup>2</sup> For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

- V2: identifies that we have release from the law of sin and death

? - From V2, what would you say is the second benefit of the atoning work of Christ?

- In Christ... we have the ability to reject sin. We can resist temptation and choose to live righteously.

<sup>3</sup> For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God *did* by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup> that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

- V3-4: These verses tell us that although God spelled out perfect righteousness, it could not be perfectly obeyed by sinful man. So now what?
  - Step 1: What we could not do – God did by sending his Son. Living a perfect life, He fulfilled the law's requirements.
  - Step 2: Then He died a substitutionary death so that we could be saved.
  - Step 3: When we trust in Christ's finished work on our behalf – we are given His righteousness.
- V4 – “in” us – remember the important distinction between “in” or “of”.
  - Through Christ – our standing before God is that of someone who lived a perfect life!

? – From v3 & 4, what is a third benefit of the atoning work of Christ?

Now Paul contrasts the life dominated by the flesh, and a victorious life

#### **V8:5a, 6a, 7-8 Life according to the flesh**

<sup>5</sup> 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, the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> For to be <sup>[b]</sup>carnally [**fleshly**] minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace. <sup>7</sup> Because the <sup>[c]</sup>carnal [**fleshly**] mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. <sup>8</sup> So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

- V5a: Non believers have what type of orientation toward sin?
- V6a: This verse illuminates both a present and future perspective. How is the non-believers life and future characterized and with what result?
- V7: A non believer generally answers to no one but themselves have what type of mindset towards God?
- V8: With no power to change their orientation – how do we categorize their ability to please God?

**V8:5b, 6b, 9-11 Life according to the spirit**

<sup>5</sup> 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, the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> For to be <sup>[b]</sup>carnally [**fleshly**] minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace.

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<sup>9</sup> But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. <sup>10</sup> And if Christ *is* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin, but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup> But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies <sup>[d]</sup>through [**because of**] His Spirit who dwells in you.

- **V5b**: The Holy Spirit creates in us a new orientation toward righteousness and a desire to conform to Christ. We say that we now have a \_\_\_\_\_ orientation instead of a fleshly orientation.
- **V6b**: The removal of God's wrath makes us adopted sons and daughters instead of enemies. What type existence does this now create for us? \_\_\_\_\_
- **V9-11**: The same spirit who raised Christ from the dead also indwells, empowers and enables us to lead lives pleasing to God. We call this the \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ life.

In verses 12-13 we start to draw the Application: The disciplines of a victorious Christian

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. <sup>13</sup> 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.

**V12-13a** We are told to \_\_\_\_\_ the flesh. In other words “Be who you are”! As a believer, you have the ability!

**V13b** We are to \_\_\_\_\_ by the spirit.

**?** – How?

Let's take a short off-ramp and reflect on our **Purpose, Empowerment**, and **Destiny** – as Christians!

### Our Divine Purpose Eph 2:8-10

- v10 – why were we created - For good works
- Prepared by who - God
- We are His - Workmanship

As Creator – God lays before us the “deeds” He has crafted for us. We do not create our own list of things to do – instead, we “walk” in the spirit, follow his “Word”, and “cooperate”. The road is already built.

### Our Divine Empowerment Phil 1:6

- What does this say about God's role in our sanctification?

[For the following paragraph, fill in the blanks with one of the following choices: Power, Presence or Penalty]

Not only did He rescue us from the \_\_\_\_\_ of sin – He continues to rescue us from the \_\_\_\_\_ of sin. And when He glorifies us, He will rescue us from the \_\_\_\_\_ of sin. Until then, He promises to promote our daily development in righteousness until Jesus returns. How does he do this? By empowering us through the Holy Spirit.

### Our Divine Destiny I Thess 5:23-24

<sup>23</sup> Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify<sup>[g]</sup> you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup> He who calls you *is* faithful, who also will do *it*.

? - Given our track record – left to ourselves, would we be able to fulfill the intent of these verses from Thessalonians?

### \*\*\* Back to Romans Chapter 8

Romans 8:12-13 <sup>12</sup> Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. <sup>13</sup> 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.

? - V12 indicates we are now under obligation, or we are “debtors”. What is our orientation or where does our servitude reside?

? - How then should we live?

- **V13a** – Indicates from the negative perspective; NOT \_\_\_\_\_.
- **V13b** – Indicates from the positive perspective; BUT \_\_\_\_\_.

If we are willing to listen and obey, the Spirit will guide us in all the “life-giving” works that God has prepared for us beforehand. The key to sanctification, then, is to commit to cooperating with the HS as He works to grow us into maturity.

? – How does Spirit speak to us?

- |                   |                          |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| ○ Scripture       | What is the implication? |
| ○ Prayer          | What is the implication? |
| ○ Worship         | What is the implication? |
| ○ Other believers | What is the implication? |

Why we can be confident! Romans 8:14-17

<sup>14</sup> For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. <sup>15</sup> For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, <sup>[e]</sup> Father."

<sup>16</sup> The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup> and if children, then heirs— heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him*, that we may also be glorified together.

The Holy Spirit is at work in us. In these verses we can identify some of the changes that have occurred since He took up residence.

? – V14 indicates that we are being \_\_\_\_\_.

- This means "to lay hands on and to bring to a destination"

? – V15 indicates that we have been \_\_\_\_\_.

? - V16 indicates we have been made \_\_\_\_\_.

- Do you see a transition between v15 and v16? Consider 2 Cor 5:17

? - V17 instructs that we have been made \_\_\_\_\_.

- We have been offered all the riches of God, which belong to Jesus by right, and will be given to us through grace.

As you can see, we can derive significant encouragement regarding our sanctification from Romans Chapter 8.

- Our standing and associated benefits
- A change in orientation
- Adoption, Sonship – becoming an heir
- A peaceful existence and a spirit filled life

Also indicated is our cooperative work that we need to be serious about.

- Resist the devil
- Mortify the flesh
- Be led by the Spirit
- Maintain the spiritual disciplines: scripture reading, prayer, worship

We will continue to grow with the help of the Holy Spirit. Will we still suffer on earth? Yes – that's the way of the cross. But we will also be glorified, as Christ is now – that is our future. Our eternally secured future!

Next week we will revisit verses 16 & 17 as part of the second half of Romans.

R,

Ward