

## **Romans 8:1-18**

- Opening Comments and Prayer
- Today we are continuing our short journey through the book of Romans.
- Chapter 8 is in about the middle of Paul's letter,
- Where he lays out the path of salvation to those who are listening.
- The Jews understood that the gentiles who were outside
- The Covenant of promise, were sinners in need of salvation.
- But Paul communicates to the Jews, that they are need of salvation as well.
- For it says **Rom.3:23 - For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.**
- And it was only through the cross at Calvary that salvation could come.
- Rom. 6:23 - **For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**
- Jesus was the only one who could pay the ransom for our sins
- And that He did for us, at Calvary, so we all can live eternally with God.
- Chapter 8 speaks of our position in Christ.

**8** There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup> For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. <sup>3</sup> For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup> in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but 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 set their minds on the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup> For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. <sup>8</sup> Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. <sup>9</sup> You, however, are not in the flesh but 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. <sup>10</sup> But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup> If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

<sup>12</sup> So then, brothers, 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. <sup>14</sup> For all who are led by the Spirit of God

are sons of God. <sup>15</sup> For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! 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 fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. <sup>18</sup> For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

- For everyone who has put their faith and trust in Jesus Christ as L & S,
- We have to absolutely love the first two verses in Chapter 8.
- **“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup> For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.”**
- There is no condemnation. - In other words there is judgement.
- Through the broken body and the blood of Christ, shed for us at Golgotha,
- And because of our faith and God’s grace, our sins have been forgiven,
- And we are free from the law of sin and death.
- The price has been paid... there is no reason for us to suffer for our crimes.
- The wages of sin were paid by Christ for us on the cross.
- How wonderful is the word of God for us.
- Everything is in the Bible that applies to our very lives.
- Psalm 119:105 - **Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.**
- When we absorb ourselves in His word, taking in all its truthfulness and
- Fullness, we have a better chance to stay on the path,
- And not drift away into the briars and thickets of worldliness.
- And like Psalm 119:11 tell us, that if we hide his word in our hearts,
- We are less apt to sin.
- So when situations arise, when we are tempted to sin,
- We can draw back into our remembrance of the Word, a word that is
- So quick and powerful, that it helps us separate and divide, so we can stop,
- Take a breath, and seize the opportunity to both reflect and redirect.
- We have been redeemed and born again of the Holy Spirit, and
- **2 Cor. 5:17 tells us that we are a new creation, and that all things are new.**
- But as humans, every one of us struggle mightily.
- We might be saved, but we are saved sinners.
- Let’s take a look at the last verses in the Chapter 7:

<sup>21</sup> So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. <sup>22</sup> For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, <sup>23</sup> but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. <sup>24</sup> Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? <sup>25</sup> Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

- There is and always be, as long as there is breath in our bodies
- A struggle between the Flesh and the Spirit, which is why we have
- To rely on the power of Christ, so that we can win this war.
- Look at how Paul struggled with it! But remember, that Paul also said,
- **1 Cor 11:1 - Follow my example as I follow the example of Jesus Christ.**
- It is a struggle, but we can have victory, with the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Paul is very clear in scripture when he talks about sin and about the Spirit.
- And it's not soft language....
- **Col 3:5, Paul tells us - <sup>5</sup> Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.**
- He tells us to put our sins to death. The KJV uses the word "mortify."
- We cannot neglect what is right and what is wrong.
- I'm not a gardener, but I would suspect that to produce good fruit,
- You would need to pull the weeds out, fertilize, and water it
- It's the same principle in our own lives.
- We need to take out the things that cause our spirit to wither, like sin,
- And replace it with the Word of God, prayer, and Christian Fellowship.
- So our carnal minds can be replaced by our spiritual minds,
- And our crop will yield the fruits of the Spirit... Love, joy, peace....
- And again, we can find such joy and such peace from Vs 1, "**There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.**
- John 5:24 - <sup>24</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.
- There is no judgment for us, no condemnation.
- That is a statement that God makes about our spiritual position.
- We have become joint heirs with Jesus Christ. And again, verse 4...
- <sup>4</sup> in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

- And as a new creature of Christ, we should be walking in the Spirit.
- Doing what Paul instructed us..... **Coll. 3:12-15** - <sup>12</sup> **Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience,** <sup>13</sup> **bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.** <sup>14</sup> **And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.** <sup>15</sup> **And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.**
- You see, Jesus Christ has made us whole.
- He has made us a new creation.
- And the works in our life need to follow our faith,
- For as James said, Faith without works is dead. Gal 2:28, says,
- **"I have been crucified with Christ, I no longer live, but Christ lives in me."**
- So we are to live our lives, being as much like Jesus as we can.
- And we need help to do this.
- As a soldier goes into battle, so we do as well.
- We are in battle every day of our lives.
- **Eph 6:10-13** - <sup>10</sup> **Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.** <sup>11</sup> **Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.** <sup>12</sup> **For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.** <sup>13</sup> **Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.**
- We need to think of ourselves in a different and more positive manner.
- We shouldn't think ourselves as sinners,
- Because we have been bought with a price, we have been bought
- With the precious blood of Jesus Christ.
- We are now dead unto sin, but alive unto God.
- <sup>15</sup> **For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! 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 fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.**
- God wants us to use our bodies, our minds,

- And all the gifts that God has given us, to glorify Him, and to
- Build His kingdom. by living our lives and using our gifts, in humility,
- We truly will bring glory to God.
- All the glory is for God and to no other.
- At times, when we are complemented, we feel awkward.
- And often times, if we take no credit, it can make us appear prideful.
- God has given us gifts that we use for the betterment of others,
- And it's okay to acknowledge that to a point, because,
- Humility is not thinking less of ourselves, but thinking of ourselves less.
- It's a lifetime process to keep our pride at bay, and the only way
- To succeed in that, is to look at the life of our savior Jesus Christ.
- And there is no example better than that.
- In closing, I'd like to make one more point,
- And that is we need to be thankful to God.
- **Col: 3:<sup>15</sup> and let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.**
- I have mentioned to Maria and she has agreed, that we are just so
- Thankful that God is in our lives.
- Thankful that He saved us from death, and gave us eternal life.
- Thankful that He remains with us through thick and thin.
- He has been with us as we have climbed the highest mountains,
- And holding our hands during the greatest periods of despair.
- He tells that He will never leave us or forsake us. And now He has
- Promised us that we will never be judged for our sins,
- Because His wonderful son, Jesus Christ, did that for us.
- And we can be ever joyful knowing of the future that is in store for us.
- To show our thanks to Him, we need to live our life for Him.
- And not go astray, to keep ourselves focused on the wonderful face
- Of our Savior, who is the Captain of our salvation, and the author
- And finisher of our faith.
- And that's the least that we can do.