

Glorified with Christ

Romans 8

- Paul has not been to R when he writes, in Acts 20:2-3. He makes it there ~4yrs later
- Church comprised of Jewish Christians & Gentile Christians – clash of cultures now one in Christ
- Ch. 7 discusses our relationship to the Law
- Ch. 8 discusses our freedom in Christ
- Ch. 7 ends in darkness; Ch. 8 comes into light

1. No Condemnation in Christ – Romans 8:1-4

- 1-4 ends discussion started in 7:1
- 1: condemnation: courtroom incl. both sentence and execution; is – present tense; God is not looking for a reason to condemn 36
- 2: with God's help, sin no longer has reign
- 3: Law not weak but the material it had to work with (flesh) was weak. Spurgeon: "God found a way to condemn sin w/o condemning me!"
- 4: requirement: a concrete expression of righteousness – singular – fulfilled in the way we live our lives

2. Contest Between the Flesh & the Spirit – Romans 8:5-13

- 5: "As a man thinks, so is he..." Pro. 23:7
- 6: death: spiritual; life: associated with peace
- 7: hostile: hating and opposing another
- 8: trying to live a fleshly life solely w/o God
- 9: 3rd person > 2nd; what God has done; you
- 10: ...is doing; if = since; mortal: die; spirit: live
- 11: ...will do; same God, same power
- 12: obligation: same as debtor, 1:4
- 13: "brethren" – it is possible for a Christian to ignore the Spirit and live according to the flesh and die.

3. Sons of God – Romans 8:14-17

- 14: emphasis on being led by Word of God

- 15: father – common GK word; Abba: Aramaic word for father, child’s word for “father,” like “papa,” “daddy.” Most Jews did not use this personal term when addressing God but Jesus did – Mark 14:36
- 16: we can know!
- 17: JC received inheritance by right; us by grace

4. The Christian’s Hope of Glory – Romans 8:18-25

- 18: importance insight in Scripture
- 19: anxious: wait w/ head, eyes fixed to point on horizon expecting Jesus Christ to come
- 20,21: result of Adam’s sin? Futility – GK – void of reason; world not left without hope!
- 22: groaning – like an earthquake; continues until the Lord returns. Pain not meaningless pain (childbirth) > new life
- 23: groan within ourselves, 2 Cor. 5:2; eagerly – standing on tiptoe
- 24: hope: longing to be set free from present pain
- 25: confidence in these privileges being ours

5. The Christian’s Help from the Spirit – Romans 8:26-27

- 26: our: Paul included
- Help: *A. T. Robertson*: like two people carrying a log
- Intercedes: pleading on the behalf of another
- 27: our prayer actually reaches God’s ears – how lovely a thought!

6. God’s Promise of His Providence – Romans 8:28-30

- 28: working, good or bad, ultimately for their benefit – only for His Children
- 29,30: foreknew: *know + before*; man has freewill. Much not known about God’s foreknowledge – but all we know is true!
- Predetermined to be in the image of God; sin broke this image.
- Firstborn: favored position.

7. No Separation from the Love of God – Romans 8:31-39

- 31: how to reconcile previous verses
- 32: spare: Gen. 22:12 – what Abr. Was willing to do to Isaac, God did with Jesus
- 33,34: elect: picked out, chosen; condemns: pronounce a sentence after determination of guilt

- 35: implied answer: “No one!” Tribulation: pressure (grapes); distress: narrow place, backed in corner; outward afflictions, inward distress
- 35: persecution: pressed, animal by hunter
- Famine: lack of food; financial consequences that come from following Christ
- Nakedness: lack of clothing
- Peril: general word for danger
- Sword: violent death & execution
- 36: Ps. 44:11 – those who follow the Lord can expect mistreatment
- 37: more than conquerors – God’s grace enables us to win battle against great odds
- 38,39: fully convinced; 10 things:
- **Death** most formidable foe in some’s eyes; some have a harder time facing **life** than death
- **Angels**: messengers; **principalities**: first in authority – no spiritual force
- **Things present & to come**: some overwhelmed w/ things of today, others worry over tomorrow
- **Powers**: spiritual forces (1 Cor. 15:24; Eph. 1:21) human rulers who tyrannize Christians
- **Height & Depth** – most obscure
- **Any other created thing** – catchall, “et cetera”
- This beautiful passage does not teach the impossibility of one falling away and to teach this robs the passage of its beauty.

Lessons:

1. Since there is no condemnation in Christ, we need to quit feeling guilty about past sins. Once we are forgiven, they are held against us no more. Church sign: Trying to bring up past sins is like sending a letter to my old house – I don’t live there anymore.
2. We have been adopted as sons by God. Because of this, we should act like it and do actions that please our Father.
3. Make sure we are on God’s side. He does not take one side or the other because He does not change, Mal. 3:6. Remember: “God plus one is a majority.”

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