

Romans 8:1-4,18-26 Living for Eternity

- I. Good morning- getting back into Romans turn to chapter 7 (end of it)
 - a. I want to read through this again because it moves so seamlessly into the beginning of chapter 8
- II. In 7:19 ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. ²¹ So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. ²² For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, ²³ but I see in my members another law waging war against my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴ Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!
- III.
- IV. This all sounds terrible right? Paul is a born again on fire believer and he's saying he's a prisoner to the sin within him.
- V. Did you notice how many times Paul used the word "I" in those verses?
- VI. *For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want*
- VII. On our own, we are powerless to fully keep the law of God. We may long to be righteous and even hate the sin we commit, but no amount of willpower will enable us to walk in holiness
- VIII. The only way out is through the cross. Jesus lived out the law perfectly to set you free from your sin and bondage and put you in right relationship with Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- IX. Now let's move into Romans 8:1-4 and the Word preaches better than any person can right? These are the pure words of our God so let's read this slowly and let it soak in.
- X. Romans 8:1 Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³ For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God *did*: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and *as an offering* for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.
- XI. Let's stop there.

- XII. Between chapter 7 and 8 We move out of the law of sin and death and into the Lord's grace.
- a. Something pastor Todd said that struck me was: Christianity is not a set of rules but a marriage to Jesus and an indwelling of the Holy Spirit.
- XIII. My husband has this conversation all the time with co-workers that are not yet believers and they view Christianity as a set of rules- don't do this, don't do that, don't don't don't.
- XIV. But if that's the view the heart of God has been missed. It's a marriage to Jesus and the indwelling of Holy Spirit. God IN you. Holy Spirit enables us to walk in union with God.
- a. Here's the gospel: Jesus lived a sinless life to atone for our sins so that Holy Spirit can live within us enabling us to walk in union with God.
- XV. Holy Spirit shows you what to turn who heart toward, not just what to turn your heart from. If I tell you stop being anxious. That will make you more anxious. But if you turn yourself to Holy Spirit and begin to commune with the Lord, feeding on His promises of provision and protection and unconditional love- you will be peaceful. You will be full of peace. There will be no room for anxiety.
- XVI. **Isaiah 41:10** – "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."
- XVII. Do we abide in the Lord 100% of the time and never give thought to the flesh, no. But the invitation is there and the ability is purchased by Christ and you are empowered by Holy Spirit.
- XVIII. **Romans 6:14** For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under the law but under grace.
- XIX. So when Paul is making all of those "I" statements in chapter 7, it shows the failure of willpower to fulfill the law. And this is important because
- a. its so easy to continue living under the law rather than under grace. If you have repented from sins of the past, you've changed your ways, but you still feel guilty... I want to be very clear that what you are experiencing is false guilt.
- b. Your sin is not more weighty than the sacrifice of Christ. It's like you have put yourself in a prison cell of shame but the Lord unlocked the door a long time ago. And it blesses and honors Him when you walk out of it and walk in His grace.
- XX. Others, you hear a condemning voice saying you're not doing enough for God and He's displeased with you. You are working for, not from God's smile. That voice you hear, bullying you to feel chronically not good enough and guilty- it's

the voice of the accuser. Satan doesn't want you to rest and abide in God's grace over your life. Remember, you have what the devil doesn't. Grace. Forgiveness. Relationship. His abiding presence. Peace. Joy.

- XXI. Close your eyes. If there is a chronic feeling of guilt over past sin that you have repented of- I want you to imagine Jesus coming and taking that off of you. and instead giving you a white robe of His righteousness.
- XXII. When you think of Romans chapter 8 I want you to picture this exchange we just did. Because that's what it is and that's what He paid for
- XXIII. Moving forward- Romans 8:14-17 spirit of adoption, we're going to put a place holder there and pastor Todd is going to unpack it.
- XXIV. Glory to Be Revealed To Us
- XXV. Romans 8: ¹⁸For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed **to us**.
 - a. We talked through suffering back in chapter 5 different types of suffering but today I felt the Lord wanted to rest on the later part of this verse
 - b. The glory which shall be revealed to us
 - c. We're going to talk about living for eternity.
 - d. But I will say, When you're suffering, it's easy to read over this and not find much comfort **if** you only know glory as a term
 - e. It's easy to be sarcastic in the response. Like you're genuinely going through a difficulty and someone says well it doesn't compare to the glory comin and you're like suuuuper thanks. If glory is just a nice idea it doesn't do much.
 - f. But if you know glory as the person, Jesus Christ... if you can read this scripture and understand to your core GLORY the glory of the Lord- that one little word the revelation of it carries the capacity to transform everything about the way you walk out suffering and it also has the ability to make you the most joyfilled, radiant, attractive, courageous, faith filled believer on earth regardless of circumstances.
 - i. Chapter 8 moves out of sin and condemnation and into the glory and radiance of Christ and when we actually follow this course..this paradigm shift from sin and condemnation to grace and glory
 - ii. It causes a transformation within you
 - g. We become a puzzle and a source of jealousy to outside observers. You naturally become the best advertising there is for the gospel. **Because your understanding of glory is the experience of Christ**
 - i. Everyone on earth suffers. Only believers have the hope of Christ's glory being revealed in full measure

- h. And the word glory which is doxa you see the struggle to define it- splendor, majesty, preeminance and one of the definitions just says a thing belonging to God. Glory. It does not belong to us.
- i. Psalm 24:10 Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.
- j. It does not belong to us. When God made us He said we are very good. But Glory, It's His and it's His to give to us like in John 17:22 when Jesus says to the Father The glory that you have given me I have given to them right so there's glory to give to us and glory to bring us into an encounter with. in the Lord's mercy we experience measures of glory while on earth that are precursors, appetizers, of the fullness coming with Christ's return
- k.
- l. Have you ever thought about what that glory being revealed will be like? You should. Because it changes everything about how we live.
- m.
- n. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed to us
- o. Which shall be revealed
- p. Revealed (uh-pawk-al-loop-toe): lay open what has been veiled
- q. Again, When Christ returns, there is a glory to be revealed to us unlike anything we've previously experienced
- r. Is. 40:5 And the glory of the LORD shall be **revealed**, and all flesh shall see *it* together
- s. All flesh shall see it. Whether Christ is your savior or not His glory, His radiance, His majesty, and holiness will be revealed. For now, the fullness of that glory remains veiled
- t.Paul says 1 Cor. 13:12 ¹² For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face.
- u. Story of song I used to listen to...(our song) in a moment in the twinkling of an eye... jesus
- v. c. **Face to face**: Paul uses this term to describe complete, unhindered fellowship with God.
- w. What's coming is so much better than what those who went before us experienced, EVEN Moses
- x. Exodus 33:11 ¹¹ So the LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, just as a man speaks to his friend.
- y. I always assumed as one would that Moses was seeing God face to face but then you learn later that there is so much glory packed into God's face that it will kill a man who encounters it on earth

- z. ¹⁸ Then Moses said, "Please, show me Your glory!"
- aa. ... "You cannot see My face, for mankind shall not see Me and live!"
 - i. So the Lord SPOKE to Moses face to face but Moses did not SEE the Lord's face at all in that interaction
 - ii. And it happens again in Exodus 24: ⁹ Then Moses went up with Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, ¹⁰ and they saw the God of Israel; and under His feet there appeared to be a pavement of sapphire, as clear as the sky itself.
 - iii. Doesn't this make you so excited?
 - iv. 1 Cor. 13:12 ¹² For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face.

XXVI. And here's where it gets even more interesting

- a. when we see Him in that glory, scripture says beholding Him will make you like Him
- b. 1 John 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him,
- c. We know that when He appears we will be like Him- how in the world will we be like Him just because He appears?
- d. because we will see Him just as He is.
- e. Do you ever read scripture and just think- wait what? That answer doesn't make sense according to our current understanding. If my first grade teacher suddenly appeared in this sanctuary, we wouldn't all become Mrs. Blakely. Although she's great and we could probably use more Mrs. Blakely's in this world. So what is going on.
 - i. The created (us) are not designed to become like others who are created. We are designed to become like our creator.
 - 1. We were formed in His image. He's the original. And His image never changed. We are moment by moment, either beholding the creator and becoming like Him or we are subtly or not so subtly straying from that image.
 - 2. **We need to see the original to be like the original.** People who print fake dollar bills, they don't study other fake dollar bills, they study the original.
 - 3. So when He appears, and you see Him as He is- you the created, beholding your creator, the one you were made in the image of- it will be the most natural thing in the world for you to become like Him. Because that's what the design was

all along. You are coming back into your original design- without the tainting of sin and the smell of death.

- ii. I've heard people say they are afraid of fully surrendering to God because they don't want to lose their sense of humor or their personality. The way you reflect the Lord is so unique that as you become more like Him, you become the most you- you've ever been.
 1. Far too often we're wasting our energy trying to be like other well known believers Ohh Stephanie Gretzinger, or Billy Graham when really we should just behold the Lamb of God. Look and become like the Creator not the created
 2. Paul does say imitate me as I imitate CHrist and there is something to observing and practicing the disciplines of solid spiritual moms and dads
 3. But ultimately a good disciple maker points a follower to Christ and the Word of God. The Word of God is Christ.
 4. John 1:35 ³⁵ Again the next day John was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶ and he looked at Jesus as He walked, and *said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" ³⁷ And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.
 5. This is the best advice a believer could ever receive. BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD and follow Him. Do what He does, say what He says.
- f. So there's kind of two levels we experience of becoming like the Lord. There's the day you see Him face to face and there's glory and full transformation but then there's a grace over the here and now to keep becoming like Him.
 - i. 2 Corinthians 3: ¹⁸ But we all, with unveiled faces, looking as in a mirror at the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory
 - ii. Now and not yet. Now and not yet. There is a level of glory resting here in the now and also what we hope for in full
 - iii. THis hope of what is to be revealed is what keeps us moving, engaged, living, running in our lane
 - iv. What we have obtained of the Lord's presence thus far is the best we've ever known, and yet there's still more.
 - v. Today there is so much purposelessness and this feeling of what am I even doing?

XXVII. Dream

- a. In front of a newborn baby, she's struggling to breathe, color fading
- b. Midwife rubbing back- I say BREATHE IN JESUS NAME
 - i. Instantly starts breathing looks healthy and beautiful
 - ii. I was told her name is Eternity
- c. And the meaning is: eternity is just around the corner. That baby represents members of the bride of Christ who are struggling to live. To have that life and life abundant in Christ. To fully run in that lane the Lord has for them while linking arms with First love and the Fear of God.
 - i. And the Lord brought me to, I believe this is a word of the hour: Ezekiel 37 when he stood before a valley of dry bones and God said
 - ii. "Prophesy to the breath;" and when he did that it says and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.
 - iii. There is a calling on the bride to prophesy to the breath of the bride those who are struggling. Feeling hopeless. Despairing. Because there is an exceedingly great army that the Lord is raising up. Useful to dispel the works of darkness and radiate His glory.
 1. Talk about Business Prayer Group
 - a. We would listen for what the Lord is speaking
 - b. We prayed a lot of specific scriptures from the Lord- words for that hour
 - c. When you receive prayer like that but also when you experience God telling you His words to speak to someone and you see it land it's like drinking 20 red bulls- Red bull doesn't actually give you wings but lifting up your brothers and sisters when they are struggling is power packed with Joy
 - iv. You begin to realize your fellowship with Christ and walking in His ways holds GREAT purpose and it's all working toward this moment that's coming.... *For the glory to be revealed.*
 - v. Your life really is but a breath. And you're about to behold a glory no man on earth can see and live. A glory that transforms you into His likeness. Glory that is a person.
 - vi. Our life goes from what am I doing- kind of this posture of SIGHING to a child waiting for Christmas coming. The glory to be revealed and Jesus what can I do for you with the little bit of time that I have?

XXVIII. So what do we do? How do we live our lives in light of that. SCRIPTURE TELLS US. It actually tells us exactly what to do before the glory of the Lord is to be revealed.

- i. Isaiah 40:3 The voice of one calling out, "Clear the way for the LORD in the wilderness; Make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Let every valley be lifted up, And every mountain and hill be made low; And let the uneven ground become a plain, And the rugged terrain a broad valley; Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed, And all flesh will see *it* together

XXIX. How do I clear the way in the wilderness and make a highway in the desert like practically how does one do that? Have you ever lived through a time in your life where you were walking completely by faith into something new? That's a wilderness.

- a. Have you ever lived through a time where things you once did that bore fruit have dried up? Career ends. Kids grow up and move out. A ministry comes to a close. There's your desert. Have you been on the mountain tops and down in the valleys?

XXX. In all those experiences- so many things happen in life right- great things, weird things, hard things, IN ALL THOSE THINGS clear the way for the Lord. In all those things roll out the red carpet for His presence. Build a highway of intimacy with the Lord. Praise Him in the valley, remain meek on the mountain. This is the calling of the bride to prepare herself for the coming of the Lord. Use your life, your energy, your strength, your skill set to make way for the Lord now and for His coming

- a. NO MORE HIDING no more holding back.
- b. Use everything for Christ.

Small Group Questions

1. Talk about the difference between living under the law vs. living under grace.
2. Talk about the difference between glory as a term vs glory as the person, Jesus Christ. And how that changes how we handle suffering (Romans 8:18)
3. Have you experienced glimpses of God's glory before? What was that like for you?
4. Discuss Isaiah 40:3-5 and how we can clear the path of the Lord in our every day lives.
5. Read Ezekiel 37:1-10 and discuss what prophying and interceding for the bride of Christ looks like today.