

8/22/10

Romans 8:1-17

The apostle Paul the apostle has taken us from the most horrible description of man, who denies God and perverts His truth in chapter one and now he describes man at his highest through life in the Spirit in chapter eight.

Life of the Spirit is the outcome of crying out, “O wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me from this body of death?” by recognizing ones own personal inability to have victory over sin nature through the energies of the flesh.

The picture of chapter seven and eight is as different as night and day, black and white, right and left or wrong and right.

1. Chapter 7 is willful defeat by one’s own choice, chapter 8 is willful victory by God’s Spirit doing.
2. Chapter 7 is frustration in salvation, chapter 8 is assurance of salvation.
3. The outcome of chapter 7 is never a chance but choice, so the outcome of chapter 8, it is never by chance but by choice!

8:1-11 The proclamation of no condemnation.

8:1 The judicial verdict from God is from God’s heavenly courtroom.

- 1) The verdict of acquittal regards the believer who has repentance of their sins and has been justified by the provisions of Jesus Christ on the cross. Rom. 1:16-17
 - a) The word condemnation “katakrima”, means an adverse or damnatory sentence.
 - b) The Greek text begins with the negative, literally, “no condemnation is there” and being at the beginning of the sentence makes it emphatic, a double negative
 - b) The non-believer in contrast will go through the White Throne Judgment after the thousand year reign of Christ on the earth. Rev. 20:11-15
- 2) The difference between condemnation and conviction is that condemnation rubs your nose in sins forgiven, while conviction tells you to turn from sins that you are living in.
- 3) The privilege is to those in Christ Jesus.
- 4) The practice is that they walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.
 - * Some manuscript omit this last portion, but it appears in verse four again.

8:2 The empowerment is in Christ.

- 1) After the promise of the new covenant. Jer. 31:31-34; Ezk. 36:26-27
- 2) The Spirit of life in contrast to the law of sin and death.
- 3) The freedom is manifested in the ability to live above sin nature by the power of the Holy Spirit, but never teaching sinless perfection.
 - * If the Son makes you free, you are free indeed. Jn. 8:36
 - a) We are to stand fast in the liberty whereby Christ has made us free and not be entangled again with the yoke of bondage. Gal. 5:1
 - b) We are called to liberty, but we are not to use our liberty as a cloak for unrighteousness. Gal. 5:13
- 4) The word “Spirit”, appears 21 times in this chapter in contrast to one time in chapter seven.

8:3 The manner by which God accomplished our liberation.

- 1) The law was incapacitated by the flesh.
 - * All were in the first Adam. Rom. 5:12
- 2) The flesh became the channel for God the Son, yet without sin. Jn. 1:1. 14; Phil 2:5-11
 - a) The blood of the fetus never mixes with the blood of the mother,

conceived by the Holy Spirit, God with us. Matt. 1:20-21

- b) The precious blood of Christ was the propitiation for us. Rom. 3:25; 1Jn. 2:2; 4:10
- c) The Lamb of God. Jn. 1:29, 2Cor. 5:21
- 3) The flesh body of Christ condemned sin nature in the flesh. 2Cor. 5:21; Gal. 3:13; Heb. 2:14; 4:15; 7:10, 26; 10:10; 1Pet. 3:18; 2:24

8:4 The intent and purpose was specific.

- 1) To fulfill the requirements of the law for us.
 - a) The righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets. Rom. 3:21
 - b) Jesus said, “Do not think that I came to destroy the **Law** or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to **fulfill**.” Matt. 5:17
 - c) Paul declared, “For Christ is the end of the **law** for righteousness to everyone who believes.” Rom. 10:4
- 2) To enable us to walk in the Spirit, rather than the flesh.
 - * The tense is present, a continuous action of ordering one's behavior after the power of the Spirit.

8:5 The unregenerate is contrasted to the regenerate person.

- 1) The unbeliever lives according to the impulses and desires of the flesh without any restraint and sets his mind on them.
* Children of wrath and disobedience by nature. Eph. 2:1-2
- 2) The believer lives according to the convictions and leading of the Spirit by setting his mind on the things of the Spirit.
* Children of God, as Paul will point out. vs. 14-15

8:6 The outcome of the choice will result in death or life eternal and peace.

- 1) Esau chose the earthly and carnal things and therefore God said that He hated Esau. Rom. 9:13
- 2) Jacob chose the heavenly and spiritual things and therefore God said that He loved Jacob. Rom. 9:13

8:7 The carnal mind is an enemy of God characterized by two things.

- 1) A refusal to subject itself to God.
* The word is a military word to line up under a superior.
- 2) An incapacity to do so.
 - a) The heathen, atheist and religionist are included.

b) Paul was religious, yet he was fighting against God and did some of the most horrible things.

8:8 Those who walk after and in the flesh can not please God.

- 1) The unbeliever.
- 2) The Christian who is carnal. 1Cor. 3:1-4

8:9 The affirmation of being in the Spirit.

- 1) Paul quickly reminds the Romans that they are not in the flesh as a manner of life practice, but rather in the Spirit, the evidence being that they have the Spirit dwelling in them.
- 2) When a person receives the Lord he or she receives the Holy Spirit. Jn. 3:3-5; 2Cor. 1:22; Eph. 1:13
- 3) The Holy Spirit Illuminates the mind and heart about the things of God. 1Cor. 2:9-16
- 4) The Holy Spirit sanctifies the believer through the word. Jn. 17:17
- 5) All three of the Godhead are represented in this verse!

8:10 The principle of life from God makes the principle of the old life inoperative just as the law of aerodynamics supersedes the law of gravity.

1. Paul again affirms their possession of Jesus, “And if Christ is in you.” vs. 10a
 - a. Jesus makes His abode in every believer. Jn. 14:18
 - b. Every believer has all three persons of the God-head. Jn. 14:18, 23; 16:7
2. Paul says the result is two-fold. vs. 10b-c
 - a. The body is dead because of sin.
 - 1) Sin nature and sin are responsible for physical and eternal death.
 - 2) The body of the believer will still die physically, but not eternally.
 - b. The Spirit is life because of righteousness. vs. 10c
 - 1) The new birth has imparted the newness of life in the Spirit.
 - 2) The Spirit imparts righteousness to live to please God.
 - 3) If Christ is in you the body is no longer a channel for sin nature or acts of sin as a life style, but rather a channel of the Spirit for righteousness.

8:11 The power that raised Christ is the same power that is not only available to live victoriously, but it will raise us up in the resurrection.

- 1) The moment that a believer dies physically he or she is instantly present before the Lord. 2Cor. 5:1-8

- 2) The moment a unbeliever dies physically they are instantly present in hell. Lk. 16
- 3) The place of torment is only temporary, which will be cast into the lake of fire. Matt. 25:41; Rev. 20:14

8:12-17 The proclamation of adoption.

8:12 The conclusion of the matter at hand.

- 1) The believer is not a debtor to the flesh, he has died to the flesh in Christ. it hold no obligation over him or her.
- 2) The unbeliever is obligated to live after the flesh.

8:13 The consequences of one’s choices is a real possibility. Rom. 6:6, 11; 1Cor. 9:24-27; Gal. 5:24

- 1) The deed or act to gratify oneself.
- 2) The death is eternal death not mere physical death.

8:14 The evidence of son-ship is the fact that you are led by the Spirit of God!

- 1) The word sons “huios”, is opposed to slaves having resemblance and like conduct.
- 2) The word directs us from the outside and the Holy Spirit from the inside.

8:15 The mature of the Holy Spirit.

- 1) It is the Spirit of adoption, family not fear.
 - * The word “huiiothesias’ means a son and the word placing, the pacing of a son to whom it does not naturally belong and he would be honored as the legitimate son.
- 2) It enables us to cry Abba, the Aramaic indicating affection and endearment. Mk. 14:36, Gal. 4:6
 - * Jesus was heard by the Father, as He cried Abba Father. Heb. 5:7

8:16 This is the objective witness, not the subjective witness of ourselves. 1Jn. 4:13

- a) To our adoption.
- b) To our sonship.
- c) Our spirit, the new man that has been regenerated and revived!

8:17 We are children of God “teknon”, born ones of the Holy Spirit.

- 1) Then heirs of God.
- 2) Joint heirs with Christ.
 - a) All things were created for Him. Col. 1:16-17
 - b) Therefore all thing belong to the believer, as one of many sons and daughters of God.
 - c) The kingdom is not divided up, but rather owned by all the saints.

- 3) Christ became poor for us that we might become rich, yet He is the supreme heir. 2Cor. 8:9, Heb. 1:2
- 4) The sufferings are part of life in a godless world. 2Cor. 4:16-18; Phil. 1:29; 1Pet. 41-2; 12-19