

Romans 8:12-17
For the week of March 12, 2023

Reflection

1. What were some of the takeaways, for you, from Sunday's sermon?

2. Were there questions, comments, concerns...?

Having made it clear that Christ gives life to believers, Paul goes on to bring out some of the implications of all this. It is important that those who are Christ's live as those who are Christ's. Paul reminds us of the obligations that rest upon us and of the place of mortification in the Christian life. And that brings us to the Holy Spirit, for it is what the Spirit does in us that enables us to render the service to which we are called.¹

Observation (vs. 12-13)

3. What is Paul saying in these verses?

Interpretation

4. The word debtors can also mean "obligated". What obligation does Paul imply we do have (v. 12)? Why do we have this obligation?

¹ Leon Morris, [*The Epistle to the Romans*](#), The Pillar New Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI; Leicester, England: W.B. Eerdmans; Inter-Varsity Press, 1988), 311.

Application

5. In which area of your life do you need to put the deeds of the body to death and set your mind on the desires of the Spirit?

6. What is the role of the Holy Spirit in your life in helping you accomplish this?

Observation (vs. 14-17)

7. Summarize these verses in your own words.

Interpretation

8. As believers, what is our obligation, not as slaves repaying a debt, but as sons who have a genuine stake in our Abba's estate?

9. The Holy Spirit clearly says that you are a precious child of the Father. What difference does it make to us that we know God as a Father, not simply as a Master?

10. What sort of attitudes and actions will follow if we are calling God "Abba, Father" sincerely?

All who are God's children are also heirs of His promises, but a willingness to follow Christ in suffering is another sign of being God's children. Through adoption, believers have become coheirs with God's one and only Son. And through our identification with Him, we stand to inherit everything that is due Him.

11. Read Revelation 5:12 and define what each of these items mean to us:

Power:

Wealth:

Wisdom:

Might:

Honor:

Glory:

Blessing:

Application:

12. Author and pastor Chuck Swindoll made this comment about these verses in Romans. He said, "So, what must we do? What is our obligation? The answer is uncomplicated. Nothing. If you have the Spirit within you, you are as spiritual as you're ever going to be. Quit trying so hard to be spiritual. Stop all of that. Instead, let the Spirit be spiritual. When that makes sense to you, you can be sure you're setting your mind on things of the Spirit...and you're starting to understand grace." Write your thoughts about Chuck's comment and discuss this in your group.