

Roamin' Thru Romans-Part 27

A detailed study/analysis of the Book—Sunday Morning Series

Scripture Reading: **Romans 8:5—8 (all read)**

Introduction:

Now let me tell you about **Romans 8**:

Many Bible scholars consider this chapter to be the greatest chapter of the book of Romans.

[**Correction**]: “It is what one old dead guy, Griffith Thomas who was responsible along with a couple other guys for Dallas Theological Seminary, said, “*Romans chapter 8 is the chapter of all chapters for the believer!*”

This chapter refers to the *Holy Spirit* more than any other chapter in Romans.

Of the 26 mentions of the Holy Spirit in the letter of **Romans**, 18 (some count 19) of them are in this chapter.

Romans 8 opens with “**no condemnation**” and ends with “**no separation!**” (**Bookends**).

Romans 8, the longest chapter of the book, and addresses several different subjects related to salvation.

Romans 8 may be divided into 13 major parts as follows:

- A. Condemnation (Romans 8:1-4)
- B. **Carnality** (Romans 8:5-8) (**Tonight**)
- C. Confirmation (Romans 8:9-11)
- D. Commitment (Romans 8:12, 13)
- E. Counsel (Romans 8:14)
- F. Children (Romans 8:15-17)
- G. Conflict (Romans 8:17, 18)
- H. Curse (Romans 8:19-23)
- I. Confidence (Romans 8:24, 25)
- J. Communion (Romans 8:26, 27)
- K. Control (Romans 8:28)
- L. Consummation (Romans 8:29, 30)
- M. Care (Romans 8:31-39)

Subject: “**Carnality**”

Paul gives a picture here of the character of the earthly, *unsaved* man.

Unfortunately, a *saved* person can act accordingly if he does not yield himself wholly to the Lord.

I. **The Concerns of Carnality (Romans 8:5)**

“They that are after the flesh, do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit” (Romans 8:5).

The concerns or *interests* of the *carnal* man are contrasted to the interests of the *spiritual* man.

- ***The interests of carnality.***

"Mind the things of the flesh."

The *carnal* man is chiefly interested in fleshly matters.

That is, they are mostly interested in such things as business, making money, entertainment, and earthly pleasures.

- ***The interests of spirituality.***

"They that are after the Spirit, the things of the Spirit."

The *spiritual* man is interested in things that have to do with God.

Therefore, his chief interests are in sacred matters such as the Word of God, prayer, and worship.

This *contrast of interest* reveals that much of the church crowd is *carnal*.

They prefer a ball game on Sunday to worship.

They are more interested in the newspaper's sports page than the Scriptures.

II. **The Consequences of Carnality (Romans 8:6)**

"To be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace" (Romans 8:6).

The consequences of being *carnally* minded (chiefly interested in the things of the flesh) are contrasted to the consequences of being *spiritually* minded.

- ***The consequences for carnality.***

"To be carnally minded is death."

Death is not limited to physical death but also can include separation from God in eternity for the *unsaved*.

For the *saved* who are *carnal*, it will include death to their spiritual service, to their spiritual growth, to their spiritual testimony.

- ***The consequences of spirituality.***

"To be spiritually minded is life and peace." To be *spiritually* minded says your primary interests are in *spiritual* matters.

This brings a consequence that is a sharp contrast to being *carnally* minded - life instead of death and peace instead of disturbances.

The world certainly does not think this is the fruit of being spiritually minded.

Rather, they think to be *spiritually* minded is to make life a bore and a killjoy.

III. **The Conflict of Carnality (Romans 8:7)**

"The carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be" ([Romans 8:7](#)).

The *carnally-minded* are not godly people.

They are not going the same direction as God. They are not devoted to God.

- ***The opposition to God.***

"Enmity against God." Carnality opposes God.

It disagrees with God. Therefore, what God says is good, *carnality* will say is bad.

- ***The objection about God.***

"It is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be" ([Romans 8:7](#)).

The *carnally* minded are not a good bunch.

First, the **iniquity** in the objection. *"It is not subject to the law of God."*

Carnality does not obey God's commands.

It rejects Divine rules.

God has told man how to live, but *carnality* rejects that.

[**Illus**] As an example, God has spelled out plainly His divorce laws; but *carnal* men categorically reject them in favor of their fleshly laws which only lower the moral character of society.

Second, the **inability** in the objection. *"Neither indeed can be."*

The flesh does not have the ability to do the will of God.

Not only does it lack desire, but it lacks the power to obey God.

An unsaved man cannot save himself, and a *carnal* believer loses his ability to live for God.

IV. **The Curse of Carnality ([Romans 8:8](#))**

"So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God" ([Romans 8:8](#)).

This reminds of the text in Hebrews which says, *"Without faith it is impossible to please him [God]" ([Hebrews 11:6](#)).*

Pleasing God ought to be at the top of our priority list, but most folk are not concerned about pleasing God.

Rather they are more interested about pleasing men or even themselves.

However, the wise man realizes that pleasing God is more important than pleasing anyone else.

Carnal believers do not please God, and the world of the *flesh* does not please God.

They are in the *flesh* and do not live by faith.

Closing: So, we will stop here for today!

Do you know this Jesus that the Book of Romans so clearly teaches us about?

Are you yielding daily to the Holy Spirit and walking “*spiritual*?”

If not, will you accept Him today?

*Beach, B. MBE, 5/5/24 p.m. WHBC, Dalton

*This outline borrowed from: *Analytical Bible Expositor – Romans*. Other portions of this sermon were taken from various sources and commentaries.