

Romans 8

If Holy Scripture were a ring and the epistle to the Romans its precious stone, chapter eight would be the sparkling point of the jewel.

We enter this chapter with no condemnation, we close with no separation and in between all things work together for good to those that love God.

Paul cries out in the last chapter "Who will deliver me?", this wretched man that I am from this body of death, my servitude to this sin nature, - JESUS

People have thought the answer was to separate themselves from the things of the world to live as monks.- example of theologian Jerome who dwelt in solitude but journals record thoughts, imaginations, sin

v.1 no condemnation- not one- to those who walk according to the Spirit. This does not mean that some Christians walk in the flesh and others in the Spirit, even though we sometimes manifest that, but that the reality is that we walk according to the Spirit so there is no longer any condemnation for us. Our flesh is no longer condemned, we are no longer in bondage to sin.

v.2 both laws cannot co-exist- we are subject to life now not death

- realize that the battle is sign of impending victory, if we weren't saved we wouldn't be in a battle- look at drugs, alcohol, sex and how people don't want to be free from then

v.3-4 the law could not make us righteous but Jesus could and did

- likeness of sinful flesh- not likeness of flesh since He was fully human but without sin

- on account of sin- to account for, because of sin

- sin condemned our flesh and we came into bondage- His death condemned sin, it is now dead and has no power

- further, righteousness is fulfilled in us- we can now walk in righteousness

v.5 where is our mind set

- 1 Corinthians 2:16 For "who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

- because of our sanctification, we are no longer carnally minded

v.6 being carnally minded causes us to separate from God, not to read the Word, not to pray, not to be in fellowship

v.7 Jesus is now alive in us so how can we have a carnal mind

v.8 our aim now is pleasing God, that is the only One we need worry about pleasing

v.9 statement of fact, we are no longer in the flesh but in the Spirit

v.11 will give life to your mortal bodies (the body that will one day die) - this is not the same as the mortal putting on immortality or the corruptible putting on incorruption but that righteous life will manifest itself in our bodies now- this is sanctification

v.12 another fact- we do not serve the flesh any longer

- (Gal 5:16-24 NKJV) I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. {17} For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. {18} But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. {19} Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, {20} idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, {21} envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. {22} But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, {23} gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. {24} And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

v.13 put to death the deeds (pattern of sin) of the flesh- back to chapter 6:13-14

- God's part is that the justification and sanctification are accomplished- ours is to decide to walk in it.

v.15 we are not to live in constant bondage- what some 12 step or recovery programs teach but we are free- we have received adoption

- adoption to Romans- when one was adopted he not only received rights as adoptee but also burdens, debts, etc., in effect become another self of the person adopting him, completely identified with each other

- cry out- with deep emotion

- abba- daddy

v.16-17 complete identification with Him

v.18 we look forward to the day when the physical reality will come in line with the spiritual reality

v.19 manifested sons of god- a false teaching that there will come a day when a super anointed group will take control and usher in the coming of Jesus Christ

v.23 eagerly waiting- watching with the head outstretched in expectation and suspense

- our spirit is redeemed , our body isn't

v.26 until that time, we endure knowing that the Spirit is at work in us to conform us into His image

- Spirit Who dwells in us makes intercession for us with things that we can't utter, not because they are impossible to utter but because we don't know

- (Luke 22:31-32 NKJV) And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. {32} "But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren."

v.27 praying in the Spirit- God Himself praying through us to accomplish His will

v.28 if we believe this all else falls into place

v.29-30 the predestination does not refer to who so much as it refers to the predestined plan

v.30 this is the accomplished plan

v.31-32 if He has already done this for us, how much more will He work in us now that we have responded

v.34 what or who can possibly condemn ? the fact of our redemption, justification, and sanctification has been accomplished.

v.37 more than conquerors- we have more now than if there had been no fall

What then is our response to this ? I want to draw as close to Him as possible, I want to let go of everything that doesn't draw me to Him.