

**The Book of Romans**  
**8:1-17**  
**1/23/2018 Wednesday PM**

**New Life Through the Spirit's Liberating Work (vv.1-4)**

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, <sup>2</sup>because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. <sup>3</sup>For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, <sup>4</sup>in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.

- **V.1** – We feel condemned because Satan uses past guilt and present failures to make us question what Christ has done for us. Our assurance must be focused on Christ, not our performance.
- **1 John 3:19-20** says, “This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence whenever our hearts condemn us. For God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.”
- We have been rescued by Christ as we seen in **7:24-25** and are now “in Christ Jesus.”
- Being “in Christ Jesus” means that we have put our faith in him and thus have been “justified through faith.”
- **John 5:24** says, “I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.”
- **V. 2** – The “Spirit of life” here is speaking of the Holy Spirit, who we know was present at creation. (**Genesis 1:2**)
- He is the power behind the rebirth of every Christian, and the one who helps us live the Christian life.
- The Holy Spirit sets us free, once and for all, from sin and its natural consequence, death.
- Paul uses the word law (*nomos*) in several different ways in this letter: “God’s law” (**7:22**); “law of sin” (**7:25**); “law of my mind” (**7:23**); and now in this verse “law of the Spirit.”
- It is through the power of the Holy Spirit and through the work of Christ, that we have been set free from sin.
- **V. 3-4** – The ESV translates **v.3** like this, “For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh,”
- The NIV can be a little bit confusing in how it uses “sinful nature” and “sinful man” in this verse.
- Both of these are simply speaking of the “flesh.”
- The point of these two verses is that the law itself was powerless to free us from sin because a perfect sinless sacrifice was required to fulfill the “wages of sin.”
- God sent Jesus “in the likeness of sinful man” to be that perfect sacrifice that was needed and because Christ was fully human, sin was condemned “in the flesh.”
- Because of that act, the righteous requirements of the law were fully met and we now live according to the Spirit.

**Sinful vs Spiritual Mind-Set (vv.5-8)**

<sup>5</sup>Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. <sup>6</sup>The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; <sup>7</sup>the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. <sup>8</sup>Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.

- **Vv. 5-8** – When a person is determined to do something or to hold a certain belief or idea, we say that person has a certain mind-set.
- A mind-set: determines how a person acts, motivates a person, influences whom or what a person chooses as sources of knowledge or authority, affects a person’s view of every experience, shapes a person’s value system, dominates a person’s private and public life.
- He describes two mind-sets in these verses: sinful and spiritual.
- **The sinful mind-set** – Consciously and unconsciously life will be oriented toward: death, hostility toward God, rebellion, resistance to any form of submission, actions and attitudes that will not please God.
- **The spiritual mind-set** – Consciously and unconsciously life will be oriented toward: Life and peace, friendship with God, obedience to the Spirit’s influence, guidance by the Holy Spirit, love for God and neighbor, knowing and following the words of Jesus.

### **Assurance of Future, Resurrection Life (vv.9-11)**

<sup>9</sup>You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup>And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.

- **V.9** – The Holy Spirit comes to live within us when we accept Christ and are saved.
- **Ephesians 1:13-14** says, “<sup>13</sup>And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup>who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession--to the praise of his glory.”
- Once we are saved and the Holy Spirit lives in us, we then surrender control of our lives to him.
- Paul is clear in this verse that “if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.”
- You cannot be “saved” without having the Holy Spirit living within you. It is not something that comes later.
- **V. 10** – Our fleshly bodies may still be infected by sin, however our “spirit is alive because of righteousness.”
- **V. 11** – This verse gives us great hope!! Because we have the same Spirit living within us that is from God the Father that raised Christ from the dead, so we too will be “raised from the dead.”
- God, through the Spirit will give life to our mortal bodies and we will live with him for all eternity!!

### **Our Obligation and the Spirit of Adoption (vv.12-17)**

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation--but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. <sup>13</sup>For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, <sup>14</sup>because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. <sup>15</sup>For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." <sup>16</sup>The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. <sup>17</sup>Now if we are children, then we are heirs--heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

- **V. 12** – Because of everything that God has done for us, we have an “obligation” to Him.
- **Vv.13** – It is not an obligation to live according to our old sinful nature because if we do that, we will die.
- However, if we “put to death the misdeeds of the body,” we will live.
- Our obligation is to live godly lives according to the standards set forth in the Scriptures.
- Only those that are “led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.”
- **Vv. 14-17** – The Jews already considered themselves to be “sons of God” because of their heritage; but Paul explains that *sons of God* has new meaning.
- True sons of God are those who are *led by* the Spirit of God as evidenced in their life-style.
- Paul here uses adoption or “sonship” to illustrate the believer’s new relationship with God and his or her privileges as part of God’s family.
- In Roman culture, the adopted person lost all rights in his old family and gained all the rights of a legitimate child in his new family.
- He became a full heir to his new family. Likewise, when a person becomes a Christian, he or she gains all privileges and responsibilities of a child in God’s family.
- This is the most awesome part of what God has done for us! We are called “co-heirs with Christ!”
- How can that be possible? It is amazing and show us just how awesome the God that we serve is!
- He is done so much for us, we are obligated to surrender our lives to him in every way.

**Next Week's Study**  
**Romans 8:18-30**