

Apostle Paul Series Part 5

“Who Is This Man?”

Romans 8: 1-11

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Saul of Tarsus, who became Paul the Apostle, will forever stand as one of the most commanding figures in all history—both spiritually and secularly. Even today, this giant of the faith lives on—through those he influenced in life, and through his own epistles of the New Testament.

Once a dedicated Pharisee determined to wipe out the followers of “the way,” he met the Lord Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus and his zeal turned just as ardently to the preaching of Christ—the Son of God, the Messiah who came, was crucified, buried, and rose up supernaturally by the Spirit *according to the Scriptures*. From that day forward, *he never wavered in his proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and strongly warned those who did.*

Immediately after God supernaturally healed his eyes, Saul—Paul, seeing the scales fall from his eyes, showed how God gave him authority to receive many revelations concerning the Scriptures.

Apostle Paul opens Romans 8 with, “There is *therefore now* no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”

The word, “therefore” means simply, “*What’s it there for.*” It looks back to Romans 7—*justifying* Apostle Paul. Apostle Paul is making a unique statement that will disallow *all* the discrepancies *seemingly* found in chapter 7. Paul desires for us to *cast out the flesh*; and walk in His Spirit.

***Apostle Paul never once wavered from his walk with Christ.
It would not have been possible for him to walk in the flesh,
unable to conquer sin, and at the time pen His Epistles.***

In contrast with the Romans seven vivid description of sinfulness, Paul shows the freedom of living in the Spirit—and not in the flesh. Paul also emphasized that there is now no condemnation to them who will walk in the Spirit, and *not in the flesh*. (*not all versions include “and not in the flesh”*). The Versions that omitted “*and not in the flesh*” may have compromised their own doctrine.

So, in that, we know Paul does not teach that we should ever walk in the flesh; but should always walk in the Holy Spirit. Otherwise, we place ourselves into *condemnation*, leading to our judgment.

We know the walk in the flesh is death, or under the Law; but to walk in the Spirit is life and peace. “No condemnation” means to the Christians who walk in the Spirit are *now freed from the Law of sin and death—if they continue to walk in His Spirit*. In other words, the impossibilities Paul spoke of in Romans 7 are greatly magnified as we walk under the Law; but literally cast aside *as we walk in the Spirit*. It is justifiable that Paul explained more to us about his pre-saved life, in Romans 7.

Romans 8:2: “For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.”

Paul tells us that life without the Spirit is defeat, misery, and bondage to sin. But the “Law of the Spirit of Life” is the regulating and activating of the power given the believer to battle Satan and his cohorts.

Paul berates the power of the Law in the face of the power of the Holy Spirit. We find a new power operating within, a power that allows us to overcome sin. We also know that, if we do sin, we still have an advocate with the Father as we repent. (1 John 2:1-2)

*My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the **propitiation** for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.*

“Propitiation” means Jesus took on Himself the punishment for our sins and satisfied God’s righteous judgment against sin. Forgiveness is now offered to all throughout the world and is received by those who turn to Christ in repentance and faith. (4:9, 14; and Jn. 1:29; 3:16; 5:24).

The effect is that we have been given the power/strength to overcome all temptations to sin. However, some believe that Apostle Paul was really living in the impossibility of casting down sin. Those who fail to recognize the problem with misinterpretation of Scripture, do not attempt to resist the enemy when he tries to bring us into condemnation. Christ Jesus wants us to always overcome sin. (Rom. 12:21; 2 Peter 2:19; 1 Jn 2:13, 14; 1 Jn.4:4)

Romans 8:3: “For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:”

Though the Law could pronounce judgment on sin, the Law could not do anything about sin itself. It had no power to destroy sin in the world. Sin is always ambitious in the destruction of man, but the Law only tells us what sin is. It cannot overcome sin in our lives. We all must ever depend on the power of the Lord to deliver us from sin’s temptations.

God accomplished what the Law could not do by sending Jesus, His Son to earth so the Spirit could make over-comers of all God’s people. Jesus came in the likeness of sinful flesh when He took on our nature for a short time and allowed man’s sin to rest on His back. Though Christ was tempted, even as we are, He never was tempted beyond His desire to please His Father. He never sinned—no not once. He prayed to the Father for us to be like Him.

Romans 8:4: “That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”

The Holy Spirit working in believers allows the fulfillment of God’s moral law. This is the operation of grace and obedience to the Law of God and is not in conflict (2:13; 3:31; 6:15). Both point to righteousness and holiness. At the coming of Christ the Law was fulfilled; and the believer therefore gains the righteousness of the Law—love. (see 13:8-10). It’s not by the Law, but by being “in Christ” and walking fully in the Spirit of Christ that we are saved.

Romans 8:5: “For 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.”

Paul is describing two types of people: A) those who live according to the flesh on a regular basis, thinking little concerning Biblical training; and B) those who live according to the Spirit on a regular, fully-commitment basis. Living after the flesh is the natural man living by the desires of the flesh. Such a lifestyle includes fornication, adultery, hatred, anger, selfishness, ambitions not related to Christ's example. (Galatians 5:19-21). But also included such things as obscenity, porn addiction, drug addictions, erotica displays, even immodest television programs.

Living after the Spirit of God is to seek and submit to the Holy Spirit's direction and enablement, and to concentrate one's attention on the things of God. It is to live consciously in the presence of the Lord Jesus, trusting Him for all our daily needs.

Believe me when I say an attempt to live in both the flesh, and the Spirit, is not possible. See what the Bible says:

1. They that are in the flesh do mind the things of the flesh.
2. They that are in the Spirit do mind the things of the Spirit.

Every man, woman and child who are radically saved will seek only those things in line with Jesus Christ and His goals for us. If you find you are not able to follow diligently after the Spirit of the Lord on a daily basis, it's time to get serious with the Saviour.

Your life may not mean much to you, but you are an extremely important to the Lord Jesus. He wants all men to come to Himself in a unity not before understood; but He will help us.

It is extremely important that we all understand the reason Apostle Paul penned more books, more doctrine than any other Apostle. He accomplished more, suffered more.

It is not possible that, after his own salvation, Apostle Paul walked in the flesh.

If Paul was living in the flesh when he penned his epistles then every book he wrote is all lies, and he is yet in his sin.

Romans 8:6: For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

"Peace" is the resolution of the intense warfare described in Chapter 7, as well as the inward harmony and peace which results from our desire to please Christ and complete His will.

Romans 8:7: Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

Seems the reason that being carnally minded results in death is that carnality is always related to death; but Jesus wants all who belong to Him to reserve for Him a clean and righteous mind. The carnal person is enmity before the Lord. This mind is hostile to God even to extremes of hatred in today's world. This mind will likely never submit to God. He will be like those who dwell on earth during the seven years of horror in the tribulation period.

Romans 8:8: “So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.”

See verse 7, above. In this group, we find the most evil.

What Does Revelation say about "those who dwell upon the earth during the Tribulation?"

“And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues repented not of the works of their hands, that they should worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk. Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornications, nor of their thefts.” Rev. 9:20-21

Note: These folks are not the Tribulation saints. They are all who, even after going through torment and terror; even after going through all the judgments from heaven, remain hardened to the end. Their eternity is sure.

Romans 8:9-10: “But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

Every believer from the moment he accepts Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior has the Spirit of God indwelling believers from the day Jesus blew the breath of the Spirit into the disciples after resurrection. (see 1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19-20; and Ephesians 1:13-14). However, we must continue to walk in His Spirit, being faithful to observe His will for our lives. We also have the right to be annulled from Christ; for He will not force us to continue in Him. Though it is unreasonable and not to our own benefit to separate ourselves from the body of Christ, we yet do have that provision according to the Word of God.

“Our bodies remain dead because of sin.” That’s because sin has invaded the physical aspect of our being while Satan continues to destroy us by his acts of evil. The solution is that our bodies must die or be transformed by the precious blood of the Savior, Jesus Christ.

Romans 7:11: “But if the Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by His Spirit that dwelleth in you.”

This is such an awesome scripture! Imagine. That same Spirit that dwells forever in our Christ Jesus also dwells in all who are saved by His precious Blood. And we realize Christ was raised from the dead, for our salvation, yet! But it does more than that. His Spirit indeed does dwell in us now, right now—if we are saved; *and He shall also quicken our mortal bodies by His Spirit that dwells in us.*

This verse also says that because He was raised up from the dead, He will also *quicken our mortal bodies by that same Spirit that dwells in us!* Quicken means we become alive! Even if we are being resurrected after death, we will also be resurrected into eternal life just as Jesus was!

Is that awesome, or not!

Back years ago, while in Southwestern College, now a University, I read this verse for the first time! Not that I hadn't maybe stumbled over it a few times before. It's just that one day I remember having the truth of that particular wonderful verse attack my brain!

I literally flipped out! I and another student were in the dorm prayer room praying and memorizing scripture verses for a class and when we began repeating this verse, it finally struck me like lightning strikes a tree or metal pole. Believe me when I say I love it.

But, note this. Nothing will destroy the meaning God intended to use in His Word faster than someone who wrongly interpreting His Words.

Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.
(Romans 8:12)

The most awesome felling in my heart is knowing He dwells in me and I in Him!

Blessings from Tom and Linda
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