

ROMANS 8:1-13

INTRODUCTION

- **Romans 1:16-17** - For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ – power of salvation!
 - The just shall live by faith – the theme for the next 8 chapters...
 - Those who are justified – forgiven – cleansed from sin – live by faith
- **Romans 1:18-3:20** – All of us are sinners – all of us will be judged for our sin...
- **Romans 3:21-5:21** - All of us can be saved - righteousness by grace through faith in Jesus!
- **Romans 6:1-8:39** – Now that we are saved - how to live for Jesus...
 - The problem of sin – we cannot just go on sinning as we did before Jesus...
 - We died to sin – were given new life in Jesus – to live our lives for the Lord...
 - Also whomever we give ourselves to sin/Jesus – we become the slaves to...
 - How to keep from sinning – how to live for Jesus...
 - The Law – the list of rules on how to live our life in Jesus – does not keep us from sin
 - 1st – The Law only stirs up sin in us – ‘do not touch’ – then sin brings death...
 - 2nd – The Law is a mirror – it shows us our sin – but has no power to keep us from sin
 - 3rd – The Law is perfect, but we are not – the shortcoming of the Law is us
 - The Law – the list – can tell us what to do – but it cannot make us want to do it!
 - We are the problem – we sin because we want to...
 - The root of the problem - the Flesh vs. the Spirit...
 - The flesh doesn’t think about consequences for actions – only momentary pleasure
 - The spirit - desiring to please and serve the Lord in both actions and thought...
 - These two war against each other for control over our mind and actions
 - The result of the problem – WAR...
 - As believers we ‘Know’ what we should do – but we ‘want’ to do what we should not
 - The problem is my desires – there is nothing good within me – within my flesh
 - My Spirit desires to please God – but my flesh desires to please itself... WAR
 - The hope for the problem – miserable man that I am...
 - Most people do not even know there is a war – those who do come unprepared...
 - We cannot defeat our flesh on our own – we cannot change our desires...
 - When we understand we are not the solution – we are ready to hear the answer...
 - The Life in the Spirit - Outline of Romans 8...
 - **Romans 8:1-13** – The power to overcome sin - by walking in the Spirit...
 - **Romans 8:14-28** – The benefits that comes - by the walking in the Spirit...
 - **Romans 8:29-39** – The confidence that comes - by the walking in the Spirit...

THE POWER TO OVERCOME SIN... vs. 1-13

- 1st - NO CONDEMNATION BECAUSE OF THE GIFT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS... vs. 1-4
 - There is no judgment for those in Christ Jesus... vs. 1
 - We are at war – between our flesh and our spirit – and we have lost many battles...
 - There has been many a time when we have given in to our flesh – and sinned...
 - None of us can say – since believing in Jesus – we have never chosen to sin...

- o We know when we accepted Jesus – we were forgiven of all our sin
 - But before Jesus we sinned in ignorance – we did not know any better...
 - What about the mistakes we have made since then – our sin after our salvation
 - When we knew we shouldn't sin – knew what we did was wrong – but chose it anyways
 - When our flesh won the war over our choices – are we condemned / judged by God
- o As we 'walk according to the Spirit' - God does not condemn us – not judged for our sins
- Because the Law of the Spirit has set us free from the Law of sin and death... vs. 2-4
 - o If we were still under the Law of God – the list of rules – we would be condemned
 - o But we have been set free from that Law – because it could not save us...
 - It was impossible for the Law to keep us from sin – because of our flesh
 - Like the mirror that reflect who we are – or measuring tape that shows how tall...
 - The Law can show us we are unrighteous - but not make us do what is right...
 - o Set free by the Law of the Spirit – Jesus...
 - Jesus came as a man – 'in the flesh' as it were – yet lived a perfect sinless life
 - Jesus did what no one else could– He fulfilled the righteous requirement of God's Law
 - Then Jesus – the only perfect man – paid the price for our sin – Death – **Romans 6:23**
 - In that moment Jesus condemned sin – defeated the flesh once and for all!
 - Then came one of the great mysteries of the ages – God gave us Jesus' righteousness!
 - **II Corinthians 5:21** – “For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.”
 - We failed in the test of life – but Jesus took our grade and gave us His perfect score!
 - In Jesus – we have lived a perfect life – we have fulfilled the requirement of the Law
 - Now when God looks down on us – He does not see our sinful mistakes/flaws
 - He instead sees the perfect life of His Son Jesus – He sees us as perfect/flawless!
- **2ND - WALKING BY THE SPIRIT... vs. 5-13**
 - o Dominated by sin – or controlled by the Spirit... **vs. 5**
 - There are 2 paths we can choose to take in life – walk by the flesh or by the Spirit
 - Think of two roads going in opposite directions - with two very different destinations
 - You have to choose one or the other - which road do we choose to 'walk' down...
 - As we do not walk according the Flesh – but 'walk according to the Spirit'...
 - We receive the great promises of **vs. 1-4** - no condemnation & righteousness...
 - o The 1st road - those who are dominated by sin... **vs. 6-9**
 - How do you know if you are walking in 'the flesh'– what is on your mind...
 - If we are 'in our flesh' – we will be dominated by the 'desires of our flesh'
 - Momentary pleasures / anger / pride / lust / hate / bitterness / jealousy...
 - All the while ignoring the things of God - the Word / prayer / fellowship
 - The result of walking in 'the flesh' – DEATH... (3 reasons)
 - 1st - Because the mind dominated by the flesh – literally hates God
 - 2nd - It is not subject (*military term*) to God's Law – it is fact in rebellion against God
 - 3rd - Those who are in 'the flesh' cannot please God – they are under condemnation...
 - The end of the road is physical death - as well as the 2nd death - spiritual death...
 - But you are not in 'the Flesh' – but in the 'Spirit'....
 - If (1st class) the Spirit of God dwells in us – assuming we do have the Holy Spirit

- When we believed in Jesus we received the Holy Spirit within us - **I Corinthians 3:16**
- o The 2nd road - those who are controlled by the Spirit... vs. 10-11
 - How do you know if you are walking in 'the Spirit' - what is on your mind...
 - If we are 'in the Spirit' - we will be full of the 'things of the Spirit'
 - Eternal perspective - heaven / loving God & others / pleasing the Lord...
 - Desiring to be in the Word of God / spend time talking to God - prayer...
 - Not caught up in the pleasures of this world - trying to please men rather than God
 - The results of walking in 'the Spirit' - LIFE & PEACE (2 reasons)...
 - 1st - Your body is truly dead - because of sin - the physical body will certainly still die
 - But the end of the road - because of Jesus' righteousness - you will go to heaven!
 - 2nd - Since (1st class) you have the same Holy Spirit in you who raised up Jesus...
 - He will also give life (*future*) to your physical bodies - referring to the resurrection...
 - **I Corinthians 15:50** - "Flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God. These perishable bodies of ours are not able to live forever."
 - The our physical - sinful - corrupt bodies cannot inherit eternal life...
 - They were not designed to live forever - they were not meant to go to heaven...
 - Like the caterpillar who cannot fly - but one day will become a butterfly...
 - **II Corinthians 5:1** - "For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."
 - I like the idea of a tent - tents are never permanent - our bodies are only temporary
 - One day the Holy Spirit will give us new bodies - meant and designed for eternity!
- o So we have the choice... **vs. 12-14**
 - Death for those who live by 'the Flesh'...
 - We are not in debt to 'the flesh' to live for the desires of 'the flesh'...
 - For those who live for the flesh - must die - are in danger of eternal death
 - Or the death of 'the Flesh' by the power of the Spirit...
 - We put to death the 'works' of the Flesh when we live by the Spirit!
 - **Galatians 5:16** - "Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh."
 - The power to NOT SIN - NOT walk in the flesh - the power of the Spirit!
- o Bringing in the big guns (*M60 time!*)...
 - We already saw in **Romans 7** - the challenge is our desires - our wants...
 - We constantly face defeat because we bring 'sticks to a gun battle'
 - So how do we overcome our desires - how do we change what we 'want'...
 - By the Power of the Holy Spirit - who can change our desires and our wants!
 - Being full of the Holy Spirit...
 - The Holy Spirit convicts us of our sin before we believe in Jesus - **John 16:7-8**
 - The Holy Spirit come to live within us when after we receive Jesus - **John 20:22**
 - The Holy Spirit is also the gives us the power to overcome the flesh/sin...
 - The night Jesus was betrayed - He told Peter he would deny Him 3 times...
 - Peter adamantly denied it stating he would go to prison - even die for Jesus...
 - But he was trusting in his own ability - his flesh - so he failed...
 - Yet 50 days later - the day the Holy Spirit was poured out - he preached - 3000 saved!
 - How do you get the Power of the Spirit - just ask...

- **Matthew 7:7** - "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you."
- Jesus commands us to keep ASKING, SEEKING, KNOCKING (*Present/A/Imperative*)
- Not just once – but over and over and over again for - asking for the Holy Spirit
- **Luke 11:13** - "Your heavenly Father [will] give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him."
- You need gas to run a car - but you need to keep filling that car up with gas...
- We need also need to be daily filling up on the Holy Spirit to overcome our flesh!
- The result of being filled with the Spirit...
 - **II Corinthians 4:7** – "But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us."
 - If we are full of ourselves - our flesh - then we will have a defeated life in Jesus
 - But when we are emptied - not depending on ourselves - full of Jesus - Holy Spirit
 - Then we will find God changes our hearts - our desires - we will find victory over sin
 - Not that we can no longer do the things we used to 'want' to...
 - We will no longer have the desire - instead we will 'want' to live for Jesus!