

**"The Doctrine of Sanctification"**

**Romans 5:12-8:13**

**Part 22**

**Introduction:** Last week in our study of Romans we looked at an introduction to chapter 8. The focus of this chapter is the Holy Spirit and His work in the life of the believer. The Holy Spirit is referenced 19 times in this chapter. This chapter must be studied with the knowledge of Romans 6 and 7. In Romans 6 we were told of how our sin nature/flesh was crucified with Jesus Christ and so our flesh has been stripped of his controlling power. Then in chapter 7 we looked at the fact that while we are forgiven for all our sin, we are a new creation in Christ, we are given the heart of Jesus Christ when we were saved, and our flesh was crucified on the cross with Jesus Christ, we still sin. The flesh was crucified with Christ, but he is not dead and so every person faces a struggle after they are saved, and the struggle is with overcoming temptation. The flesh has been crucified but he still lusts after sinful things. So, after salvation we all go through a learning season in which we struggle with reoccurring sin until we come to the place where we finally realize that in our own strength and abilities we cannot overcome the flesh. It is in chapter 8 that we find the answer to the struggle of Romans 7.

It is only the cross which the flesh will bow down to and so we must reckon upon the Truths of Romans 6 in order to have the victory. It is reckoning on these Truths which enables us to see the power of the Spirit in our lives.

I shared with you how that when we were saved we placed our faith in Jesus Christ and His sacrifice upon the cross for the forgiveness of our sin and it was then that God performed a miracle within us. He transformed us from the inside out. In 2 Corinthians 5:17 we are told that IN CHRIST we are new creations. In the same way when we place our faith in the Truths of Romans 6 which tells how we were crucified with Jesus and now we are dead to sin, it is then that God works another miracle within us. It is through faith in Romans 6 Truth that we begin to see the power of God within our lives and through His power (NOT OURS) we are then able to overcome sin.

Now, in Romans 8 we are told of the power of the Holy Spirit working within us. Let us now get into our text.

**I. Free from Condemnation**

**Notice Romans 8:1**

Last week we discussed briefly why many Bible teachers do not believe the end of this verse is part of the original text. Most believe this ending statement was lifted from

verse 4. The statement at the end of the verse, "**who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit**" would make our salvation conditional if it were true. There is not one of us who have not walked after the flesh. In other words, there is not one of us who has not allowed the flesh to sit upon the throne in our hearts. So, if we must walk in the Spirit in order to escape condemnation then that means our salvation depends upon how we live our lives and we are all in serious trouble because we all fail.

The Old Covenant given to Israel was a conditional covenant. The Old Covenant was dependent upon Israel's obedience.

#### **Exodus 19:5-8**

<sup>5</sup> *Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine:*

<sup>6</sup> *And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.*

<sup>7</sup> *And Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before their faces all these words which the LORD commanded him.*

<sup>8</sup> *And all the people answered together, and said, All that the LORD hath spoken we will do. And Moses returned the words of the people unto the LORD.*

The New Covenant however is UNCONDITIONAL. Notice what the writer of Hebrews says:

#### **Hebrews 8:6, 10-12**

<sup>6</sup> *But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.*

<sup>10</sup> *For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:*

<sup>11</sup> *And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest.*

<sup>12</sup> *For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.*

The New Covenant is based upon the faithfulness of God and not upon our faithfulness.

Getting back to Romans 8:1 again, if the conditional phrase at the end of the verse is to remain there then salvation is no longer by grace, but it is now by law. This would then contradict what we studied in Romans 3.

**Romans 3:20**

*<sup>20</sup> Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.*

**Notice Romans 8:1 again.**

The word "THEREFORE" in this verse is very important. It introduces a conclusion and it looks back to what Paul has stated in chapters 1-7. It namely points back to how we are justified by faith and not by the deeds of the Law.

**Romans 3:21-24**

*<sup>21</sup> But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;*

*<sup>22</sup> Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:*

*<sup>23</sup> For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*

*<sup>24</sup> Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:*

**1 Corinthians 15:22**

*<sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.*

Before we were saved we were in Adam but when we were saved we baptized into Jesus Christ. So, IN CHRIST there is NO CONDEMNATION because He cannot be condemned so neither can we be condemned. Now we shall see why as we move to the next verse and see the work of the Holy Spirit.

II. **Free from the Law of Sin and Death**

**Notice Romans 8:2**

Before we get into this verse let me just point out something that will help our understanding. In Romans 8:1 we saw that we are free from the GUILT OF SIN. In Romans 8:2 we shall see that we are free from the POWER OF SIN.

In this verse there are two laws that are mentioned. The "law of the Spirit of life in Christ" and the "law of sin and death".

The laws spoken of here are not written laws, but they are principles which exercise control in the life of the individual. The laws here are comparable to the Law of Gravity. The Law of Gravity is a principle that operates in our world and is at work in the life of every person. These laws mentioned here in Romans 2 operate the very same way. Let us consider the definition of each of these laws.

1. **The law of sin and death** - This is the law which controlled our lives before we were saved. We were controlled by sin and before we were saved and there was nothing which we could do in our own power to get free from sin. We were enslaved to sin.

**John 8:31-36**

<sup>31</sup> Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;

<sup>32</sup> And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

<sup>33</sup> They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?

<sup>34</sup> Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.

<sup>35</sup> And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever.

<sup>36</sup> If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

**Proverbs 5:22**

<sup>22</sup> His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself, and he shall be holden with the cords of his sins.

**Romans 6:16-20**

<sup>16</sup> Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

<sup>17</sup> But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.

<sup>18</sup> Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.

<sup>19</sup> *I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.*

<sup>20</sup> **For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness.**

Because of the law of sin working in our lives then death was the result and death has reigned. So, the law of sin and death describes the indwelling sinful power which controlled us when we were in Adam before we were saved.

2. **The law of the Spirit of life in Christ** - This is a reference to the new power that now indwells the believer. This is the power of the resurrected life that comes as a result of being indwelt by the Holy Spirit. This is the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives that enables us to overcome temptation.

Let me show you the words of F. B. Meyer on this verse and the two laws spoken of here:

*The "law (principle) of the Spirit" is comparable to the "law (principle) of aerodynamics" and its effect on lifting a plane off the ground thus "countering" effects of the "law (principle) of gravity". The Spirit in the same way lifts believer's lives to a new plane, to "fly" at a new altitude that heretofore was not possible under the "law of sin and of death" when they tried to attain righteousness in their own power and/or by keeping the Law (or religious rules - anything that we do with the intent to try to make us more pleasing to God. God does not desire our fleshly works or sacrifices but obedience, a broken spirit, a broken heart). We were not justified by faith and we cannot be sanctified by faith (Gal 3:3)...it is a supernatural work of grace of the Holy Spirit of God (Gal 5:1,7). Observe that prior to Romans 8 the **Spirit** was only mentioned for four times in this letter, but in Romans 8 He is mentioned 19 times making Him clearly a "keyword"!*

**Notice Romans 8:2 again.**

The law of the Spirit of life in Christ has made us FREE from the law of sin and death. In other words, the power of the Holy Spirit within us has broken and set us FREE from the power of sin. We are no longer servants to sin! We are no longer enslaved but we are FREE!!

In our society recently, there is much talk about slavery and how horrible it was for those in the 1800's who were enslaved. We too must agree that slavery was horrible. There is a slavery that also exists today and many who are enslaved do not even realize they are slaves. They are enslaved to sin, but they see themselves as being free. The sad part of all of this is that there are believers who are serving sin because they do not know that IN CHRIST the Spirit of the life of Christ has set them free. I want to share a shocking illustration with you as told by Chuck Swindoll.

*"Back in the nineteenth century our sixteenth president realized something radical must be done about slavery in our country. Unwilling to look the other way any longer, on **September 22, 1862**, he presented what came to be known as the Emancipation Proclamation, an official document condemning human slavery. Abraham Lincoln, realizing that slavery is completely against human dignity, officially abolished it from the United States on that day. Tragically, little changed in the daily life of our nation, even though the slaves were officially declared free. You know why; you've read the stories. The Civil War was still going on. The plantation owners never informed their slaves. The vast majority of the former slaves couldn't read, so they had no idea what the news was carrying. There was no mass media then to announce those kinds of presidential pronouncements. And so, for the longest time, slavery continued even though it had been officially brought to an end. The war ended in **April 1865**. **Do you know when Lincoln's declaration was officially enacted? When the people finally began to leave their enslaved lives and make their way toward freedom? December 18, 1865—more than three years after he first released his proclamation.** Lincoln had been dead for months. The word traveled out of the streets of Washington and down into the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, across the back roads of the Carolinas and into Georgia, then Alabama, then Mississippi, then Louisiana, then Texas, then Arkansas, announcing what had been true for more than a thousand days. Even then the word somehow either wasn't believed or wasn't acted upon. Those officially emancipated people, thinking slavery was the way they were condemned to exist, continued to live in bondage though they had been declared free men and women since the fall of 1862."*

**Conclusion:**

That bit of history is shocking but there is something today that is just as shocking. Believers have been set free from the power of sin but many do not know it and so they live in Romans 7 accepting the lie that says, "This is the normal Christian life."

I want to remind everyone who is listening that we are FREE in Christ. There is no condemnation because the Spirit has freed us from the law of sin and death.