

"The Doctrine of Sanctification"

Romans 5:12-8:13

Part 21

Introduction: The last time we were together in the book of Romans we were looking at Romans 7 and it was in this chapter that Paul described the struggle which he had with sin in his life after he had been saved.

Notice Romans 7:15-19

Now we spent quite some time looking at this struggle and we also came to realize that every born-again person goes through this struggle. There is not one saved person who has not become completely frustrated because of a reoccurring sin in their lives. In our study we also looked at how this struggle is used by God to bring us to Romans 7:24.

Notice Romans 7:24

We are saved, we are forgiven of all our sin, we are transformed by the Holy Spirit and we are given the heart of Jesus Christ, but we still have the sin nature. He has been rendered powerless by the cross, but he is not dead. After we are saved we enter into a spiritual battle and one of the strongest opponents we face is the sin nature/the flesh. Paul viewed his flesh as a body of death. He was a new man in Christ, but he was still tied to his sinful flesh and so are we. There is only one way to gain victory over the flesh and that is by reckoning upon the Truth of what took place at the cross.

Romans 6:4-6

⁴ Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

⁵ For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:

⁶ Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

When you were saved you placed your faith in the blood of Jesus Christ as the payment for your sins and when you did God performed a miracle within you.

2 Corinthians 5:17

17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

After salvation it is not long until you discover that you still have a major problem. Sin still exists within your life and the harder you try to overcome it the stronger it becomes. That is exactly what Paul discovered and shared with us in Romans 7. This is part of our spiritual growth. We fail time after time until we come to the place where we finally realize that in our own power we cannot overcome sin even though we are saved. It is then that we have arrived at Romans 7:24 and we are then ready for God's power in our lives.

Now, just like we believed what the Bible said about the sacrifice of Jesus Christ as the payment for our sins and then God performed the miracle within us, so we must have faith in what we studied in Romans 6 that tells us the flesh was crucified with Christ and for that reason the flesh has been made powerless. When we accept that Truth by faith and surrender to it, God works another miracle in our lives and that is the Holy Spirit lives the very life of Jesus Christ through us. Let us remember that the theme of this book is "THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH". So, when we come to the place where we stop trying to live the Christian life in our own power and start believing what is recorded in Romans 6 then God's power gives to us the victory over temptation. Now as we come to chapter 8 of Romans Paul is going to make a statement in verse 1 and then he will spend the rest of the chapter clarifying his statement. The focus of chapter 8 is the ministry of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is referenced 19 times in this chapter. It is the ministry of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believe that keeps us secure and provides the power to overcome temptation. This entire chapter is about the security which we have in Jesus Christ as provided by the Holy Spirit. This chapter begins with our security and ends with our security.

Notice Romans 8:1

Notice Romans 8:33-34

The Highest possible court, which is the court of God, says that we who are saved are free from condemnation. The Highest possible court asks the question, "**Who can bring any condemnation upon us since it is Jesus Christ who died for us and it is God who has declared us to be righteous?**"

I. Free from Condemnation

Notice Romans 8:1

Now before we get too far into this verse let me first of all comment upon the qualifying phrase at the end of the verse. The phrase is, "**who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit**", The majority of Bible teachers believe the phrase at the end of this verse is

not part of the original text. Let me share with you some of what is said concerning the phrase, **"who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit"**.

Charles Ryrie says, *"This phrase is not in the best manuscripts."*

Dr Harry Ironside says, *"Careful students of the original text discover that the last part of Romans 8:1 in the King James version is improperly inserted and most likely belongs to verse 4. The magnificent statement that opens Romans 8 - "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus" - requires no qualifying clause. Our justification does not depend on our walk. Freedom from condemnation is given to all who are in Christ, and to be in Him means to be of the new creation. A glance at the Revised version or any critical translation will show that what I am pointing out is sustained by all the editors. It was man's innate aversion to sovereign grace, I am certain, that brought these qualifying words into the text of the King James version. It seemed too much to believe that freedom from condemnation depended solely on being in Christ Jesus and not on our walking after the Spirit. So, it was easy to lift the words from verse 4 into verse 1. But in verse 4 they have their proper place for there, Paul was writing of the state of the believer. In verse 1 it is the question of standing that is under consideration."*

The Net Bible also adds this note: *"The earliest and best witnesses of the Alexandrian and Western texts have no additional words for verse 1. Both the external evidence and the internal evidence are completely compelling for the shortest reading. The scribes were obviously motivated to add such qualifications (inserted from verse 4), for otherwise Paul's gospel smelled too much of grace!"*

These are only just a few of the statements from Bible teachers concerning Romans 8:1. The point is that most teachers agree that the phrase at the end of the verse is not part of the original text.

Notice Romans 8:1 again.

There are two main points which we need to consider here in this verse.

1. The answer to the struggle in chapter 7 is our position in Jesus Christ.

This is the very thought we looked at in Romans 6. The key phrase in this verse is "IN CHRIST JESUS". When we were saved we were baptized into the body of Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:13

¹³ *For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.*

Romans 6:3-5

³ Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

⁴ Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

⁵ For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:

⁶ Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

The struggle of Romans 7 is only defeated because of our position in Jesus Christ. The moment we were saved we were baptized by the Holy Spirit into His body and so we were therefore crucified with Him, buried with Him and resurrected with Him. Because we were crucified with Him the power of the flesh has been broken. The power of the Holy Spirit is manifest in our lives to free us from the struggle of Romans 7 when we BELIEVE what the Bible says about our position IN CHRIST.

2 Peter 1:3-4

³ According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

⁴ Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

The power to overcome the struggle of Romans 7 comes by knowing the promises of God and by believing those very promises just like we believed the Word of God when we were told that Jesus Christ died for our sins. So many people live in the struggle of Romans 7 and never get free from chapter 7 and into chapter 8.

2. No matter how much we struggle with sin we will never be condemned.

Let us keep in mind that the chapter break here is placed by the translators. The original letter flowed from chapter 7 right into chapter 8. Stedman believes chapter 8 should begin with the word "BUT". Chapter 7 speaks of the struggle that we all experience and then we come to chapter 8 and we find that even though we all struggle, and that struggle can last for many years, we are never condemned by God. We may condemn ourselves for

the failures, but God does not condemn us. This is GRACE! Let me remind you of something which we studied in chapter 5.

Romans 5:1-2

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

² By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

We are standing in God's grace and His grace is inexhaustible. No matter how long the struggle, no matter how sinful the struggle we are not and never will be condemned by God. The reason is because of our position in Christ. Romans 8:1 also reinforces another Truth which we looked at in chapter 5.

Romans 5:18-21

¹⁸ Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.

¹⁹ For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

²⁰ Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:

²¹ That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.

Before we were saved we were in Adam and in Adam we were condemned. But now we are no longer in Adam, but we are in Christ and it is in Christ that GRACE reigns through righteousness unto eternal life. In other words, just as sin has brought death upon man and death is a sure thing, so in Christ grace brings eternal life and eternal life for us is a sure thing. Notice the Words of Jesus in John 5.

John 5:24

²⁴ Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

Romans 8:1 is such a rich verse when we really stop and think about what is said here in light of what is said about us elsewhere in the Bible. In Romans 3 the Bible describes each one of us.

Romans 3:10-18

¹⁰ *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:*

¹¹ *There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.*

¹² *They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.*

¹³ *Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips:*

¹⁴ *Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness:*

¹⁵ *Their feet are swift to shed blood:*

¹⁶ *Destruction and misery are in their ways:*

¹⁷ *And the way of peace have they not known:*

¹⁸ *There is no fear of God before their eyes.*

Then in Ephesians 2 we read of our separation from God.

Ephesians 2:1-3

And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

² *Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:*

³ *Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.*

Because of our sin we were children of wrath which means we were under the wrath of God.

John 3:36

³⁶ *He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.*

These verses describe our past condition. We were under wrath and condemnation. Then with this we must stop and consider that we still sin.

1 John 1:8

⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

With all of this considered we then come to Romans 8:1 and we learn that we are not and never will be condemned because we are now IN CHRIST. We are covered with His righteousness and that is how our Heavenly Father sees us from the day of salvation forward.

Conclusion:

As we continue in this chapter next week we will see that Paul will spend the rest of this chapter showing his readers why this statement in verse 1 is true. We are stepping into one of the greatest chapters in the entire Bible. But in order to live the Truths of chapter 8 we must fully understand the Truths of chapters 6 and 7.

I will close tonight with the words of Barber on this chapter:

"How tragic is the truth that Romans 8 is a favorite passage of many believers and yet there are relatively few who really live in it. We like to get into the beauty and victory of Romans 8, but tend to skip over the struggle and heartache of Romans 6 and Romans 7. Here is the practical point: You cannot live in Romans 8 until you have comprehended the great truths of Romans 6 and Romans 7. The joy and the victory of this great chapter rests on the death and the struggle of Romans 6 and Romans 7. The unerring principle in the Christian life is that Calvary comes before Pentecost -- that the fullness of the Spirit is only possible after having entered into the experience of the death of the cross---Not being crucified in physical terms, but in terms of spiritual experience. Throughout the Word of God, the testimony of the Scripture is that death precedes life. Jesus said "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains by itself alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit" which outlines the unerring principle of productivity and fruitfulness."