

**"The Doctrine of Sanctification"****Romans 5:12-8:13****Part 23**

**Introduction:** In our study of Romans we are currently looking at Romans 8. In this chapter Paul is focused upon the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer. In our study of Romans 8 we are looking at how we who are believers are free. Free from condemnation, free from the power of sin and free to live the life which God desires for us to live.

**I. Free from Condemnation****Notice Romans 8:1**

The past two weeks we looked at this verse and how the phrase at the end which reads, **"who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit"**, is not found in the best manuscripts. The phrase certainly does not flow with the Doctrine of Grace. If works are to be added to grace, then grace is no longer grace but it then becomes law. The thought which Paul is setting forth in Romans 8:1 is there is NO condemnation to those who are IN CHRIST JESUS. This statement is so profound, and it would have been so difficult for the Jew to accept, so Paul will use the rest of this chapter to show how this statement can be true.

**II. Free from the law of sin and death****Notice Romans 8:2**

The word "FOR" is a connective and it introduces the reason why there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. There are two laws that are mentioned in this verse and they are not written laws, but they are principles that are at work in the life of individuals.

**1. The law of sin and death.**

This is the law that controlled our lives before salvation. We were all enslaved to sin. In Christ we are free to live a life of righteousness but before salvation we could not do one act that brought glory to God because we were enslaved to sin. This is why Paul wrote the words in Romans 3.

**Romans 3:10-12**

<sup>10</sup> *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:*

<sup>11</sup> *There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.*

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

We did not do good because we could not do good. The law of sin and death was at work within our lives. In Ephesians 2 we get a clear picture of what we were like under the law of sin and death.

### **Ephesians 2:2-3**

<sup>2</sup> *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:*

<sup>3</sup> *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.*

Let me show you the definition of the word "SPIRIT" in Ephesians 2:2.

**"the disposition or influence which fills and governs the soul of any one"**

This again is the law of sin and death.

### **2. The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus.**

This is the power of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer. This is the new nature which God gives to us when we get saved.

It is this law that sets us free from the law of sin and death. Now the sin nature still exists after salvation and Paul explained in chapter 7 that the law of sin and death is still present in the believer.

### **Romans 7:21-23**

<sup>21</sup> *I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me.*

<sup>22</sup> *For I delight in the law of God after the inward man:*

<sup>23</sup> *But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.*

We need to understand that the law of the Spirit of the life in Christ Jesus has set us free from the law of sin and death but because we are still in these bodies of flesh the law of sin and death is still there, but its power has been broken and we no longer need to

submit to the law of sin and death. We are now free to live a life pleasing to God under the power of the Holy Spirit.

### III. The Means of Freedom

In this next verse Paul will give to us the details of how we have become free to live a life pleasing to God.

#### Notice Romans 8:3

We need to examine this verse by phrases to fully understand what is being said. Too many times we read rather quickly over a verse and we miss so much.

**"For what the law could not do"** - Paul starts out by reminding his readers of what the law could not do. Before we look at what the law could not do let me remind you of what the law COULD do.

1. The law can reveal our sinfulness.

#### 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.

2. The law can stir up sin.

#### Romans 7:7-9

<sup>7</sup> What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.

<sup>8</sup> But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. For without the law sin was dead.

<sup>9</sup> For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died.

3. The law can and does condemn us.

#### Romans 3:19-20

<sup>19</sup> Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

4. The law can lead the sinner to Jesus Christ.

#### Galatians 3:24

<sup>24</sup> *Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.*

These are four things which the law can do. But Paul is pointing to what the law CANNOT do. So, what is it that the law CANNOT do? There are two things the law cannot do:

1. **The law cannot save the sinner from the judgment of God.**

**Galatians 2:16**

<sup>16</sup> *Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and **not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.***

2. **The law cannot free the believer from the power of sin.**

The bottom line is the law does not have the ability to break the power of sin. It cannot save us, and it cannot free us from sin's power after we are saved. I think it is important here to notice that the word "law" does not have a capital "L". It is lower case so therefore while it certainly refers to the Mosaic Law it is not limited to that. It applies to ANY man-made law also. In other words, there is not ANY law that exists that can break the power of sin. There is no law that can be placed over the believer that will free us from the power of sin.

In reference to the Mosaic Law someone may ask, "What's wrong with the Law that it cannot free us from sin?" The answer is, "There is nothing wrong with the Law. The problem is not the Law. The Law is holy and good."

**Romans 7:12**

<sup>12</sup> *Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.*

**Galatians 3:**

<sup>21</sup> *Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law.*

The problem is the flesh. We see this in the next phrase of Romans 8:3

*"For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh..."*

Our flesh is so corrupt that while the Law points out in detail our sinfulness it has no power to change us. The Law of God or any law that exists cannot by any means set us free from the power of sin because our flesh is so corrupt, and sin's power is so great upon man.

Now in the next phrase we see the means which God used to set us free from the law of sin and death.

*"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:**"*

The law could not save us, and the law cannot sanctify us, so God sent His Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and God then condemned sin IN THE FLESH. What does this mean? Jesus Christ became a Man and He went to the cross and it was on the cross that God the Father CONDEMNED sin in the flesh. In other words, God the Father placed the sin of the world on His Son and God then CONDEMNED sin by pouring out our judgment upon Jesus Christ as He hung upon the cross.

### **Isaiah 53:5-6**

*<sup>5</sup> But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.*

*<sup>6</sup> All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; **and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.***

### **2 Corinthians 5:21**

*<sup>21</sup> For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*

Jesus then took our condemnation and He died, and He satisfied the righteous demands of the Father on our behalf.

### **1 John 2:2**

*<sup>2</sup> And **he is the propitiation for our sins:** and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.*

### **Romans 3:25**

*<sup>25</sup> **Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood,** to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;*

The word "PROPITIATION" means "SATISFIED". The blood of Jesus Christ satisfied the wrath of God that was abiding upon us.

So, when we accepted Jesus Christ as our Savior we were COMPLETELY forgiven of all our sin because our sin was condemned in Jesus Christ. The good news however does not stop there. When we are saved it is then that we are baptized into Jesus Christ and His death, burial and resurrection are applied to our lives. As new creations in Jesus Christ now the

power of sin has been broken in our lives because we were crucified with Jesus Christ. Not only is the sin we committed in our lives condemned but the principle of sin/law of sin and death is also condemned and so we are not just set free from the penalty of sin, but we are also set free from the power of sin. That is sanctification.

All of this takes us back to 8:1. There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus. We will never be condemned because our condemnation fell upon Jesus Christ at the cross.

Notice the words of **Moule**:

*"God's condemnation against sin was fully poured out on the sinless flesh of Christ (Is 53:4, 5, 6, 7, 8) on the Cross. Jesus died not only for "sin" in the plural (sins) and in the singular (sin). **Sins** refers to those sins which we daily commit. **Sin** refers to our **sin nature** (inherited from Adam). In other words, Jesus died for what we were (we were born into the family of Adam = "in Adam" and in slavery to Sin) just as much as for what we have done (referring to personal **sins** we committed - past present and future). In so doing, our sin nature is never said to be forgiven but is **condemned** having been pronounced guilty.*

*Sin was condemned in the flesh of Jesus as He bore the condemnation we deserved. Since we are **in Christ**, we have already had that condemnation come and pass us over."*

**Conclusion:**

As we close this out tonight I will give you a sample of what we shall look at in two weeks.

**Notice Romans 8:4**

Here is why God did what He did. So, the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled **IN** us, not **BY** us. We cannot live the righteousness of the law in our own power but when we are surrendered over to the Holy Spirit He lives the very life of Jesus Christ in us. We must come to the place where we see our INABILITY, so we can rest in the Spirit's power.