

"The Doctrine of Sanctification"

Romans 5:12-8:13

Part 28

Introduction: In our study of Romans we are currently looking at the power of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer. We are in Romans 8 and the focus of this chapter is on the power of the Holy Spirit for He is mentioned 19 times here. Paul made a statement in Romans 8:4 that he will then go on to clarify.

Notice Romans 8:4

There are two natures in each person who is saved. We have the sin nature and we will have this until we die or until we receive our glorified body. We also have a Divine nature within us which comes from the indwelling Holy Spirit. When we walk in the Spirit which means we do not allow the flesh to control us, it is then that we can see the power of the Spirit within our lives as He will produce the life of Jesus Christ through us. This is True spiritual fruit.

As we then continue in this chapter Paul will show the power of the Spirit in the life of the believer by contrasting the believer with the unbeliever.

Notice Romans 8:5

"Those who are after the flesh" are those who are not saved **and "those who are after the Spirit"** are those who are saved. In this verse Paul shows the life changing power of the Holy Spirit by comparing the priorities and the focus of the unbeliever and the believer.

The unbeliever **"minds the things of the flesh"** which means the unsaved person is focused upon self and the desires of the flesh. The words "do mind" are in the present tense which means that the unsaved person lives his or her life following after the flesh. It is their lifestyle. Their mind is constantly regulated by the desires of the flesh. These people can show an interest in the things of God, but they will not follow after spiritual things for the desires of the flesh will pull them away from that which is spiritual.

Mark 4:14, 18-19

¹⁴ *The sower soweth the word.*

¹⁸ *And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word,*

¹⁹ And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.

The believer however "*minds the things of the Spirit*". This means the believer is focused upon spiritual things. His thoughts are filled with spiritual thoughts. He is very concerned about how he lives and conducts his life for he is always aware that God is present. This person will pursue after God and while he may stumble and fall, he will not abandon his faith for the desires and lusts of the flesh.

Mark 4:20

²⁰ *And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred.*

This person's life has been changed because they have within them the Holy Spirit and so they have a new heart and they have God's Spirit. It is the power of the Spirit that changes their lives.

Ezekiel 36:26-27

²⁶ A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

²⁷ And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

**I. The Contrast
Part 2**

Notice Romans 8:6

Here again Paul contrasts the unbeliever and the believer. In Romans 8:5 Paul contrasts the dispositions and practices of believers and unbelievers; here he contrasts their states and conditions. The unbeliever is carnally minded which results in death. This means the unbeliever is spiritually dead and "death" means "separation". So, the unbeliever is spiritually dead and is separated 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.

We were all spiritually dead before we were saved. We did not seek after God and neither did we follow God.

Romans 3:10-12

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.

People who are not saved are spiritually dead. Many of them claim to be spiritually alive and they claim to know God but the god they worship is a god they have fabricated in their own mind.

1 Corinthians 2:14

¹⁴ But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: **neither can he know them**, because they are spiritually discerned.

Man lives in the physical and he cannot know or understand anything outside the physical. Spiritual things are beyond him and it is only by God revealing Himself to us that we can know Him.

Notice the words of Haldane:

"This is the awful state of the carnal mind—the mind of the flesh without faith in Christ, and renovation of the Spirit of God. It is death spiritual and eternal. All the works of those who are in this state are "dead works". "The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord," although the Lord commanded to offer sacrifices, which therefore was in itself a good work. "She that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth." All by nature being in this carnal state, are "dead in trespasses and sins." Let those whose minds are set on the things of the world consider this fearful saying, that to be carnally minded is death, and let them look to Jesus the Savior of the guilty, through whom alone they can escape condemnation."

Notice Romans 8:6 again.

The saved person's life is characterized by LIFE and PEACE. The life spoken of here is spiritual life. The saved person has within them the life of Jesus Christ. They know God

and their lives are radically different from the unbeliever. The unbeliever strives to find fulfillment and satisfaction while the believer has the life of satisfaction and fulfillment.

John 10:9-10

⁹ *I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.*

¹⁰ *The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.*

John 6:35

³⁵ *And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.*

Those who are not saved think they are living but, they have no life. They are spiritually dead. The unbeliever has no lasting satisfaction and contentment. They are searching but they are searching in all the wrong places. The peace spoken of in Romans 8:6 is that deep inward peace that is beyond description. Notice the words of Haldane on the peace mentioned here:

"The peace here spoken of is opposed to the terrors of conscience which the unregenerate experience, and to the opposition in their hearts to God, as well as to every species of false peace by which they may be deluded. "There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked." And again it is said, "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee, because he trusteth in Thee."

The unsaved have no peace and so the absence of peace in their lives drives them to a life of busyness and unending searching.

Example: I have had the opportunity to sit with unsaved people and listen to them describe what has been going on in their lives and as I did, I could clearly see the Truth of this verse. One man I spoke with has more possessions than 10 average people. He owns so much land that he forgets what he owns. He has farms and barns that are full of "stuff". He has more money than the average person could spend in a life time. But with all he has there is an emptiness and a lack of peace.

All of this suggests what the writer of Hebrews recorded:

Hebrews 2:14-15

¹⁴ Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

¹⁵ And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

Unbelievers live in fear and bondage. They fear they will miss out on something, so they fill their lives to the brim with activities and stuff not knowing that they are slaves to their fear and to the philosophies of the world. They just go from one thing to another in an attempt to live life to the fullest. They have no idea that what they are looking for is only found in Jesus Christ.

Notice Romans 8:7

Herein is the reason there is no peace and contentment in the life of the unbeliever. The word "enmity" means "hatred". The unbeliever who is under the control of the flesh does not love God but deep down on the inside he or she hates God and is hostile toward God.

Notice the story told by Newell:

"Very many years ago a deep revival was in progress in New Haven, Conn., and in Yale College there. Many, especially of the society class, were falling under profound conviction. Several young ladies who had found peace in the blood of Christ, went to a very prominent friend, a young woman whose generosity, grace and kindness had endeared her especially to her circle of friends. They besought her to come to the revival meetings. When she objected, they protested, "But God has a claim on you. He loves you. He gave His Son to die for you," Fiercely she burst forth, stamping her foot: "I hate God!"

In Romans 5 we read about our past condition when we were unbelievers.

Romans 5:10

¹⁰ For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

As unbelievers we too were hostile toward God. This is the very state that unbelievers are in today. They may think they serve and worship God, but their lives are marked by hostility toward God.

Notice Romans 8:7 again.

They are not subject to the law of God and cannot be. Notice the words of Cranfield:

"The mind set on the flesh wants its own will, not God's will. It desires to be its own master and not to bow to the Lord as Master. Here is the crux of disobedience. Unregenerate men do not have the power to submit their rebellious wills to Holy God. They need a "heart transplant". It is not only the inclination that is missing but the power as well. The flesh is dead toward God."

The unsaved person is not submissive to the Word and the will of God and because they are under the control of the flesh, that will never change without salvation. Even if the unbeliever wanted to obey the Word of God, he or she could not do it because it is impossible to get the flesh to walk in the will of God. Even the believer who attempts to walk in the will of God in the power of the flesh cannot do so.

Romans 7:18

¹⁸ For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.

Notice Romans 8:8

There is no clearer verse which tells of the unbeliever's inability to please God with his or her works. Notice the words of J Vernon McGee:

"Anything that the flesh produces is not acceptable to God. The so-called good work, the civilization, the culture, and man's vaunted progress are all a stench in the nostrils of God. The religious works of church people done in the lukewarmness of the flesh make Christ sick to His stomach. I wonder if we are willing to accept God's estimation of our human boasting. This is a terrible picture of man; but it is accurate. Yet there is deliverance in the Spirit of God. Are you willing, my friend, to turn it over to the Holy Spirit and quit trusting that weak, sinful nature that you have? That is the question."

There is nothing an unsaved person can do to please God —no good works, no religious acts, no sacrificial services, absolutely nothing. First, he or she must take the guilty sinner's place and receive Christ by a definite act of faith. Only then can he or she win God's approval.

Notice Romans 8:9

We are not in the flesh if we are saved but we are IN THE SPIRIT and the Holy Spirit is the mark of authenticity in the believer. There are those who teach that you get the Holy Spirit sometime after you are saved, and they refer to that as a "second act/work of grace" or "the baptism of the Holy Spirit". But this verse Paul makes it very clear that if someone does not have the Holy Spirit within them then they do not belong to God.

Ephesians 1:13-14

¹³ *In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,*

¹⁴ *Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.*

Here we see the Holy Spirit is given to each believer and He is the EARNEST of our inheritance. The word "EARNEST" means "down payment". We are also told here the Holy Spirit is our "seal" of promise. The word "seal" refers to a mark of authenticity. In other words, the Holy Spirit marks us as genuine believers. If someone professes to be saved but does not have the Spirit, then they are deceived or lying.

Conclusion:

Allow me to use our text to show you what it means if a person does not possess the Spirit.

1. They are under condemnation.

Romans 8:1

2. They are enslaved to the law of sin and death.

Romans 8:2

3. They are powerless to live in obedience.

Romans 8:3-4

4. Their entire life revolves around the lusts and the desires of the flesh.

Romans 8:5

5. They have no satisfaction or peace.

Romans 8:6

6. They are hostile toward God.

Romans 8:7

7. They cannot please God.

Romans 8:8

8. They do not belong to God/they are not saved.

Romans 8:9