

Romans – Chapter 8

Summary of Previous Chapter

- *We have died with Christ and are released from the Law*
- *We serve in the new way of the Spirit*
- *The law was meant to bring life, but it brought death*
- *Even when our spirit wants to do the right thing, sin dwells in us and we choose sin. Sin always lies close at hand.*
- *Who will deliver us from this body of death?*

Chapter 8a: Life in the Spirit

Words to highlight: **Spirit**

No Condemnation (1-2)

¹There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.

These verses are some of the most quoted in all of Scripture. Why is that? What emotions do these verses evoke?

God did what the law couldn't (3-4)

³ For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Verse 1 told us that we are not condemned. According to verse 3, what is condemned? What does this mean?

The Mind Set on the Spirit (5-8)

⁵ For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶ For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. ⁸ Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

What does it mean to set our minds on the Spirit?

- Galatians 5:22-25
- Colossians 3:1-3
- Matthew 16:23
- Philippians 3:18-20

The Spirit Who Dwells in Us (9-11)

⁹ You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

If the Holy Spirit dwells in us, what blessings will we have according to these verses?

The Spirit of Adoption (12-15)

¹² So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³ For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”

Fill in the blanks:

Vs 13: For if you _____ according to the _____ you will _____, but if by the _____ you put to _____ the deeds of the body, you will _____.

Vs 14: For all who are _____ by the _____ of God are _____ of God.

Vs 15: For you did not receive the spirit of _____ to fall back into _____, but you have received the Spirit of _____ as sons, by whom we cry, “_____! _____!”

The word ‘Abba’ is a personal term for the father of a household, not used by slaves or servants, but only by children. Why is it important that we can use this term?

See Mark 14:36, Galatians 4:6-7

Heirs of God (16-17)

¹⁶ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

What does the Spirit bear witness of? How?

We are heirs with Christ “provided we suffer with him” – why is our status as ‘heir’ dependant on our suffering?

Questions

How would we summarise this chapter?

What can I apply from what I have learnt? How does this chapter change my choices and behaviour?

What is something I can pray for based on this text?