

Romans 8 - Part 1

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Introduction:

A. After distractions we come back to the main road.

1. Romans 8 is like getting back on the main road.
2. Chapter 5 told us that grace reigns and chapter 8 tells us there is no condemnation for those in Christ.

B. The speaker reads Romans 8:1-17.

1. The Spirit delivers from the power of the flesh. (Romans 8:1-11)
2. The Spirit gives sonship to believers. (Romans 8:12-17)

C. Prayer.

1. Father we rejoice in that there is no condemnation for those in Christ.
2. Show us how to understand your revelation and live in a way pleasing to you.

I. This may be the greatest chapter in the Bible.

A. Hosea chapter three is also a great chapter.

B. When a preacher is studying a book certain chapters are just great.

C. Romans 8 is not particularly unique.

1. It does not contain new doctrine.
2. It begins with no condemnation and ends with no separation.
3. In between there is no defeat.
4. Every blessing for the Christian is contained in Romans 8.
5. Luther said that if the Bible is a ring then Romans 8 is the jewel.

D. Some divide this chapter differently.

1. We could outline it in three or even nine divisions.
2. Paul is going through great thoughts.
3. We will divide it into two parts verses 1-17 and 18-39.

II. There is no condemnation for those in Christ. (Romans 8:1-17)

A. This is because of all the things Paul said about the Gospel.

1. No body can condemn Christians because the way to heaven has been opened by God and God does not condemn believers.

2. There are two reasons for no condemnation.

a. The law of the Spirit has set believers free in Christ.

b. What the Law was powerless to do God accomplished in Christ.

3. These present a Trinitarian idea.

a. God sent his son and condemned sinfulness.

1. God condemned our sin in Christ.

2. God justifies those in Christ.

b. Christ made propitiation for our sins.

1. Propitiation is difficult to understand.

2. It means sacrifice of atonement.

3. It also means turning away God's wrath.

4. Sin requires sacrifice suitable for the transgression.

5. Ancient people understood the wrath of God.

6. In Judaism the Day of Atonement satisfies the wrath of God, providing mercy in the sacrifice offered for sin.

7. Propitiation indicates the covering of the ark.

c. Christ also set believers free from the Law.

1. Justification propitiation and redemption belong together.

2. Christ stands for propitiation pointing to the Father.

3. Christ redeems believers.

4. Christ enables God to justify believers.

5. Christ does all this for us and makes God's justification of sinners just.

6. It all hinges on Christ's atoning death.

7. Believers actually died in Christ so his death is ours and his resurrection is also ours.

8. Salvation is being joined to Jesus Christ, thus we can't go back to our old ways of life because we are new creatures in Christ.

d. The Spirit dwells in us enabling us to live holy lives.

1. We have incarnation, justification, propitiation, redemption, the mystical union and sanctification.

2. Only glorification is missing, which comes soon.

3. This is great news.

4. There is no condemnation because of what the Trinity has done.

4. An old Irish song sings about a man who sowed his wild oats and repents.

a. The song emphasizes never returning to the old life.

b. He says no in several different ways.

B. Paul also talks about holiness.

1. Because God sent his son to redeem believers that the righteous requirements of the Law might be fulfilled in believers.

a. The Law enslaved us yet now believers can fulfill the Law.

b. This sounds like legalism.

c. We cannot have justification without regeneration.

d. Jesus said we must be born again.

e. When the Pharisees tried to trap Jesus they caught the woman in adultery and brought her to Jesus

1. They must have set her up, which is demonic.

2. They tried to set Jesus against the Law of Moses.

3. The answer is the atonement, the basis of Jesus' forgiveness.

4. This woman is the picture of justification yet Jesus told her to go and sin no more.

5. Believers regenerated by the Spirit are also to go and sin no more.

2. Holiness is the inescapable result of justification.
 - a. God's goal in saving us is not just to have us in heaven but to make us holy.
 - b. Holiness consists of fulfilling the just demands of the Law.
 1. This is not legalism.
 2. This is not antinomianism.
 - c. Holiness is a work of the Holy Spirit.
 - d. Holiness is mandatory.

C. Paul also contrasts what is saved and what is not. (Romans 8:5-11)

1. The idea that there are three categories of believers is not Paul's idea here.
 - a. Spiritual.
 - b. Natural.
 - c. Carnal.
2. Paul is saying that if we act carnally we are acting inconsistently with our Christian nature.
3. The natural person is unsaved. (Romans 8:5)
 - a. These people have their minds set on sinful desires.
 - b. The world parades sin on TV and we must be careful.
 - c. The mind of the carnal man is death.
 - d. William Wilberforce fought against slavery during his life and when the victory finally came he said, "What shall we abolish next?"
 - e. Wilberforce's friend William Pit refused to go to church with him and when he finally did he understood nothing of the sermon because he was unregenerate.
 - f. The natural man is hostile to God.
 - g. The sinful nature cannot please God.
4. The Christian is empowered by the Spirit.
 - a. The Christian now desires the things of God.
 - b. The Christian is spiritually alive.

- c. The Christian has peace with God.
- d. The Christian is controlled by the Spirit. (Romans 8:9)
- e. The Christian is alive in the Spirit. (Romans 8:10)
- f. The Christian will be resurrected by the Spirit. (Romans 8:11)

D. Summary.

1. Christians desire what the Spirit desires.
2. Christians love Jesus.
3. Jonathan Edwards wrote about surprising conversions, analyzing people that have been regenerated, saying that:
 - a. Great effects on the body are not sign
 - b. Fluency of testimony is no sign.
 - c. Excitement about the preacher is no sign.
 - d. Knowing Scripture is no sign.
 - e. Religious affections are no sign.
 - f. Joy are no sign.
 - g. Time in duty is no sign.
 - h. Praise is no sign.
 - i. The real sign is that we have our affections set on what the Spirit desires.
4. Our obligation is to live not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. (Romans 8:7)
 - a. Paul said this in earlier. (Romans 6:11-14)
 - b. We are to follow the Spirit.
5. A sub-conclusion is necessary here.
 - a. Gallop did a survey on religious life; 81% of Americans claim to be religious.
 - b. Most believe the basic doctrines of the Christian faith.
 - c. Many are in church regularly.

- d. Why is crime so high if we have such religious life?
- e. Another pole discovered highly religiously motivated people are fewer than the many who profess to be born again, only one in eight.
 - 1. Of these one in eight, many are happier than the others.
 - 2. They have more stable families.
 - 3. These are also far less prejudice.
 - 4. They are involved in some humanitarian project weekly.
- f. Perhaps many people who believe they are Christians are not.
- g. Romans is very relevant to Americans.
- h. What category are we in?
 - 5. The religious who are actually hostile to God.
 - 2. The truly born again.
 - 3. When we say yes to Jesus the promises become ours.
- 6. Paul wants us to examine ourselves.
 - a. Assurance is for the truly regenerated.
 - b. We are God's children and therefore heirs of God.
- 7. Four ways we can be sure we are born again.
 - a. Because we are led by God's Spirit. (Romans 8:14)
 - 1. The Spirit renews our minds.
 - 2. The Spirit renews our wills.
 - b. Because we have a spirit of adoption, crying Abba Father. (Romans 8:15)
 - 1. Hebrew vowels were added later in the Bible.
 - 2. Yahweh was unpronounceable so they put vowels for Adonai to get Jehovah.
 - 3. Jesus addressed God as Father.
 - 4. The disciples preserved the intimacy of Abba.
 - c. Because the Spirit testifies to us that we are his children. (Romans 8:16)

1. This is very subjective and can be abused.

2. This witness comes from God to us.

d. Because we are heirs of heaven with Christ. (Romans 8:17)

1. This is opposite of the prosperity Gospel.

2. Suffering is necessary for this inheritance.

8. Spurgeon said we must persevere even though everything in the world fails us. We must serve God with all our might though we are nothing. We need to serve with double earnestness though no visible results follow. Between us and heaven there will be rough weather.