

Romans

Romans Chapter Eight

Romans 8:9

October 10, 2010

This is lesson number 61 in our exposition of the Book of Romans.

The Theme of the Letter

Romans 1:16-17

“For I am not ashamed of **the gospel of Christ**, for it is the **power** of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the **righteousness of God is revealed** from faith to faith; as it is written, ‘The just shall live by faith.’ ” Romans 1:16-17

“The Spirit of Christ?”

Most of you have had the experience of being disappointed in someone that you trusted. Perhaps after many years you learn that the person you had confidence in was just not the person you thought they were. You were deceived. You find out through their actions that they simply were not genuine.

Today we are going to continue to look at how you can know if you are genuine. By genuine I mean are you a genuine Christian or are you deceived along with the many who are on the broad way that leads to destruction.

Of course everything I say applies to this preacher. To me the very worst of hypocrites is the man who preaches to others and is himself deceived or false.

From time to time in this series of messages we have taken a few minutes to recap our exposition of Romans. Romans is a master work because it is the most specific statement of the Gospel in the entire Bible. As is all Scripture, Romans is inspired or God-breathed by the Holy Spirit. That is why we preach this Bible as authoritative. It is God’s word.

The job of the preacher is to explain the word of God.

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Romans 1:16-17 is a clear statement of the theme of the entire letter:

“For I am not ashamed of **the gospel of Christ**, for it is the **power** of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the **righteousness of God** is **revealed** from faith to faith; as it is written, ‘The just shall live by faith.’ ” Romans 1:16-17

In Chapter One, Paul describes the condition of everyone born into the world who though they can see the evidence of the divine nature in creation they suppress that knowledge and go deeper and deeper into sin.

The revelation of the wrath of God is an essential part of the Gospel message. If there were no eternal consequences to sin against a holy God where would be the need of a Savior. Only sinners who know they are guilty realize their need for the **righteousness of God in Christ Jesus**.

In Chapter Two, we are told that even men who do not have the written Word of God do have a natural law inside of them that renders them without excuse for their sin.

Chapter Three tells us that even though the Jews had the great privilege of having the Word of God they were no different from the people who did not have God’s Word because they refused to believe God. Instead of trusting God they trusted in the fact that God had given them the law and the sign of circumcision. The Apostle makes it clear that while those things were valuable they had no merit as to being justified before God.

In Chapter Four, Paul recalls the paradigm or model of justification by grace through faith alone. God called Abraham out of idolatry to be the father of the faithful.

“Abraham believed God and it was accounted to him as righteousness.”

The true children of Abraham are not those people who are his natural descendants by birth but the children of Abraham are those people who believe the Gospel. No one is born with a right to God’s grace. It is God who justifies the ungodly.

A preacher said, “Everyone has a right to hear the gospel at least one time.” No one has the “right” to hear the Gospel at all. Grace is grace!

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Chapter Five, says Martyn Lloyd-Jones, is the most important passage in the Bible because it tells us how we are represented in Adam who is a type of Jesus Christ. In the very same way that Adam represents his descendants Jesus Christ is the representative of His people who were given to Him by the Father before the foundation of the world.

God deals with two men in history: Adam and Christ.

That grace superabounds over the reign of sin leads some people to think that because of grace it doesn't matter how a person conducts his life and his morals.

Paul inserts Chapters Six and Seven as a parenthesis to deal with that fatal error called antinomianism.

In Chapter Six we learn that if we are "in Christ" through the operation of the Holy Spirit we are dead to sin.

In the same way that the believer is dead to sin in Chapter Six, Chapter Seven tells us that the believer is dead to the law. The believer has died to the law in order that he may be married to Christ and bear fruit to God.

In Chapter Eight, Paul closes the parenthesis he began at the end of Chapter Five and resumes the argument of superabounding grace.

And what a thing to know; that in Christ we are eternally secure!

Romans 8:1-4

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made you free from the law of sin and death.3 For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh,4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

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Now to again take up the thought that I introduced at the beginning of this lesson:

Most of you have had the experience of being disappointed in someone that you trusted. Perhaps after many years you learn that the person you believed in was just not what you thought they were. You find out through their actions that they were simply not genuine.

Many people who call themselves Christians are deceived and have a false assurance because they are trusting in their religious deeds. They made a 'decision' and are on a church membership role but they live their lives with no controlling interest in what the Holy Spirit has given to us in the Bible.

This is not Jim's opinion this is what the Lord Himself warned about:

Matthew 7:13-14

"Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. 14 Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

Matthew 7:21-23

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' 23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

It is bad enough to be dissatisfied in another person that you trusted and later found to be unworthy of your trust. What about the person who learns too late that they trusted in themselves and not in Jesus Christ?

That is what David learned **before it was too late** when Nathan the prophet told him the story of the rich man who took the only little ewe lamb of the poor man. **"Thou art the man!"**

David repented and later wrote in Psalm 32:1-2.

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Paul quotes David in Chapter 4.

**Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven,
Whose sin is covered. 2 Blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute
iniquity, And in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

Is this not exactly what the Apostle warns us about in his application of 8:1?

In verse 5-8 Paul contrasts the **unbeliever** who has no basis from the Word of God to have this great assurance with the **believer** who trusts Christ and Him alone for assurance.

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, the things of the Spirit. 6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. 8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

As we have seen in three previous lessons on verses 5-8 the unbeliever lives under the influence of his sinful nature and is deceived **especially** if he is religious and without Christ at the center of his life.

The believer lives under the influence of the Holy Spirit and he has PEACE!

When we come to verse 9 Paul does what he so often does by saying again what he has just said in a preceding passage. So verse 9 restates the message of verses 5-8. Then in verses 10-11 he gives us a word picture of the Christian man or woman.

9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. 10 And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

Paul wants the reader and the hearer to be very clear that this assurance of ‘no condemnation’ only applies to those who ‘walk according to the Spirit’ and not to those who ‘live under the influence of the flesh or sinful nature.’

Paul is repetitive because it is so very easy for people to claim the blessing of assurance because of some religious deeds they have done and yet they shun the responsibility to live under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

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So in order to be sure that no one can rightly say that a person can be a Christian and continue to live according to the flesh he says:

9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

This is true of every Christian and if a man does not walk or live under the influence of the Holy Spirit he is not a Christian at all.

That is exactly what 6:14 means:

For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

So to begin with in verse 9 there is an interesting thing to see in this verse where Paul uses two phrases **‘the Spirit of God’** and the **‘Spirit of Christ.’**

There are those who try to make a distinction between these two phrases but there is only one Holy Spirit and He is the third person of the Trinity.

These terms are interchangeable. Paul will use one or the other and he means the Holy Spirit by both terms.

What we can learn from these two terms is that there is **unity** in the Godhead. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: The Trinity.

There are several passages that establish that these terms mean the same Holy Spirit.

This passage says the Father sends the Spirit.

John 14:15-18

"If you love Me, keep My commandments. 16 And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever -- 17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. 18 I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

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This passage says Jesus sends the Spirit from the Father.

John 15:26

"But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.

This passage says Jesus sends the Spirit.

John 16:7

Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.

These three passages are not contradictory but simply show the **unity** and **equality** of the three persons of the Trinity.

Lloyd-Jones points out that disagreement over the **proceeding of the Spirit** caused the first major division in the church. For the first three centuries A.D. there was only one church. But the church divided into Western and Eastern churches over this question of the **proceeding of the Spirit**.

The Western Church became the Church of Rome and is now known as the Roman Catholic Church. The Eastern Church became the Greek Orthodox Church and the Russian Orthodox Church.

The Western Church said that the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and from the Son.

The Eastern Church said that the Holy Spirit proceeds only from the Father.

The Protestants followed the Western Church in saying that the Spirit proceeds from the Father and from the Son.

As interesting as that bit of history may be the important thing for us to see is that the Spirit of God and the Spirit of Christ is the Holy Spirit.

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But it is even more important to see that the Christian is not in the flesh, he is not governed by his sinful nature because the Spirit of God lives in him.

John 14:15-21

"If you love Me, keep My commandments.16 And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever -- 17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.18 I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

19 "A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also.20 At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.21 He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."

So Paul says to the believer, 'But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit.'

To walk in the Spirit means more than a mental ascent to the truth. To walk in the Spirit means that truth gets from your head to your heart. It is truth that you must act on.

This is a weak example but if I told you this building was about to fall down and you had no other information you would probably just continue to sit there. But if you really believed that this building was about to collapse you would head for the doors. You will act on what you truly believe.

Ephesians 2:1-3

And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

That is how Christians used to live before being made alive but now the Christian walks or lives under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

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And even more wonderful is that the Holy Spirit dwells or lives in you.

1 Corinthians 6:18-20

18 Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body.19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

John 14:23-24

23 Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.24 He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me.

It is entirely correct to say to the Christian that the Holy Spirit lives in you; the Father lives in you; and the Son lives in you.

Ephesians 3:14-19

For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man,17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love,18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height --19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Galatians 2:20

20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me...

So Christian the next time you are tempted to sin remember that the Spirit of Christ dwells in you.

Finally, we see in verse 9 that the Christian belongs to Christ.

Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

The Christian belongs to Christ.

We saw in Chapter Six that the believer who was once a slave to sin is now a slave to Christ.

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Romans 6:16

Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?

1 Corinthians 6:19

Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

Romans 7:4

Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another -- to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God.

John 17:6

"I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word."

If a man or woman boy or girl claims to be a Christian this is the test they must give themselves and **they must pass** this test or they are living a life of false security in deeds of the flesh.

You must believe that Jesus of Nazareth is the very Son of God. Jesus is the Christ. He is the only Savior and He is God in human form. But because of that you must live under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

We dare not trust in our obedience as the **cause** of our being saved. But without obedience to God's Word there is simply no assurance that 8:1 applies to you.

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus.