

## Romans

Romans Chapter Eight

Romans 8:10-11

October 24, 2010

This is lesson number 63 in our exposition of the Book of Romans.

### The Theme of the 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

### “The Holy Spirit Dwells in You”

**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.**

We will begin this lesson with a quote from “Steps of Understanding, Key Events in Jesus’ Life” by Gerald Bray, Beeson Divinity School.

This is from the chapter on the incarnation.

“The Word of God which became flesh in Jesus Christ has also, in a different way, become paper and ink in the words of the Bible. The Holy Scriptures are the Voice of God to the Church, the Word inscripturated. As Christians we need to understand that the Bible performs for us the same function as the incarnate body of the Son of God performed for the disciples. In other words, our doctrine of Scripture is not a philosophical abstraction based on some pagan notion of ‘inspiration’, but an offshoot of our Christology. The same teaching which applied to Christ must be applied to the Bible as well. Christ is one divine Person in two natures – divine and human. So also, the Bible is one divine Voice in two natures, one divine and one human. These two natures are not separated or cut off from one another, but neither are they confused together. They are united by the divine Voice, which speaks to us through the text.”

## Romans

And so sisters and brothers that is why we preach the Word and trust the Holy Spirit to apply it to the hearer.

In this regard let me read you an assessment of someone's preaching. You do not know this preacher and I will not tell you who he is but he is all too typical in our day. Someone wrote to me:

“He is a great guy, very much a father figure to me, but to be honest not an expository preacher and to be even more honest not a good topical preacher, he is a story teller. My wife and I got to the point where we would count the illustrations. Most of them never really connected to the text.”

\* \* \*

In Chapter Eight of Romans we have been looking at how the Apostle has been building the case for the assurance of the believer in Jesus Christ.

That is what Eighth of Romans is all about, the full assurance of salvation that no matter what happens to you in this life that as a believer in Christ you are safe in the arms of Jesus.

The believer in Christ should have assurance that he will spend eternity with the Lord. You love Him because he first loved you. That assurance must be based firmly and solely on what Jesus has done for His church and not on anything else! Christ alone! Scripture alone! Faith alone!

The reason many people who are, in fact, believers do not have this firm assurance is because they have not grasped the strength and power of what Jesus has already done on the behalf of His people.

This is true!

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

Those who are in Christ Jesus have passed from spiritual death to spiritual life. We live in a dying body but our human spirit is alive forever!

Those who are in Christ Jesus have a new approach to how they live their life. They no longer live under the influence of their fallen sinful nature; they now live under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

## Romans

They have the fruit of the Spirit {Galatians 5:22 ff}.

Gal 5:22-26

<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. <sup>24</sup> And those *who are* Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup> If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. <sup>26</sup> Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

The fruit of the Spirit is not to be confused with the gifts of the Spirit.

1 Cor 12:4-11

<sup>4</sup> There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. <sup>5</sup> There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. <sup>6</sup> And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. <sup>7</sup> But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit *of all*: <sup>8</sup> for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup> to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, <sup>10</sup> to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another *different* kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup> But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

The Holy Spirit gives gifts to the church as He wills. We each have different spiritual gifts. But all believers in Jesus Christ have the fruit of the Spirit. The fruit of the Spirit is not an option.

Last week we looked at verse 10:

**10 But {And} if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the spirit {Spirit} is life because of righteousness.**

Verse 10 tells us the **state** and **condition** of the Christian man.

The body, this physical body, is dead. You are still breathing but your body is dead. You can dress it up and make it smell better but you are decorating a corpse.

Those who are in Christ have the Spirit of Christ in them and they are alive in their spirit because of righteousness. It is only because of the righteousness of God in Jesus Christ that you have spiritual life. That spiritual life is eternal. Christian you have the promise of the Holy Spirit that you will live with Jesus Christ as long as He lives!

## Romans

After telling us in verse 10 the **state** and **condition** of the Christian man we are given in verse 11 the **blessed hope** of the Christian.

We will look at verse 11 today.

**11 And {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.**

Just as the physical body of Christ was raised from the dead, even so your mortal body will be raised from the dead.

The resurrection of the body will be the final and complete salvation of all those who are in Christ Jesus. Paul began this chapter with the conclusion of the whole matter {8:1}. And then everything in this chapter builds back to that conclusion and is summarized in 8:37-39.

Christian sister and Christian brother, do not let sin cause you to doubt what Jesus has done. Sin is still present in our body but the human spirit is free in Christ.

So when we sin, **not if we sin**, because sin we will, it must not cause us to despair. The conviction of sin in the believer will drive him to Jesus for forgiveness. Not forgiveness as in justification in our initial calling. That is settled in Christ! But we need daily cleansing from the sin that remains in our body.

### **1 John 1:5-10**

This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

But the sin of the believer is not from **presumption**. If there is known sin in your life that you refuse to repent of you are still living under the influence of the flesh. The believer does not continue in sin that grace may abound.

But sin must not cause us to doubt the power of what Jesus has done for us.

## Romans

The devil will accuse you and try to get you to think that you are not saved because you still have sin in your body. Tell the devil that you know that you are a sinner but that Jesus shed His blood for you and there is remission of sin.

James says ‘**Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.**’

But remember the warning from Jude not to bring a railing a railing accusation against the devil. Just say, “**The Lord rebuke you.**” You are not nearly as strong as the devil but Jesus is infinitely stronger!

So let’s look at the promise of verse 11.

Many commentators say that verse 11 is referring to a moral renewal and not to a bodily resurrection. Even Calvin says this verse is talking about a moral renewal: “The continued working of the Spirit by which He gradually mortifies the relics of the flesh and renews us in a heavenly life.”

Our moral renewal is a fact and that is what verses 5-8 tell us. But this verse is talking about our mortal body being raised from the dead.

But **one thing** this verse is not about is our sanctification.

**Another thing** that this verse is not about is that Christians will not get sick and endure grievous diseases.

The ‘health and wealth’ preachers use verse 11 to try to support their claim that if you are saved that you are not supposed to be sick or poor.

‘He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.’

The ‘health and wealth’ frauds say that the phrase, ‘**will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you...**’ means that your body will be healed if you can grunt up enough ‘faith.’

But the context will not allow such a misuse of the Scripture. Verse 10 says ‘the body is dead because of sin.’ Paul cannot then say in verse 11 that the body can be delivered from all sickness.

## Romans

The context is about what happened to the body of Jesus; it is not about sickness. If this verse was about bodily healing then no Christian would ever die.

Some liberal theologians deny that Jesus was bodily resurrected from the dead. You don't need me to give you all of the proof texts where Jesus, after His resurrection, was touched and was handled and ate real food.

Except for those who deny the authority of the entire Scripture this verse alone is sufficient to prove that Jesus came forth from the grave in His physical body. It was a changed body, but not yet a glorified body. It was only after 40 days from His resurrection when He ascended that He took on His glorified body. His resurrection body was not an apparition or a ghost.

All the sermons in Acts have the resurrection of Christ as their theme.

Islam denies three main tenants of Christianity:

The deity of Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ.

The atonement for sin.

And the resurrection of Christ.

**11 And {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.**

Twice in this one verse Paul tells us that Jesus was raised from the dead and the context is His physical body.

Notice also that the Apostle tells us twice that the Spirit of Christ dwells in you. This can only mean that the Spirit dwells in your physical body.

## 1 Corinthians 6:19

**Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you.**

Verse 11 is about something that is **going to happen** to our bodies.

So Christian you can rest in the truth that no matter what happens to this dead body one day it will be made alive to be with Jesus Christ forever.

## Romans

**There is another important point to be made from verse 11.**

This verse is a clear reference to the **Trinity**.

**11 And {But} if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He {God the Father} who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.**

It is important that you see that it is the **Father** who raises the **Son** and who will raise your mortal body through the **Holy Spirit**.

There it is in one verse: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: the blessed **Trinity**.

Read through your Bible and you will find that nearly everything that is attributed to one Person of the Trinity is somewhere else attributed to the other two Persons. Look it up if you need to be convinced. For example, look up references to the creation.

In the Bible you will find that the creation of the world is ascribed to the God the Spirit and to God the Son and to God the Father.

Here the **body of the believer** is to be raised by the Father through the Spirit. But in John 6:40, Jesus says about a believer, “**I will raise him up at the last day.**” One verse tells us the Father will raise the dead and another verse tells us that Jesus will raise the dead.

This is not contradiction; it just shows us the **unity** in the Godhead.

So the Father is going to raise us from the dead and the Son is going to raise us from the dead and the Spirit is going to raise us from the dead.

Do you need more assurance than that?

## Romans

We still have sin in our mortal body but sin will not overcome us because we have the Spirit of Christ dwelling in our body. We have the promise of the Holy Spirit of the final redemption of our mortal body.

### **Ephesians 1:13-14**

13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

So Christian, you have the seal or the promise of God.

Also, you can know that God does not start something that He cannot complete.

### **Philippians 1:6**

**Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;**

Since God has put His Spirit in you, you can be sure that God will complete the work of the redemption of your mortal body.

John tells us in his First Epistle: **1 John 3:1-3**

**Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.**

The Christian is already alive in his spirit and at the last Day he will be completely redeemed and delivered from sin. When Christ returns in His body all of his children who are in the grave will rise up and those of His children who are alive at His coming will be changed.

Some time ago I was asked if we would recognize our loved ones in heaven.

The answer is 'yes.' Peter, James, and John knew Moses and Elijah on the Mount of Transfiguration. You will know those who have gone on before you. Wives and husbands and mothers and fathers and children who died in Christ will be known as they are.

But you need to know this.



## Romans

There will be no marriages between humans in heaven.

When Jesus was confronted by the Sadducees who did not believe in an afterlife, spirits, angels, or resurrection asked what they thought was a “gottcha” type question about Levirate marriage, Cf. Ruth and Boaz her Kinsman Redeemer.”

### Matthew 22:22-33

The same day the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to Him and asked Him, 24 saying: "Teacher, Moses said that if a man dies, having no children, his brother shall marry his wife and raise up offspring for his brother. 25 Now there were with us seven brothers. The first died after he had married, and having no offspring, left his wife to his brother. 26 Likewise the second also, and the third, even to the seventh. 27 Last of all the woman died also. 28 Therefore, in the resurrection, whose wife of the seven will she be? For they all had her."

**29 Jesus answered and said to them, "You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God.30 For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven.31 But concerning the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God, saying, 32'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living."33 And when the multitudes heard this, they were astonished at His teaching.**

Back in Chapter 7 of Romans we learned that a believer is married to Christ.

The church is the bride of Christ and that is the only marriage in heaven.

When Christ returns there will be a new heaven and a new earth. You will have a glorified body and sin will be completely removed and you will never again have any tears or sorrow for yourself or for those you love.

Do you have this assurance that you belong to Christ?

**11 And {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.**