

Subject: Salvation is Life-Changing

Scripture: Romans 8:1-11

Romans is a book that is deeply theological and intensely practical. Romans 8:1 begins with the word “therefore,” which means this is Paul’s conclusion to everything he has written in the first seven chapters about sin and condemnation, justification by faith in Christ alone, and sanctification. The good news of salvation is that Christ loves us just like we are, but He doesn’t leave us like we are. Christians are not just nice people; we are new creatures.

2 Corinthians 5:17 *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

Romans 8 explains what it means to be a new creature and that all things have become new.

1. In Christ we have a NEW POSITION (vs. 1)

Outside of Christ there is sin and condemnation. In Christ there is salvation and no condemnation. This is our spiritual position now and forever. To be in Christ means:

We have a LIFE that can never be forfeited.
We have a RIGHTEOUSNESS that can never be tarnished.
We have a PARDON that can never be reversed.
We have a JUSTIFICATION that can never be cancelled.
We have an ACCEPTANCE that can never be questioned.
We have a PEACE that can never be broken.
We have a REST that can never be disturbed.
We have a HOPE that can never be disappointed.
We have a GLORY that can never be clouded.
We have a LOVE that can never be quenched.
We have a JOY that can never be interrupted.
We have a STRENGTH that can never be exhausted.
We have a PURITY that can never be defiled.
We have a BEAUTY that can never be marred.
We have a WISDOM that can never be baffled.
We have an INHERITANCE that can never be lost.
We have a SUPPLY that can never be depleted.
We have a FUTURE that can never be uncertain.

Salvation in Christ gives us a NEW POSITION. Are you in Christ or outside of Christ?

2. In Christ we have a NEW WALK OF LIFE (vs. 1)

Our new position is called “justification.” Our new way of life is called “sanctification.” They are different, but they are not divided. They always work together. Where you have a person who is justified by the grace of God, you will have a person who is being sanctified by the grace of God. Justification and sanctification are not identical, but they are inseparable.

The Holy Spirit is mentioned almost 20 times in this chapter. Salvation means you are no longer walking according to the flesh (selfish desires), but you are now walking according to the Spirit. Our walk refers to how we live our daily lives. Are you walking according to your own desires or are you walking according to the Holy Spirit?

3. In Christ we have a NEW FREEDOM (vs. 2)

Are you in bondage to the law of sin and death or are you free by the Spirit of life in Christ? In salvation we have new spiritual freedom to overcome sin and death.

4. In Christ we have a NEW POWER (vs. 3-4)

Are you frustrated in trying to keep God's moral law in your own power or are you fulfilling and keeping His law by the power of God working in you? A man walking out in the country saw a strange thing one day. He looked from a distance and saw a man pumping a well. He noticed the man kept on pumping and pumping and never stopped. As he walked closer he could see that it wasn't a real man, but it was a figure of a man made out of wood and it wasn't a well, but an artesian well. The man wasn't pumping the well, but the well was pumping the man!

***Philippians 2:12-13** "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.*

5. In Christ we have a NEW MINDSET (vs. 5-8)

In God's eyes there are only two kinds of people in the world: those who belong to Him and those who don't; those who know Him and those who don't. We see those two groups here: those who are after flesh and mind the things of the flesh and those who are after the Spirit and mind the things of the Spirit; those who are carnally minded and those who are spiritually minded. People suffer many problems in this life because of a condition we could call "STPs" (stinking thinking patterns).

To mind the things of the flesh means to set your mind or desire on the things of the flesh. To mind the things of the Spirit means to set your mind or desire on the things of the Spirit. To be carnally minded is death. To be spiritually minded is life and peace.

The carnal mind is not a matter of weakness; it's a matter of wickedness. Verse 7 says "the carnal mind is enmity with God." Enmity is hostility, opposition, rebellion to God. King Saul was an impressive man, but he had a carnal mind that was opposed to God.

***1 Samuel 15:23** For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.*

The carnal mind is not subject (submissive) to God's law, and it cannot be. Verse 8 says that people with a carnal mind cannot please God. We were created for purpose of pleasing God, but without a submissive mind and spiritual mind it is impossible to please God.

Are you fleshly minded or spiritually minded? In salvation God replaces our carnal, selfish way of thinking with a spiritual mind that thinks His way and not ours.

6. In Christ we have a NEW RESIDENT (vs. 9-11)

The believer is not in the flesh, but in the Spirit because the Spirit of God dwells (lives in, resides) inside him. "Dwell" (3 times in vs. 9-11) means to be at home.

In salvation the Holy Spirit comes into the believer and settles down. Your heart is a home, not a hotel. He doesn't check in and out, but He comes to stay.

Verse 9 says if you don't have the Spirit of Christ, you don't even belong to God.
Verse 10 says he Spirit of God is the Spirit of Christ.

John 14:16-18 ¹⁶*And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; ¹⁷*Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. ¹⁸*I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.***

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 ¹⁹*What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? ²⁰*For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.**

Does the Holy Spirit life in you or not? Are you sure? How do you know? Is it possible that someone could come and live in your house and you not know it?

Salvation is life-changing. It is not an upgrade; it's a total makeover.

Religion can change a person on the outside.
Salvation changes a person on the inside.

Religion can make a person act right.
Salvation makes a person be right.

Religion is based on what man can do.
Salvation is based on what God does.

Religion is a burden that wears people out.
Salvation is a blessing that builds people up.