

Parson to Person

ROMANS 8 PART 2

“There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. 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, 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. 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. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

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. And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 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.

Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. 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. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, ‘Abba, Father.’ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us” (Romans 8:1–18 NKJV).

Paul has written that *“the carnal mind is enmity with God”* and that *“to be carnally minded is death.”* Moreover, he wrote that *“the carnal mind is not subject to the law of God nor indeed can be”* and that *“those who are in the flesh cannot please God.”* These facts coupled together only prove that the application cannot be of believers—but only applies to the unregenerated.

Believers are pleasing to the Lord and are those of whom He delights. We are not at enmity with God and are indeed subject to the Law of God. (Please remember that the law of God in this context is not *“the law of sin and death”* but is *“the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus.”*)

To the believer in Rome Paul wrote, *“you are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you.”* Therefore, those who have been born again by the Spirit of God have been reconciled to God and are at peace in/with Him.

Earlier in this letter he wrote, *“Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation”* (Romans 5:9–11 NKJV). The reconciliation is hand in hand with justification, and, thus, believers have been made *“children of God,” “heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ,”* adopted as *“sons of God,”* and are *“led by the Spirit of God”* and promised all the blessings of eternal fellowship with God.

The waiting and difficulties we presently endure as we anticipate the fullness of this blessing is what Paul referred to as *“sufferings.”* His focus is the sufferings we endure with our old man/sinful nature and its propensities, our shortcomings when falling prey to the flesh, and what he referred to as *“this body of death.”* Albeit, he breaks into praise when writing, *“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us”* (Romans 8:18 NKJV).

I love you all, Pastor Paul

Points we did not cover last week...

- 1) Chapter breaks in the Scriptures are placed by men and are often problematic in reading portions of the Bible. We need to read by theme and thought rather than being focused upon human engineered breaks and subheadings.
- 2) All Scripture must be understood in the light of all Scripture. Context is critical.
- 3) Principles communicated in Scripture are often misread or miscommunicated by personal application. We must carefully discern between those things of general application verses those of personal application.
- 4) Those who are born again are not to reckon themselves to be "*in the flesh*" or as judged by the nature of the old man. We are a "*new creation*" in Christ Jesus and are accounted as righteous by being "*in the Spirit.*"
- 5) There is no future condemnatory/evaluatory judgment for the believer.
- 6) Chapters 6–8 here in Romans must be understood as a continuous thought pointing out the process of the three-fold salvific process: We have been saved (by eternal redemption in the spirit), are being saved (from our old ways by God's maturation of us—the saints), and shall be saved (physically by the resurrection of the body from the dead).