

Romans 8

“New Life in Christ”

7/11/12

Introduction

- The Content of Romans is not hard to understand
 - As long as you remember it is helpful to compare the content of Romans to a great theological city

The Book of Romans – The Great Theological City

#1 – The Courthouse – Romans 1-5

- Paul introduces the concept of righteousness by faith, but in order to show us our great need of salvation he spend the first five chapters showing are we are all guilty before God

#2 – The Power Plant – Romans 6-8

- Chapters 6-8 help us understand that is power to live out this Christian life God is calling us to – Pastor Rob is doing an in-depth series from these three chapters on our weekend services, but we will cover them as well, just at a much more rapid pace

#3 – The Synagogue – Romans 9-11

- in chapters 9-11 Paul shares with us how Israel fits into God plan now that there is this new thing called the church and answers the questions, has the church replaced Israel, where do they fit into God’s plan and how does God’s sovereignty fit with man’s free will – great stuff in this section

#4 – The Church – Romans 12-16

- in Paul’s final section of this book we will study how the church is practically suppose to operate in light of the all the amazing truths about God is this book – Paul ends all of his letters very practically Romans is no exception

Tonight we continue in that second section, the power plant

- Now remember it has been a few weeks but chapters 6-8 are all really one thought
 - Paul opens up this book letting us know that we are all guilty before God
- But then the good news that He has provided righteousness for us
 - It was apart from anything that we have done, it is based on what He did, and our simple receiving of it

Now how you react to this wonderful truth of justification is really important

- hopefully we rejoice, we worship, we continually surrender to the will of God in our lives
 - but some Paul understood would have different reactions to this teaching of righteousness from God

Some would naturally think, well then I will just live anyway I want. I mean if I am saved apart from what I do, then whoopee, I can be crazy!

- Paul answers this in chapter 6, when he says, “shall we continue in sin that grace may abound, certainly not”
 - Perish the thought
 - What a ghastly idea
 - No, no, no
- The Lord does not what us to respond to Righteousness from God by sinning
 - And chapter six lets us know how we can have power over sin – you can get that study free online, on I-tunes as a podcast – search Calvary Chapel Vista or free CD

However some would respond to righteousness from God, not by thinking they can sin all they want, but thinking they were going to perfect themselves in the flesh

- God I will show you how holy I really am
 - But this type of thinking is also ridiculous
 - The reason – in my flesh, nothing good dwells
 - There is also a struggle against knowing what I am suppose to do and not doing it as Paul lays out that struggle in chapter seven

But then He gives us the answer

- the answer is not a in program or in a procedure
 - but the answer is the person of Jesus Christ
 - I need to come to Him
- I come to Him with my sin
 - I come to Him with my self confidence
 - I need to cling to Him and let Him form me into His image
- I don't need to try harder or do more
 - I do however need to make the decision to set my mind in the good soil of His word and not the junk of the world
 - I need to hang out in the sunlight of His Presence, worshiping Him, instead of myself
 - And I need the power of His Spirit

Now I do all of this review because again, it was a month ago that I last taught a Wednesday Night – (You are stuck with me for every Wednesday, Saturday Night and Sunday study for the next two weeks though) – but because I have been gone

- we need to remember Paul is making one point – we don't respond to righteousness from God by free rebellion, nor to we respond by relying on ourselves
 - no – we need the Spirit
 - and chapter 8 is an amplification of that truth

Now Pastor Rob, when he return from his vacation will be continuing his in-depth study of chapter 8 and I encourage you to be here for that

- but tonight we are going to take the chapter in one fell swoop
 - looking at four things a new life in the Spirit brings

Romans Chapter 8 – 4 Things New Life Brings

#1 - No Condemnation – Romans 8:1-4

#2 - No Frustration – Romans 8:5-17

#3 - No Desperation – Romans 8:18-30

#4 - No Separation – Romans 8:31-39

- lets consider these one at time tonight

Romans Chapter 8 – 4 Things New Life Brings

#1 - No Condemnation – Romans 8:1-4

- Paul states plainly that there is no Condemnation to those who are in Christ
 - The best scholars believe the phrase in verse 1 “to those who do not walk according to the flesh” – did not appear in the original manuscript – whenever you see words italicized in the scripture, that is letting you know those words were added to give understand – problem is it rarely does, and often distracts from what the clear Word of God is trying to say
- And I think we have an example of that here
 - For I think it takes away from the power of what Paul is saying
 - Friends “In Christ” – there is no condemnation for you
- Well Great – what does that mean – we need to understand

#1 – “No condemnation” does not mean “No Consequences”

- Those whom God loves, He disciplines

God is not mocked, Galatians says, what ever you sow, you shall reap.

- When we sin, often times there will be consequences to the sin. It is not God punishing you. It is simply the result of what you have chosen to do.

Abraham tried to help the Lord by going into Hagar, David committed adultery. These men loved God; however there were great consequences for their sin. Abraham has caused problems even until today. David lost His son, and his kingdom was never the same.

- these men had many consequences, but they were not condemned

#2 – “No condemnation” doesn’t mean that God excuses sin

- God doesn’t say, oh, it’s alright, I know you tried, so I’m going to close my eyes.
 - He doesn’t excuse sin, but...
 - Instead He chooses to forgive you
- I John 1:9 says He is faithful and just to forgive your sin
 - He is faithful – He will do it
 - He is just – He can do it because He paid for your sin

What No Condemnation does mean

“No Condemnation” does mean you will be free from lasting eternal judgment

- let me explain what I mean

You have been convicted

- we saw that in chapters 1-5
 - But Now that you have been convicted, Jesus stepped down, took the punishment for you
 - And if you take it as your own
- Even though you have been convicted, God declares you innocent, as if it never happened at all

And though there may be consequences for your sin

- There is NO Condemnation, no eternal sentence of death
 - A radical truth, that you will praise God for, for all of eternity, but “No Condemnation, does not mean just that....

The second thing which “No condemnation” teaches us is that God is not upset, bummed or frustrated with you.

- This is such a blessing, do you realize that God when He looks down upon, He is not upset or bummed
 - He loves you
 - And you may not feel that way

When I first learned that God’s thoughts toward me, were like the sand of the seashore, I thought great, God is going to strike me down any minute. But then I learned that those thoughts are good

- can you imagine the angels? God says to “Do you see that one right there, isn’t he a blessing? They say “who” Jason, I think the old man crazy.
 - Of course the angels would never speak that way of God – but it is what I perceive, because I think there is no way His thoughts toward me are good – but that is exactly what the scriptures declare

But that is how the Lord feels about you, He is crazy in love with you, you see..

- You may be stuck in Romans 7, trying with all your heart to please God and yet failing over and over.
 - And Satan is telling you, God is disappointed
 - But the Word of God says, There is no Condemnation in Christ
- You don’t have to earn God’s love or favor, you already have it.

Now how is that possible??? Paul goes on to tell us – “What the Law couldn’t do, because it was weak in the flesh, God did”

- The law couldn’t make you righteous
 - Now there was nothing wrong with the Law
 - If you did keep everything recorded in this book, you would be righteous – there is nothing wrong with the law
- The problem is with you and me

If I was the star basketball player at San Diego State – there would be a problem. We would never win a game. Now there might be nothing wrong with the facilities, we might have great coaches and great fans. But if the games are dependant on me – look out – we are going to loose.

- And the same thing is true with the Law
 - Nothing wrong with, but it can not make you righteous, why???
 - Because it is based on you keeping those laws, and that is just not going to happen, not complexly

But – catch this – “what the law could not do, because it was dependant on you, God did” – I love that

- God did not stay in heaven, but came down, became a man, was tempted in every area just as we are, yet without sin
 - He fulfilled the law – He did it
- But instead of saying, “I told you it could be done, and condemning us for eternity – God died in our place
 - And by doing so provided us His righteousness

We couldn’t do it

- but God did it for us
 - and as we receive it, friends, now there is no condemnation – God loves you, He is not bummed with you – and you are going to heaven - awesome

Romans Chapter 8 – 4 Things New Life Brings

#1 - No Condemnation – Romans 8:1-4

#2 - No Frustration – Romans 8:5-17

- We no longer have to be frustrated living part of the time after the flesh and part of time after the Spirit
 - Romans 7 is not what the Christian life is suppose to be
 - But sadly that is where we often live

But friends – that is not how a life in the Spirit is suppose to operated

- we don’t have to live in that frustration – we are suppose to live in Romans 8
 - now we can still make that choice to live that way, and the choice is made by what we set our minds upon – what – consider verse 5 again
 - and that choice is made by what we set our minds upon

This to me is one of the most important truths in the scripture

- consider with me if you will Galatians 5:16

“I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.” – Galatians 5:16

- Now that sounds like a promise to me – if I walk in the Spirit, I will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh – great! – I don’t want to fulfill the lusts of the flesh
 - How can I walk in the Spirit
 - Well in my Bible next to Galatians 5:16 I have written Romans 8:5

Whether or not I walk in the Spirit is directly correlated with what I am setting my mind on

- If you set your mind on the flesh, if you yield your body to the flesh – you will walk in the flesh
 - But, If I choose moment by moment to set my mind on the things of the Spirit, I will walk in the Spirit

Oh be practical pastor Jason

- not all of us are pastors, we can't spend all day reading our Bibles, listening to teaching, or some worship
 - so what do we do then

Well first of all, I think all of us have a lot more time than we realize

- it may not be your job to study the Bible
 - but all of us have drive time, mowing the lawn time, laundry time
 - And I want to challenge you because you are advance students here tonight – this is Wednesday Night – so I consider this the advance class
- What do you fill those times with – because there are choices and you are choosing to set your mind on the things of the flesh or the spirit
 - You know if I can brag on my wife for just a moment – we have young kids – 10, 8, and 6 (well 6 in about a week and a half) –and for those of you who are in a similar situation or remember when you were – that is full time job
 - Not that I ever didn't know this, but when Christy had her foot surgery early this year and it was me making meals, cleaning the house, doing laundry, I just feel in the bed every night exhausted
- My wife full time job is not to study the Bible, but every time I wake up, and I wake up early, she has been up for an hour or two spending time in the Word before her family wakes up and quiet leave the home – every time I come home and she is busy cooking, cleaning, - there is some podcast of Bible teaching playing throughout the house – she is making the decision to set her mind on the things of the Spirit

Well what about other times, are you saying there is no time for leisure, for watching a good ball game, or chatting with friends

- no not at all
 - Paul gives us some great insight in verse 9 when he says – “if the Spirit of God dwells in you”
- Now I learned from my pastor a long time ago that word “dwell” means to be at home with, to be comfortable with
 - You know what is like to be uncomfortable

I had a friend growing up who was few years older than me, and our Moms were friends and so I would go over to his house occasionally and he has the coolest toys – complete star wars sets – amazing – I loved going to his house, couldn't stand spending the night – why – well he has this pull out bed and even at 8 years old I could tell that thing was uncomfortable – and more than that – he has this dog and his room smelled like dog, and that dog would come into the room and stick licking you with his nasty doggie breath. I like that guy, but I was so uncomfortable in his room. Now my room growing up – race car bed, smelled like “no clean” no dog, I loved my room – comfortable

- friends – you don't have to always be in the word or listening to worship or podcast, teaching CD's in order to be setting your mind on the things of the spirit
 - but I do think all of us need to consider, is what I am setting my mind on – what I am watching, what I am listening to, my attitude as I watch a sports game
- Is the Spirit of God able to be there saying – yeah, this is uplifting, ah this program is thought provoking, or go Dodgers!!!! (sorry, I know we are San Diego, I just grew up couple of hours north)
 - Is that what is happening or...

Is the Spirit saying, what is that you are listening to, what did they say, what just happened on the screen right in front of your eyes, - did you just snap at your kids, because UCLA loss another football (that's a person experience)

- Jason I love you, but this makes me uncomfortable, I am not at home with this stuff
 - You see then, if those are the decisions I am making, and I am guilty on occasion
 - If I choose that, I am not setting my mind on the things of the Spirit, it's the flesh, and fleshly things and living will be the result
- Again – you are the Advance students – I don't know if the weekend only crowd can handle this
 - But we need to choose – whether it is obvious stuff like getting in the word, getting in the prayer closet, coming to church
 - Or simply watching a game with the family – is the Spirit at home in that activity I am choose to be involved in
- Then, not only is there no “condemnation” but there is no frustration
 - Because I am not trying to live in two worlds
 - I am, you are created for heaven
 - And I hope precious ones that heaven will not be the end of everything you love, because everything you love is worldly and carnal
 - I hope heaven is the fulfillment of everything you lived for an enjoyed even here in this life, now to the fullest without a sinful nature that messes things up
- Paul lays it out
 - On the one hand – life after the flesh brings – death, it brings frustration like you are battling up stream against the current

And on the other hand – life after the spirit brings – life and peace, a sense of fulfillment and purpose – you will discover what life is really about

- by the Spirit (verse 13) put to death the deeds of the flesh!!!
 - End the frustration and double living

You, as a child of God walking in the Spirit do not have to walk in that frustration any longer, you are not under the bondage of the old nature, instead you have been adopted as a child of God, and as a child you are an heir of God and joint heir with Jesus Christ (verse 17)

- well what does that mean
 - you are a joint heir with Jesus, that means, what has been given to Christ has also been given to you
- what has been given to Christ – all things
 - we can go through life and think – I want that, that would be nice oh man
 - or we can realize – I am a child of God – I have been given all things

But notice he also says we are heirs of God

- now that sounds great
 - its kind of like me saying to Christy, honey I am your anniversary present aren't you lucky to have me – Yes, but what else is there????
 - But with God friends it is different

Now your first reaction may be that's kind of a rip, I wanted gold and extreme riches.

- but don't you realize those things aren't even going to be important to you when you realize the wonderfulness of heaven and the God who reigns there.
- Streets of Gold, show how that gold in heaven to you will be as important as concrete here
- Because you have the Lord as your inheritance.

David understood this when he said ...

“O LORD, You are the portion of my inheritance and my cup; you maintain my lot. The lines have fallen to me in pleasant places; yes, I have a good inheritance. I have set the LORD always before me; because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved. Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices; my flesh also will rest in hope. In Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.” – Psalm 16:5-11

- When you think about it, it is not really money we want, it is what we think we can do with it.
 - but what your heart longs for, what you think riches will bring is joy, life, and pleasures that last

The bad news – you will never find it here

The good news – it is what has for you there.

- He is your inheritance, and at His right hand are pleasures forever more.
 - If the value of an inheritance is based on what you receive. Is it possible to be blessed any more than to say what I have received is God? – He is my portion

We have so much because of our relationship with God

- And you can either enjoy that, walk in that or you can live after the flesh, live for the things of this world and experience frustration
 - God wants you to be free from frustration!!!

Romans Chapter 8 – 4 Things New Life Brings

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Paul mentions another thing we receive as child of God, and that is we are partakers with Him in His suffering

- “if indeed we suffer” verse 17 is not a condition for Glory, it is a promise of suffering.
 - This verse could be translated “seeing we suffer with Him.”

Paul, in speaking about our inheritance, and says “Yes, you get all things, and all things includes times of suffering.”

- When Christ came to this earth He did not live in a castle. He did not sit on a throne, He did not live the life of a king. He will, but He didn't. He suffered.
 - Now you, when we get to glory we will reign with Christ, however there are times now, when we like Him must suffer.
 - But there something different about suffering as we are walking in the spirit – we can know be free from aggravation

We don't have to despair in trials, because God is not leaving us alone

2 things to consider while suffering

#1 – The Holy Spirit is interceding for us

- Praying the will of God will happen
 - You know sometimes with my own life and your life, you come for prayer, and I don't know how to pray for you – I often don't know how to pray for me
 - It is amazing to consider the Spirit is interceding God's perfect will for my life
 - It is comforting to know someone is praying God's perfect will for me

#2 – God the Father is working out a plan

- He is working all things, synergizing them together to produce good – the good and the bad

It is all part of the plan – a plan that began with Him knowing you, bring you to Him, setting things of your life in motion and will end with you in heaven with Him forever

He has a plan

- Whom He foreknew
 - That means those He knew before
 - What did He do to them
- He predestined them
 - That means – determine beforehand
 - When I go to Jack in the Box – I predetermine what I am going to eat
 - So the Lord did, but what did he predetermine to do
- To conform you into the image of Jesus – to make you like Jesus
 - And to do that – He called, you, you responded to that call
- Then He justified you – made it as if you never sinned
 - And because of what He has done – He will glorify you

We need to keep that in mind as we go through life and become inheritors of his sufferings

- God has a plan – to make us like Jesus
 - And part of that plan is to shape and mold our lives
- But more than that – He is going to bring us home one day, maybe soon
 - And so it is not forever
 - It is for a purpose
 - We need to endure

We have new life in Christ, because of our relationship with Him, and if we walk in it and understand it, then we experience....

- No Condemnation - Jesus paid the price
 - No Frustration – we can walk in victory
 - No Desperation – God is at work
 - And finally tonight

Romans Chapter 8 – 4 Things New Life Brings

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#4 - No Separation – Romans 8:31-39

- Paul overwhelmed by the wonder of the power of walking with Him, declares “What can we say to these things...”
 - There is no condemnation, we don’t have to live in Frustration or desperation
- And Paul sums it up by explaining that seeing these things – there will also be No Separation

And Paul asks four questions, which when you understand what He is implying, it should leave us in that place knowing that to be true.

4 Questions

#1 - If God is for us, who can be against us

- Now in Paul’s first question when he says “If” he is not saying if that fact be so
 - from the structure of the sentence and the word itself it is clear that the understanding is “since” God is For us.
 - It is a fact.
- But do you realize that fact, do we truly understand God is for us.
 - He is one your side, He if for you
 - Some of you need to go no further than that tonight – to sit back and realize God is for you!

But how do we know that – Paul gives us the reason

- Paul goes on to say... “He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?”
 - Look it is basic logic
 - If God gave His son and allowed Him to go through all those things, How can you question Him being for you

When I helped coach High school football we had a pretty good team, but it had nothing to do with me, for I was ball man. However you would not have known that from my wife. I would hear her over with the Cheerleaders and the team would score and she would yell “Yeah Jason” Now I know she was for me – she was yelling for no reason

So too with the Lord

- see Him yelling “it is finished on the cross” and know He is yelling that for you
 - He is for us

#2 - Who shall bring a charge against God's elect?

- Next Paul wants to know who is going to bring the charge against God's own, these people who He Himself is for.
- The idea of a charge is that accusation you must be tried for – that happens from time to time in life

But Paul's point again – what does it matter, “it is God who justifies”

- We have looked at this before, but do you understand what it means that God justifies. = it means literally, to render innocent or righteous
- And so if God has declared you innocent – let them bring charges – they will not matter in the end
 - Jesus paid for them already, and it is God who justifies.

#3 - Who is he who condemns

- As Paul continues asking the questions the point is don't you realize what wonderful things God has done for you.
 - He is for you - He justifies you
- So now who is condemns?
 - condemnation is much more than feeling bad, that can sometimes be the enemy telling you, you are not forgiven for your sins. It can be the Holy Spirit, convicting you of your wrong doings.
 - But condemnation is more than bad feelings, it is more than accusations – it is to pass judgment to sentence.
 - And we remember or should, that to those who are in Christ “there is no condemnation”, the judgment was placed solely on Jesus.
- And since He is the only one that can condemn us for eternity, the ridiculousness of Paul's question is revealed and we once again can only simply praise God for the work He has done

For “It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.”

- It was Christ who was judged for you, He is not going to judge you again
- And even more than that, He is not only not going to judge you, but He is even right at this moment Interceding for you.
 - Christ is praying, He is not condemning
 - And this leads us to the last question Paul asks

#4 - Who can separate us from the love of Christ?

- We see that God is for us, that He has justified us, and will not condemn us, so then brethren understand, if all these things be true, and they are..

Then what can come between us, and the love that Christ has for you.

- understand He is not talking about the love we have for Him
 - Unfortunately, our love is quite imperfect, and many things can become the passion of our lives, and we can quench our own love for the Lord.
 - If you have walked away His arms are open wide

Paul even starts a list. “Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?”

- these things certainly are not a pleasure to go through, but the point is they are temporary
- and some of these things will happen to you, that is why Paul says “As it is written: “For Your sake we are killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.” – these things were predicted to happen to you, it is part of the process. –
BBBBBBUUUUUUUUUTTTTTT.....

Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

- all may come our way, but Paul’s point is that if they do they are temporary, and even if you destroy my body, you can not separate me from the love of God.
- That is why we are called “more than conquerors”
 - you are a conquer when you face a situation and are victorious
 - you are a more than a conqueror when victory is yours, not matter what the temporary outcome may be

It is like Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego, they faced with the fire said “you can put us in the fire, and God may deliver us from the fire, but if not we are still not going to bow.”

- It was like this with Paul

He said “For me to live is Christ and to die is gain” – you can not stop a guy like that – He is more than a conqueror

- And friends what Paul is trying to get us to see is that is who we are

Life was not meant to simply exist, it was meant to be lived, truly lived in a relationship with the Lord

- and men like Paul, Peter, John, and generation that followed live this way understanding
 - They did not have to be in bondage to sin
 - They did not have to be under the law
- Instead they could walk with the Lord, and be free from Condemnation, Frustration, Desperation, and knowing their would never be any separation, not permanent, not worth denying the Lord over
 - He was coming – they were going to live in Chapter 8 of Romans, More than Conquerors

Next week – what about Israel????

- we will start the discussion on Sunday by looking at...