

Transformed, Part 8, Romans 8:2-5 “The Spirit Filled Life”

Today we come to our 2nd Study in Romans Ch.8 – Probably spend about 10 weeks total in this Chapter that has been called a **mountain peak” of Scripture**

And the *sparkling point of the jewel known as the book of Romans*

Last time – One verse **There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus,**

Noted that the second part of verse 1 in our English Bibles – the part that says **who do not walk according to the flesh.....the Spirit.**

A)That part of this verse is not in the original text – but has been placed there by translators in an attempt to **clarify** the text.

B)But in reality it brings **confusion** to the text rather than Clarity.

By attaching this phrase to v.1 it makes walking in the Spirit or Sanctification a **condition of Justification** – rather than **the evidence** of one who is enjoying the reality of being Justified.

A)This phrase is repeated in v. 4 and it fits perfectly in that place as we shall see – but it doesn’t belong in v.1

B)The Statement Paul is wanting to make right off the bat here in v.1 of chapter 8 is a **declaration of Justification**

1)NO CONDEMNATION

C) **not "less condemnation."** That's where many of us are at - we think that our standing has merely improved in Jesus.

D)It hasn't improved, it's been completely transformed, changed to no condemnation.

Now some of you might have been a little uncomfortable – with stopping at that one verse – **Tendency to think/ you are giving pp a license to sin.**

A)But that tension has been at the forefront of this entire section in ch.6-8

B)Recall – Chapter 5:20 **where sin abounded grace abounded so much more.**

C)Which led Paul to answer the question – **Shall we continue in sin that Grace may abound –**

1)That is **always the reaction** to when Justification by grace thru faith alone is taught properly.

2)There will always be those who will wonder – can we then continue in sin so that grace may abound?

D)Paul answers – Certainly not! –

But the Reason in Ch. 6 – You have been given a whole new identity in Christ.

A) **United with Christ in His death/ Rez – Dead to sin's penalty—Paid for!**

B) **Dead to sin's claim** – no longer in Adam, now in Christ

1) **Dead to Sin's power over me**} **United in Rez - Risen Christ in me** – allows me to walk in victory.

Which is exactly what he reminds us of in V.2 of Chapter 8

2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

A) **What is this law of sin and death referring to?**

B) **Look back at ch. 7:22-23**

22 For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. 23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

C) **There at the end of verse 23 we have the phrase "law of sin".**

C) **This is the same as the "law of sin and death" in [Romans 8:2](#),**

1) **and the reason the words "and death" are added is because "the law of sin" leads to death if we don't fight in faith and in the power of the Spirit.**

D) **So then, what is this "law of sin"? Verse 23 says it is "in my members."**

1) **In other words it is a power or an impulse or a principle** that is at work in my body to make me at war with myself and to draw me to do evil.

E) **It is virtually the same as what Paul calls "indwelling sin" in 7:17 and 20.**

Our battle is with three forces working in conjunction with each other: Satan, my flesh, and the world.

A) **Now, in my own energy, I can take on any two. But I'm doomed by the combination of three.**

B) **You see, if Satan and the world system were alive and well—but if I didn't have a body, sin would have no pull on me.**

C) **Or If I had a body and was in the world—but there was no Satan,**

1) **there would be no problem because, as the prince of this world (John 12:31), it is Satan who activates the world system that plays on my flesh.**

D) **If I had a body and Satan was present—but there was no world system, Satan could not have access to me, because he would have no way to influence me.**

1) **It is because I have a body and live in a world controlled by Satan, that I am subject to the law of sin and death.**

But Paul v.2 says in Christ – there is a new law { a new power, impulse and principle alive in me – The law of the Spirit of life in Christ.

A) This is a reference to the Holy Spirit – who is now active in my life as Christian – gives me victory over the law of sin and death.

B) Think of it this way: If you go to the airport, you'll see planes sitting on the runway.

1) They're not going anywhere because the law of gravity is keeping them on the ground.

C) But as soon as their engines are turned on, the law of aerodynamics takes over.

1) Although gravity is still in effect and still pulls on the planes, **there's a higher law**, a more powerful force at work that allows them to overcome the law of gravity.

D) That's what Paul is saying. We're free from this law of sin and death by possibility thinking? No.

1) By **positive mental imaging? No.**

By trying harder? – NO

E) We're free by the Spirit of Jesus Christ. He lives in us, enabling us to fly high and overcome the law of sin and death.

How did we come into this new Position?

3 For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, {The law was unable to make a man righteous – **but understand the law was not weak** in and of itself – the law is perfect and good. The weakness was with us – our flesh – we could not consistently keep the law – there in lied the weakness.

So 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, {**Jesus became a man**} on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh,

What verse 3 is telling us is that God sent his Son as a human so that God could condemn our sin in His Son's death rather than condemning us.

The order here is important -

Here is the Principle: Justification must precede, uphold and empower Sanctification.

A) Forgiveness for our sins through faith in Christ must precede and then empower our battle against sin in our lives.

B) We must Understand the only sin we can defeat is a forgiven sin.

C) Let me say it more carefully: the only sin that you can defeat in daily life and replace with righteousness is a sin forgiven for Christ's sake.

I say it carefully because I know there are natural ways to overcome bad habits that aren't based on Christ at all.

A) But when those changes occur in life without forgiveness from Christ, **the result is not God's righteousness, but self-righteousness** – which in God's eyes is no righteousness.

B) Many of us have had seasons in our Christian walk where we were trying to be righteous before God by following some standard of living –

C) Usually it was some standard that someone else put on us.

1) Being a Christian means – I don't do this but I do that – If I perform right, God is happy

D) **FCA what makes a Christian** – List –

1) Do's Believe/Church/ Bible/ witness/ tithe
Don'ts – Music/cuss/ chew ...do

Paul wants it to be very clear – that we come into righteousness through embracing by faith what Christ did on the Cross!

A) We Justified – declared righteous

B) But Paul also wants to be very clear - We **enjoy the blessing of that righteousness** as we learn to walk in the Spirit and now according to the flesh.

4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us {not by us – but in us - through our faith in Christ. Through the work of God's Spirit in our hearts } **who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.**

A) That last phrase is **the segue** into this discussion of Sanctification.

Sanctification – living set apart to God – which is the by product and evidence of Justification –

A) takes place as we learn to walk – not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

B) Christianity is not a set of guidelines and doctrines to follow, it is more than that– but it is a **radical relationship and union** that we have with Christ – that results in Power

C) That power is manifested through the Holy Spirit who now lives in my heart.

This is what God promised in the OT Jeremiah 31:31 / Ezekiel 36:26

A) Establish **a new Covenant** – Give you **a new heart** – take out your heart of stone – hard and unresponsive – give you a heart of flesh –

B) Soft –tender - Responsive – My statues will not be written on tablets of stone – but now I will write them upon your heart

1)Place My Spirit within you and He will cause you – Empower you – to walk in My ways.

C)Whole new way of living –The New Covenant Summed up like this **God’s will becomes your desire**

1)God’s purpose becomes your passion.

2)God’s power becomes your enablement!

THE WIND FILLING MY SAILS

D)We learn to walk in the Joy and wonder of that new Covenant – by learning to walk in the Spirit

1)Listening to the Spirit.

How does that happen? V. 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.”

NIV “their minds set on what the Spirit desires.”

A)Paul says walking in the Spirit is something we choose to do by placing **our mind on what the Spirit desires & not what our flesh desires.**

B)Setting our minds on the things of the Spirit – definitely starts with our study of the Scriptures.

1)That is how we learn the mind and heart of Christ – develop a Christian world view.

C)It is learning to see life, pp and situations through the mind of Christ.

1)We will talk more about that next week- very practical insights

D)But it **also involves seeing our gifts, talents, relationships and responsibilities through the mindset of Christ.**

Walking in the Spirit is very practical!

A)Love in Exodus 36 –God is giving instructions on the building of the Tabernacle. – Worship center in the OT – wilderness time

B)He was very specific – **15 chapters dedicated to how the Tabernacle was to be built and the materials they were to use.**

1)Because the whole thing was a picture of the Salvation that was going to come through Christ.

C)As God was giving the details – Exodus 35:30 a man by the name of Bezalel is chosen to oversee the construction –

1)This is how God describes him

"See, the Lord has called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah; 31 and He has filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom and understanding, in knowledge and all manner of

workmanship, 32 to design artistic works, to work in gold and silver and bronze, 33 in cutting jewels for setting, in carving wood, and to work in all manner of artistic workmanship. Exodus 35:30-35

A) God says I have filled this man with my Spirit to oversee this very practical work of constructing the tabernacle.

B) I say that because we often think of the movement of the Holy Spirit as being very mystical and esoteric.

C) But this guy was not teaching Sunday school or leading a home Bible study **he was doing construction – He was anointed by the Holy Spirit.**

D) As I was thinking about this point yesterday – I could not help but think about **Steve Whitely** who coaches our Boys baseball team.

1) Anointed by the Spirit to coach those kids

Baseball – But that team had so much Character! They had a reputation for being the classiest team in San Diego

A) Petco – we are up 6 nothing – Steve puts in the JV – never forget that experience.

B) God has anointed him to coach kids – awesome Job

C) God anointed Bezalel to build – but not just Him –

34 "And God has put in his heart the ability to teach, in him and in Aholiab of the tribe of Dan. 35 He has filled them with skill to do all manner of work of the engraver and the designer and the tapestry maker.

A) I point this out because I think it takes a special gifting of the Holy Spirit to be the assistant. To be #2

B) To know how to assist and support, to be the employee and do so joyously – **rather than divide and cause problems/ always second guessing.**

1) God anointed Aholiab for that role.

I point all this out to illustrate more often than not the leading of the HS is very practical.

A) HS speaking to your heart about how to love your wife. How to treat people at work

B) How to bid a job!

C) Convicting your heart of direction you should take, things you are to do as well as things you are to avoid.

1) When to speak – and when to be quiet

D) See - You don't need pp laying trips on you that are not Scriptural.

1) Trying to tell you this is what a Christian looks like

In the history of the Church – always been a Problem.

A) Early days – You have to be circumcised – Don't eat meat sacrificed to idols – observe these days

B) More modern times – Christian women – don't where pants, only dresses. No make up

C) Christians don't listen to this kind of music

D) Christians don't drive these kind of cars

Remember a few years ago – Christians should not drive an SUV – gas hogs, environment

A) What would Jesus drive ?

B) Well, lets see – 12 disciples – always stragglers – He would probably drive one of those airport shuttle buses

C) In the New Covenant – we are free from that

Walking in the Spirit is about learning how to know the voice of the Spirit – how to respond to it.

A) Knowing that still small voice in your heart is the HS – and not the Pizza you ate last night.

B) Often times our problem is not that we don't sense the conviction of the HS or that we don't hear that still small voice

1) But it is because we want to rationalize our sin.

C) You rationalize smoking dope or getting drunk – not because you really think it is ok – **you love being stoned more than you love Jesus.**

D) You rationalize looking at porn & masturbating not because you think it is ok, **but because you love gratifying your flesh more than you love Jesus.**

Some of you engage in gossip and putting down others – not because you think it is really ok –

A) But because you **love yourself and are more concerned about what others think of you – than what Jesus does.**

B) Some of you hold on to bitterness rather than forgiving and moving on – because you still think you have a right to be bitter, angry and mad

1) **You like being the victim – more than you like being right with Jesus**

And I would venture to say that in all those situations the HS is there whispering in your heart – or Yelling –

A) Don't go there – don't pull up that website – don't get into that conversation.

B) Don't hold on to that bitterness – it is going to destroy you.

C)The reason why you don't want to walk in the flesh – **Paul lays out here – is this = DEATH**

Walking in the Spirit results in life – but walking in the flesh – death

A)Death to your mind and heart – innocence is gone – intimacy with God is destroyed.

B)Death to relationships – The flesh results in death

The Choice is ours! Close with this story to illustrate this point.

A)We are told in the book of Revelation that there is a River of life that flows thru the city of Jerusalem.

B)And in Ezekiel 47 the prophet Ezekiel has a vision of this river coming out of the east side of the temple of God.

C)Bringing healing to the nations and it runs into the dead sea and brings life to it.

There in Ezekiel 47 the Angel says to the prophet Ezekiel, step into the river!

A)Ezekiel placed his feet in the river up to his ankles- but the Angel said step in further.

B)So he went in up to his knees – and the Angel said – Further still

C)Ezekiel went in further still – He said “I was swimming in the river going with the flow –carried over my head.”

That my friends, is a powerful symbol of what the Lord wants to give to you and to me through His living water.

A) John 7:37-39 "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. 38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."

39 But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given,

B)The Holy Spirit has now been given – Jesus says the one who comes to Me and wants to be led by Me – his heart – his life is going to overflow with my Spirit.

C)But listen, precious pp – the Story of Ezekiel illustrates for us this principle

1)You can go as deep as you want! God will take you as deep as you want to go but He will not take you any further.

Some of you here today- You are in up to your Ankles – you are saved but you still have a firm grip on your life.

A)Still calling the shots – still trying to work out your marriage in the energy of your flesh.

B) You approach your business or work – just like you did before you were saved – you are honest – smart – gifted

Bb) But you rarely pray about things other than – Lord bless this...

C) Problems arise with pp or situations – you lean on past experience rather than the HS' present direction.

D) Some of you are only ankle deep – so you never experience the Joy of the HS leading your life.

1) Though saved – there is a lot of death in your life

Relationships have died – because you responded in the flesh –

Death In your heart – disappointments

Can't trust –

Most of us are in up to our knees – You sense the leading of the HS a little more – like when the waves crash against you or the river is pulling.

A) You are always fighting for balance – afraid to give too much control to relinquish our rights, taste, desires.

B) But there is a great blessing that occurs when we get in over our heads

1) Allow the HS to take us – prompt us do things that are completely out of our comfort zones –

C) Sometimes Go against rationale – venture of faith – step out into the unknown – missions – ministry.

1) Say you're sorry to someone who has hurt you

Where are you? How deep ?

I know where God wants us to be ?