

Romans 8…Insurance for Assurance—Repentance; No Death Sentence

Romans 8:1-4, "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. 2 <u>For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death</u>. 3 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, 4 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."

There is a "tie-in," a correlation between the last part of chapter 7 and chapter 8, 7:14-25…and 8:1-39. Two words keep occurring again and again…
Flesh (sarx) and spirit (pneuma).
Sarx…literally means flesh.

Paul uses it in a sense all his own.
Three (3) different ways Paul uses it:

(1) Literally---i.e., physical circumcision (Romans 2:28);
(2) According to the flesh (kata sarka)…looking at things from the human point of view, i.e., Jesus is the son of David (kata sarka), Romans 1:3…on the human side of his descent.
(3) *In or of the flesh (en sarki)…speaks of the days when we (Christians) were in the flesh (Romans 7:5)…speaks of those that are in the flesh cannot please God (Romans 8:8); the mind of the flesh is death, and that it is hostile to God (Romans 8:6,8).*

It is clear that Paul did not use this simply in terms of the body, i.e., flesh and blood.

He really means:

- *Human nature in all its weakness… and human in its vulnerability to sin.*
- *Sinful human nature, apart from Christ, everything that attaches a man to the world instead of to God.*

The flesh is the lower side of man's nature.

Spirit---occurs 20 times in this chapter alone.

Old Testament background: Hebrew=ruach.

Two meanings:

(1) Spirit and Wind ….the idea of power…like a mighty rushing wind.

(2) Something more than human…to Paul, represented a power which was divine.

There was a time when the Christian was at the mercy of his own sinful nature (flesh)…this law simply became something that moved him to sin, and he went from bad to worse…a defeated and frustrated man.

But, when he became a Christian, into his life there came a surging power of the Spirit of God, and, as a result, he entered into victorious living.

Let's take Chapter 7:14-25 (Paul's discourse on his inability to handle his thought process…and how it fits with the above):

- ***Demonstrates the Limitations of Diagnosis.***

  Paul knew quite clearly what was wrong; but he was unable to put it right.

  He was like a doctor who could accurately diagnose a disease but was powerless to prescribe a cure.

  - ✓ ***Jesus is the only one who not only knows what is wrong, but who can also right the wrong.***
  - ✓ ***Jesus and the Holy Spirit bring peace in the time of a storm! HE has the answer to our control problems.***

Romans 8:5-11, 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. 6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. 8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. 9 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. 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.

Paul draws a contrast between two (2) kinds of life:

1. ***A life which is dominated by sinful human nature:***

- ***Whose focus and center is "self."***
- ***Whose only law is its own desires…which takes where it likes.***
- ***He is passion controlled, lust controlled, pride-controlled or ambition controlled.***

  "Its characteristic is its absorption in the things that human nature without Christ sets its heart upon."

2. ***A life dominated by the Spirit of God:***
   "As a man lives in the air, he lives in Christ, never separated from Him. As he breathes in the air and the air fills him, so Christ fills him."
   - *He has no mind of his own; Christ is his mind.*
   - *He has no desires of his own; the will of Christ is his only law.*
   - *He is Spirit-controlled, Christ-controlled, God focused.*

Two lives going in diametrically opposite directions:

1) *The life that is dominated by the desires and activities of sinful human nature is on the way to death….further and further away from God….making himself unfit ever to stand in the presence of God….hostile to God, resentful of His law and His control.*
   REMEMBER: No man ever won the last battle against THE I AM.
2) *The Spirit-controlled life, the Christ-centered life, the God-focused life is daily coming nearer heaven even when it is still on earth.*
   It is a life which is such a steady progress to God that the final transition of death is only a natural and inevitable stage on the way.

Romans 8:12-17, "Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. [13] 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. [14] For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. [15] 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." [16] The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, [17] 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."

Paul describes the new relationship of the Christian to God.
He speaks of the Christian being adopted into the family of God.
Relates to the Roman Adoption plan….

- ✓ ***Father had absolute power over the family…absolute power of life and death.***

The consequences of the Roman Adoption:

(1) The adopted person lost all rights in his old family and gained all the rights of a legitimate son in his new family. In the most binding legal way, he got a new father.

(2) It followed that he became heir to his new father's estate. Even if other sons were born afterwards, it did not affect his rights. He was inalienably co-heir with them.

(3) In law, the old life of the adopted person was completely wiped out; all debts were cancelled. He was regarded as a new person entering into a new life with which the past had nothing to do.

(4) In the eyes of the law, he was absolutely the son of his new father.

God's spirit witnesses with our spirit that we really are his children."

The Roman adoption was carried out in front of seven witnesses. If there was a question whether the adopted son was really adopted, one of the seven witnesses stepped forward and gave the testimony of the adoption and rightful inheritance.
Paul is saying....it is the Holy Spirit himself who is the witness to our adoption into the family of God.

Paul's picture. . . .when a man became a Christian he entered into the family of God. He did nothing to deserve it; God, the great Father, in His amazing love and mercy, has taken the lost, helpless, poverty-stricken, debt-laden sinner and adopted him into His family, so that the debts are cancelled and the glory inherited.

John 1:12. . . .
"For as many as received Him. . . gave them the power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name."

We have been adopted into THE King's Family.
Enjoy your inheritance!
Incidentally...the KING desires to pay for your education.
READ THE BOOK AND USE YOUR EDUCATION WISELY!

